

Arkansas Methodist



"SERVING TWO HUNDRED
Official Publication

AND METHODISTS IN ARKANSAS"
of Arkansas Methodism

VOL. LXXII.

LITTLE ROCK

SAS, JANUARY 15, 1953

NO. 3

Getting A Good Start

AMONG the reports already received in the Arkansas Methodist office from local churches where circulation campaigns are already completed or near completion is a report from one of the youngest, if not the youngest, churches in Arkansas, Park View Methodist Church, Benton. Organized only a few months ago, still without a building, at a stage in its development when so many factors determine its future, this church was one of the first to report the results of its circulation campaign. There are 32 families in the church and each one of these families is now a subscriber to the Arkansas Methodist. Quoting from the letter which accompanied the report: "We feel that the Arkansas Methodist can be of great value to us in carrying on the work of the church, especially since we are few in number and have a new church to build this year. Every family in this new church is a subscriber."

This is the week Arkansas Methodism has dedicated to promoting the circulation of the Arkansas Methodist. Pastors will be completing their reports and forwarding them to this office. You need the Arkansas Methodist in your home during the year. Renew your subscription today if you have not already done so. Do it through your local church.

Our New State Administration

THIS week Arkansas began a new state administration with Governor Francis Cherry as its leader. Seldom, if ever, has a Governor of Arkansas seemed to begin his work under more auspicious circumstances.

The unprecedented vote Governor Cherry received in both the primary and general elections indicates that he is truly the "people's choice" for Governor. It is a wholesome fact, for the present and for the future, that he has demonstrated that it is not necessary to spend a fortune to be elected Governor. Though an easy winner, his campaign cost much less than either of the opponents he defeated.

It is true, also, that the people he has appointed to aid him in his administration are people of unquestioned character and with a special fitness for the work they are to do. Governor Cherry apparently goes into office unincumbered by crippling commitments. He seems to be free to administer the affairs of the state in a manner that good judgement and good character would dictate.

We believe also that it added to the stature of the man, his associates and his administration that he and his associates spent a period in a special prayer service, at The First Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, immediately preceding the inauguration ceremonies. The Record says, "Righteousness exalts a nation." It will do the same for a state. It is a very encouraging thing that our incoming administration has given this recognition of the need for Divine guidance in the conduct of the affairs of our commonwealth.

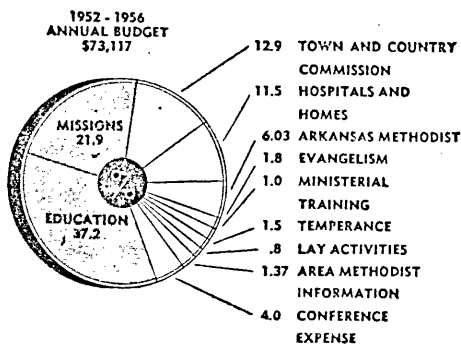
The poet has said, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." So it is now in the hearts of all who are concerned about the welfare of our state. We look to this new administration with renewed hope and high expectation. The staff of the Arkansas Methodist hereby pledges to the Governor its unqualified support of all measures he promotes that will lift the level of life of the people of our state. We covet for him and his administration every good wish for the future.

Evangelism and Conference Benevolences

METHODISM was born as a result of a revival of the spirit of evangelism in the heart of John Wesley and his co-workers. Since its beginning, less than two hundred years ago, The Methodist Church has grown to be the largest single denomination in the Protestant world. The undergirding force which has made this possible has been the God-inspired spirit and program of evangelism that has been at the heart of all of its activities whatever the field of service.

The money paid to the Board of Evangelism in The Louisiana Conference is in

DIVISION OF THE NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE DOLLAR



no sense indicative of the deep, abiding interest The Louisiana Conference has in evangelism, neither does it give any indication of the total amount of work being done in the field of evangelism. The Conference Boards of Missions, Education, Hospitals and Homes, Lay Activities, Temperance, Christian Literature and all other agencies of the Conference, together with the local pastors and lay workers, all are at work at the job of evangelism in their respective fields of labor.

Hence it is that only .5 per cent of each dollar of Conference Benevolences goes directly to the work of evangelism through the Conference Board of Evangelism. This Board has no paid workers. The appropriation it receives is used as an expense fund to enable members of the Board, through their voluntary labors, to keep before the church the vital importance of evangelism and to give other aid to the cause when possible. It is our feeling that there is no Board of our church, general or conference, whose work is quite so fruitful, in proportion to the money at its disposal, as our Boards of Evangelism.

It is a common feeling in the hearts of our leaders that evangelism is the very life blood of Methodism. The spirit of evangelism must flow through the veins of every activity of our church which hopes to be useful and vital in the ongoing of our efforts at kingdom building. The spirit of evangelism is basically essential in all of our activities.

Communists Abolish Use Of "A. D." Abbreviation

ACCORDING to a release by Religious News Service the Communists behind the Iron Curtain have abolished the use of "A. D." which, in our civilization, indicates a date is so many years since the birth of Christ.

Instead of saying 1240 A. D., for example, they say 1240 in our era. In spite of the camouflage, what the communist is really saying is "1240 in the Christian era," or 1240 years since the birth of Christ. Christianity is so intricately entwined with the life of our day that no superficial subterfuge like this silly action of the Communists can permanently affect it. The civilized world accepts our present calendar. Russia will gain nothing by rejecting it.

Whether he likes it or not, the Communist cannot continue to date his letters or documents in an understandable way, in our world, without using figures which indicate he is acting on a date so many years after the birth of our Lord. The Communist's fight against Christ is inevitably a losing battle. The world may hear again the shout of an enemy of Christ, "Oh! Galilean Thou has conquered."

We Are Making Some Progress

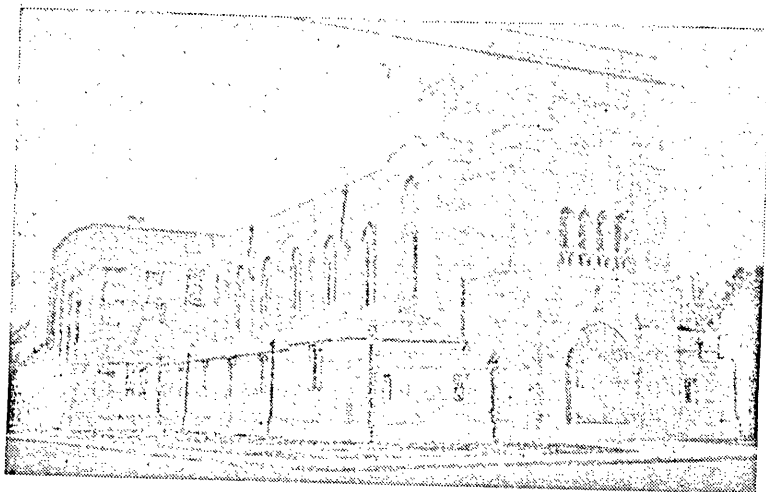
AT times we feel that we are making moral and religious progress rather slowly. Then something happens that enables us to see that, after all, we are making some real progress. The nature of the fight some self-appointed critics are making against the Revised Standard Version of the Bible is an example of what we have in mind.

Some fringe, religious leaders have thrown the full weight of their somewhat limited influence into a fight to discredit this new version. With a chesty presumption, also a very short time to study such a large volume as the new Bible and a very limited training, compared with the men they criticize who gave us this new translation, these critics boldly point out the "misleading translations," the errors and faults in a work which is the product of many years of tireless labor by a group of the best trained, religious scholars obtainable in America for this work. More than once avowed enemies of this new Bible have expressed their indignation and contempt for it by publicly burning it.

Why do we say that such actions are evidence of progress? Well, it so happens that this is a mild form of the usual reaction of alarmists following practically every new translation of the Bible. It happens that in earlier years those who "viewed with alarm" each new translation did not content themselves with burning the new translation; they, at times, went a long step further and burned the translator himself.

John Wycliff, who with his followers, gave to the world the first English translation of the Bible was a storm center for years. He was permitted to die a natural death. However, more than forty years later his body was dug up, burned and his ashes scattered on the river Swift. world a new translation of the New Testament About a century later William Tyndale gave the and the Pentateuch. He did not escape so lightly. He was imprisoned for sixteen months. He was then bound to a stake, strangled and his body burned.

Hence we say we are making some progress.
(Continued on page 5)



Building Programs In The Jonesboro District

THE STAFF IS PLEASED TO PRESENT ANOTHER ARTICLE DEALING WITH THE BUILDING PROGRAMS WITHIN ONE OF THE DISTRICTS OF THE ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA AREA. OTHER ARTICLES ARE SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION SOON.

STAFF ARTICLE

Photos by Staff and Rev. Eugene Hall

AT First Church Jonesboro, a committee headed by George Love is proceeding with a long range program of renovation in the present church plant, including air conditioning the sanctuary at a cost of \$15,000, building a small chapel within the building which will seat some sixty worshippers, redecorating and refurnishing much of the building, and rearranging a number of the classrooms to make a more efficient accommodation of the Church School program. Other plans of the church include the eventual conversion of the parsonage to an educational building and the building of a new parsonage at a new location. First Church is also sponsoring a new church soon to be organized in a fast developing section of southern Jonesboro. The new church will be known as St. Paul's. Rev. John McCormack is the First Church, Jonesboro, pastor.

Elsewhere in Jonesboro the Huntington Avenue Methodist Church, Rev. Elmus Brown, pastor, is engaged in completing plans for a new Educational Building, construction of which is hoped to be begun this spring. Present plans call for the erection of a two story brick veneer, Hedite block, concrete and steel building immediately back of the present church building and facing on Vine Street. The building would have 7200 square feet on the two floors and would accommodate all the department of the Children and Youth Divisions of the church school, with the Children's Division on the first floor and the Youth Division on the second. Two extra classrooms would be also provided to accommodate later expansion. Plans also call for the rearranging of certain rooms and space in the

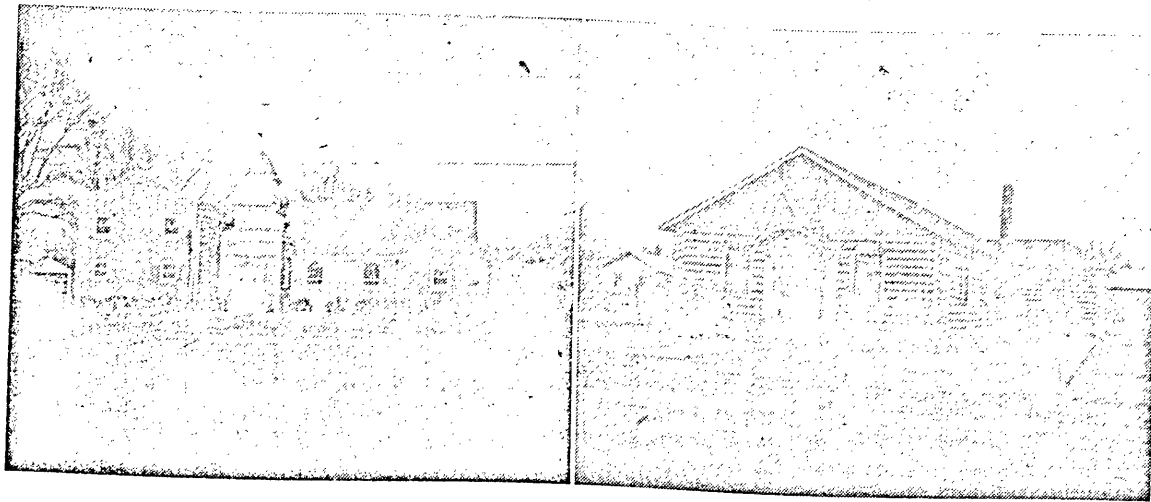
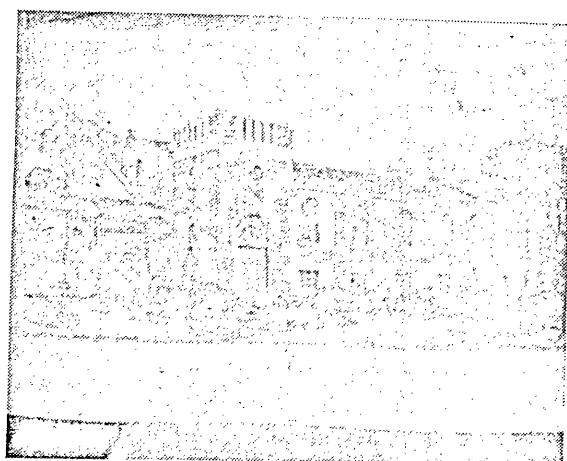
present space to better accommodate the adult division, which would continue to use the main building. A Junior Assembly room on the first floor of the new building would be used for small church meetings. The Building Committee includes H. S. Cook, chairman, A. L. Hendrix, C. V. McKinney, Ralph Schisler, and Mrs. J. D. Lamburth.

Fisher Street Methodist Church, Jonesboro, has been engaged in a construction and expansion program for several years. In 1948 construction was begun on the present Educational Building, with work and finishing of rooms in this building being done as funds were available. Most of the building has now been completed, with the kindergarten room being one of the latest to be completed. Funds for this project were provided by the children themselves through offerings taken at Sunday School. Approximately \$9,000 is still owed on this building, the debt being retired at the rate of \$1,000 per year. Two years ago the parsonage at that time was removed from the area immediately in front of the educational building and sold. With funds derived from the sale and other funds another house near the church was purchased for use as the parsonage, at a cost of \$8,000. Recent improvements to the church property include the redecoration of the sanctuary with refinished floors and walls. New carpet has been added as well as new pulpit furniture. The congregation also hopes to install new stained glass windows in the future. The Methodist Men's organization did the financing of the cost for the floor refinishing and painting and the W. S. C. S. was responsible for the new carpet. The pulpit furni-

ABOVE, left, First Methodist Church, Osceola; right, First Methodist Church, Blytheville.

BELOW, top to bottom, architect drawing, new sanctuary, First Methodist Church, Harrisburg; The Delfore Methodist Church; The Lake Street Methodist Church, Blytheville.

BOTTOM, left, Dell Methodist Church; Center, Black Oak Methodist Church.



ture is being installed through memorial gifts. Rev. William M. Womack is pastor.

Calvary Methodist Church, a short distance from Jonesboro was organized as a point on the Nettleton-Bay Charge in 1949 when Rev. J. H. Holt was pastor. The church was later transferred to the McCormick Charge, Rev. T. B. Parmenter pastor, and under his leadership and direction the church building was erected on a plot of ground given by a local resident. The frame building is complete with pews, communion rail and pulpit furniture built by Rev. Mr. Parmenter. The congregation now has a membership of 80 members, and has worship services by the pastor one Sunday a month, with a Jonesboro layman, Charles Stuck, also preaching there one Sunday each month.

Plans are being completed at Lake City for the construction of an entirely new church plant. The building program there calls for the dismantling of the present structure and the erection of a one-story sanctuary and educational building at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The educational building will have five classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and two restrooms. The building will be of brick veneer construction. Fred Plyland is the overall chairman of the program. Others serving on the committee in charge of construction include Fred Stotts, W. R. Willis, and John Comer. The congregation is now in a financial program taking pledges to cover the cost of construction. Rev. John Barrett is the Lake City pastor.

On the Black Oak-Delfore Charge, Rev. Hasle West, pastor, considerable progress has been made in improving the church property. The Black Oak church plant has been remodeled and redecorated, and a new building presently used as the pastor's study has been erected. These improvements have cost \$2,700. A lot next to the church property has also been acquired at a cost of \$150. Also, the old debt on the parsonage has been retired and many improvements made, all at a cost of \$1,350. The Committee which had charge of these improvements included E. G. Hodges, H. D. Crouch, and Rev. Hasle O. West, pastor. At Delfore a 18x40 foot educational building is being constructed. Of frame construction with asbestos shingle siding, it has sheetrock walls and celotex ceiling. The space is being divided into three class rooms for Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors. Construction was begun in July, 1951, and the building will be completed free of debt, including the lighting and heating. The building committee is composed of Dawson Jackson, J. R. Miller, and Emmett Humphrey.

At Monette the educational building was redecorated, a tile floor added and two restrooms installed about a year ago at a cost of \$3,000. This program also included a much needed sidewalk to the building. Present plans call for the second floor to be added to the educational annex and also a new roof over the entire building. These improvements are expected to cost approximately \$2,200. Improvements to the parsonage within the past year include painting the outside of the house, refinishing the floors inside, and the purchase of new furniture for the living room and the dining room. The kitchen has also been completely refinished. The Building and Improvement Committee is headed by R. B. Watkins, and includes H. D. Gibson, Gail Cullum, C. A. Nelson, Clyde Evans, Kip Moore and Harlon Keich. The Wesleyan Service Guild was responsible for the improvements made to the parsonage. New doors have been given for the entrance to the sanctuary honoring Lela Lou and Harry Melvin Adams, niece and nephew of

Mrs. Lela Gipson, donor. Luther Gipson gave a large attractive sign at the front of the church about two years ago. Rev. Bennie Jordon is pastor.

Dell Methodists have a new church building and parsonage both acquired within recent years. \$5,000 was paid in 1949 for the five-room comfortable house next door to the church. The church itself is a building which befits a much larger congregation and is ideal in every respect. Of American style architecture, the sanctuary is exceptionally beautiful and equally as worshipful. There are six classrooms, a kitchen, fellowship hall, restrooms, and the entire building is heated by a central heating system for winter use and has air conditioning for the summer. The brick building was erected at a cost of \$55,000 and is free of debt. The Building Committee included H. Noble Gill, chairman, Earl Mager, B. S. Simmons, Lester Gill, Mrs. Helen Sanders, W. A. Whistle, M. F. Brownlee, Sr., C. H. Whistle, and Mrs. Mavis Settlemire. Rev. Eugene Hall is the pastor.

On the Yarbo-Promised Land charge, Rev. C. C. Burton, pastor, a new educational building has been constructed at Yarbo at a cost of \$3,500 not including the cost of a considerable portion of the labor donated by members of the congregation. The building has seven classrooms and two restrooms, and is joined immediately to the back of the sanctuary building. The parsonage for this charge is located in Blytheville at 521 South Franklin. It has recently been redecorated with both churches sharing in the cost. The parsonage committee includes Mrs. Johnnie Johnson, Mrs. Elza Wheeler and Mrs. Milton Bunch.

The Blytheville West Parish church, which includes Half Moon, Gosnell and Wesley Memorial in Blytheville has recently made extensive improvements to the parsonage, including redecorating, addition of one room and making provision for heating the house with natural gas. The Wesley Memorial church situated in a growing section of western Blytheville is showing remarkable strength for its age. Organized about a year ago, interest and attendance has more than doubled since annual conference. The one room building formerly used by the Lone Oak Methodist Church, one and one half miles distant, has been removed to the building site of Wesley Memorial Church at the corner of Howard and Margaret streets. This building will serve until a new and more adequate building can be erected. Plans for this new building will be formulated in the near future. Tentative plans include constructing first an educational building, and continuing to use the present building for the sanctuary, with a new sanctuary to be constructed at a later date. The parsonage committee for the charge includes Mrs. Jack Robertson, Mrs. Ben Ray, Mrs. O. M. Nitchel, Mrs. B. F. Gay, Mrs. Mervin Cook and Mrs. Marvin Rast. Rev. W. W. Peterson is the Blytheville West Parish pastor.

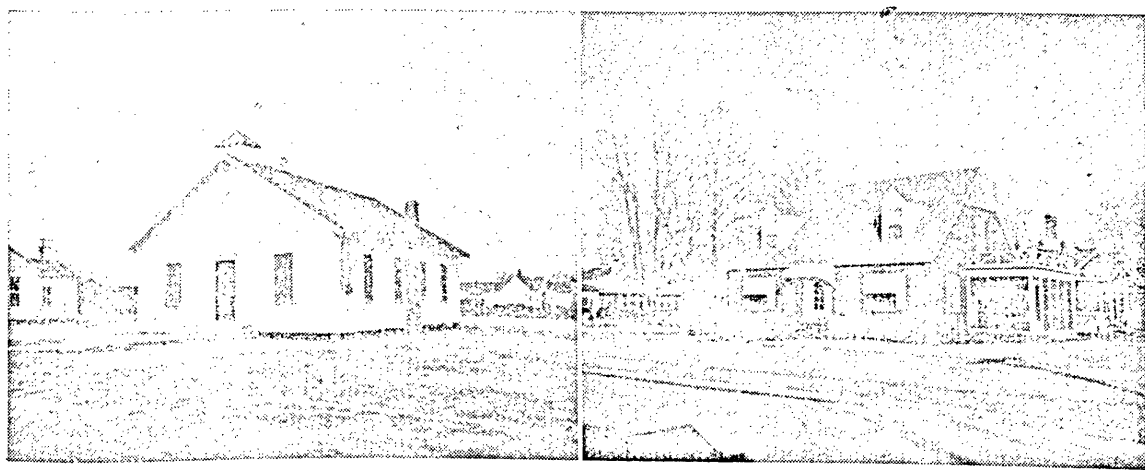
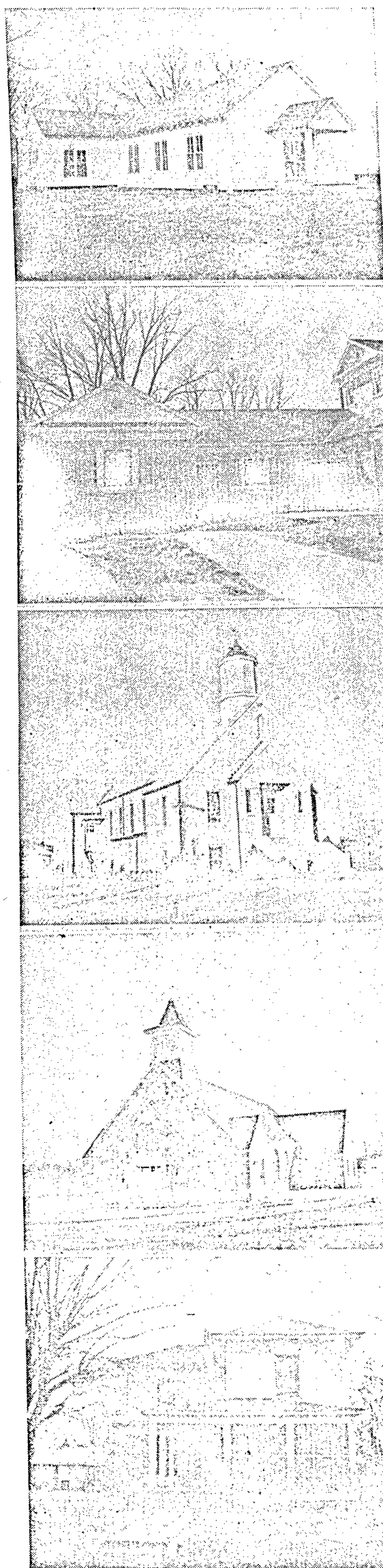
The Leachville Methodist Church through its Woman's Society, the Wesleyan Service Guild and the Methodist Youth Fellowship has added new furnishings to the parsonage and completed a project of redecoration. Also, the Leachville Methodists installed a Wurlitzer Organ in the

RIGHT, top to bottom, 1st, Whitten Methodist Church; 2nd, Fellowship Hall, Marked Tree Methodist Church; 3rd, The Methodist Church, Weiner; 4th, Tilton Methodist Church; 5th, Parsonage of the Fisher Street Methodist Church, Jonesboro.

BELOW, left, Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Blytheville; Center, Parsonage of the First Methodist Church, Blytheville.

church as a memorial to the late Rev. R. E. L. Bearden, Sr., long time Methodist leader in the North Arkansas Conference and who made his home in Leachville following his retirement from active service. Other improvements include re-

(Continued on page 6)



NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

THE METHODIST MEN of the Jackson Street Church, Magnolia, will have their regular meeting on Thursday, January 22, when a supper will be served at the Magnolia Inn.

LES GRIFFIN has been elected president of the Adult Class of the Nettleton Methodist Church. Mrs. Rose Stickler was elected secretary of the class.

REV. LESTER FINLEY, missionary in the Gujarat Conference in India who is supported by the First Methodist Church of Jonesboro, is in the states on furlough. His address is 16 Van Gaasbeck Street, Kingston, N. Y.

REV. ALLEN D. STEWART, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Siloam Springs, is a patient at the St. John's Hospital, Tulsa, where he will be for several weeks for examination and treatment.

REV. ROY I. BAGLEY, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Blytheville, will be the preacher in a series of services at the First Methodist Church of Clarksville, March 9-15. Rev. Paul M. Bumpers is pastor at Clarksville.

THE BOARD OF STEWARDS of the Jackson Street Methodist Church, Magnolia, voted at the recent meeting of the Board to purchase new pews for the sanctuary. A number of the pews will be given by members as memorials.

ANNE AND SUE WHIDDON, daughters of Rev. and Mrs. Thomas R. Whiddon of Lincoln were injured in a car wreck on New Year's Eve but are reported to be recovering. Anne is now at home but Sue, the younger daughter, is still in the hospital. She has a fractured lower jaw.

A WATCH NIGHT SERVICE was held at the Methodist Church of Augusta on Wednesday evening, December 31. A worship and communion service was held at 11:30. The recreation room was open from 8:30 to 11:30 for recreation and fellowship. Rev. H. Lynn Wade is pastor.

DR. FRED R. HARRISON, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Texarkana, attended in Kansas City the recent Conference on The Ministry, sponsored by the Board of Ministerial Training of The Methodist Church. Dr. Harrison is chairman of the Board of Ministerial Training of the Little Rock Conference.

REV. J. S. UPTON and a group of ministerial students from Hendrix College will have charge of the services at the Augusta Methodist Church on Sunday, January 18, during the absence of the pastor, Rev. H. Lynn Wade. On Sunday, January 25, Rev. Cy Wilson of Harrison will preach.

REV. N. LEE CATE, pastor at Manila writes: "Just a word of gratitude for the generosity of the fine people of Manila. On December 16, they filled our home food freezer with a varied assortment of delicious foods. Then, on December 24, they presented the parsonage family with a lovely television set."

REV. BOB WATSON, ministerial student at Hendrix College, was guest speaker at the Student Recognition Service at the First Methodist Church, Newport, on Sunday morning, December 28. The service honored college students home for Christmas vacation. Rev. Guy Ames is pastor of First Church.

THE PARSONETTES of the Little Rock District met on January 8 for lunch in the home of Mrs. Cecil R. Culver with Mrs. Lena Monk, Mrs. Fred Arnold, Mrs. Charles Giessen, Mrs. J. W. Simmons and Mrs. Curtis Williams as co-hostesses. Mrs. Charles Richards presided at the business session in the absence of the president. There were twenty-eight members present.

REV. HAL R. SESSION, recent graduate of the Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, brought the message at the evening hour at the Jackson Street Methodist

Church, Magnolia, on Sunday, January 4. Mr. Sessions, who is going into the United States Navy Chaplaincy, will leave March 4 for Chaplains' School in Newport, Rhode Island.

REV. A. J. BEARDEN, pastor of the Winthrop Circuit, writes that the report of the Hope District Conference in last week's issue of the paper saying that Winthrop Church on the Winthrop Circuit had paid out in full except pastor's salary should have included Brownstone Church which also paid out in full at the first Quarterly Conference in August.

NEWLY-ELECTED OFFICERS of the Methodist Men in Searcy are: Dallas Stewart, chairman; Elmer Yancey, vice-chairman and H. H. Fulbright, secretary-treasurer. Rev. J. Albert Gatlin, North Arkansas Conference secretary of the Town and Country Commission, will be the speaker for the first meeting of the year on the evening of January 23.

MRS. S. M. VANHOZER, chairman of the Adult Home Department of the Gardner Memorial Methodist Church, North Little Rock, made forty-three visits during the holidays to the members of the Home Department, carrying greetings and a remembrance from the church. The gifts were made possible by the Men's Bible Class which sponsors the Department.

DR. WILLIAM FERRELL PLEDGER, missionary to India since 1937, has been appointed visiting professor of Bible and Sociology at Centenary College, Shreveport. He will assume his new duties on January 28. Dr. Pledger was district superintendent of the Baroda District of the Methodist Church in India prior to his appointment to Centenary. He is on furlough from his mission duties in India.

JOHAN SPARKS WORKMAN, JR., was born at Granberry, Texas, on Saturday, January 10. The parents are Rev. John Sparks Workman and Elizabeth Teague Workman. The father is a student in Perkins School of Theology and pastor at Granberry, Texas. Dr. and Mrs. James W. Workman of North Little Rock are the paternal grandparents and Rev. and Mrs. Otto W. Teague of Pine Bluff are the maternal grandparents.

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA, "Star of the Silent Night", was sung by the choir of the Vantage Methodist Church, El Dorado, on Sunday evening, December 21. Mrs. A. B. Sellers was organist-director. Twenty voices participated with special parts assigned to the following: Warren Bell, Mrs. Nancy Everett, Mrs. Fred Schwendimann, Mrs. E. E. Baggett, Miss Connie Gathright, Mrs. Perry Bolding, Miss Bynum Blackmon, Rev. Fred Schwendimann and Howard Warren. In addition to solo, duet and quartets, the cantata featured men's and women's choruses.

WILLIAM R. TUGGLE III of Jonesboro, who is a sophomore in the School of Business Administration at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C., has been elected president of the Wesley Foundation there. He is also secretary of the Inter-collegiate Race Relations council, and until elected president was chairman of the Social Action Committee. In addition to his work with Wesley Foundation, he is a member of the Board of Stewards of the University Methodist Church. Mr. Tuggle, the son of Col. and Mrs. W. P. Tuggle, Jr., now residing in DeRidder, La., is the great nephew of Mrs. Georgia Hulen of Hendrix College, Rev. H. O. Bolin of Benton and a cousin to Rev. Roy Bagley of Blytheville.

THE SERVICES of the First Methodist Church, Morrilton, are being broadcast each Sunday morning at the 11:00 o'clock hour over the new radio station KVON which began operation on Christmas Day. The initial broadcast from the church was the service in observance of Student Recognition Day with Rev. George Wayne Martin, student in Southern Methodist University bringing the message. Miss Harriett Riddick, student at Hendrix College, presided. Ushers and choir were made up of students. A large

A WEEKLY MESSAGE

By FORNEY HUTCHINSON

MY PREACHER FRIEND

When I first came to Oklahoma I thought I was going to feel like a "stranger in a strange land," but I soon found that I knew more of our Oklahoma preachers than I had suspected.

One of them I had already learned to love in church organizations to which we both belonged. Both of us were missionary secretaries of our respective Conferences, and we always met at the annual meetings of our missionary secretaries in Nashville, Tennessee.

On one such occasion he told me that his health was not good and that if he went first, he wanted me to participate in his funeral. At that time he gave me a list of requests which he had written out concerning that service.

First of all, he desired that no more than two preachers take part in his funeral services. Six laymen were to act as his pall bearers, for he said that laymen had fed and clothed him since 1888.

He requested, also, that the president of the Missionary Society, president of the Epworth League, superintendent of the Sunday School, and superintendents of the Young People's and Children's Department act as honorary pallbearers.

Three songs were to be sung—"Am I a Soldier of the Cross", "How Firm a Foundation," and "Rock of Ages."

After his death had occurred, his name was not to be referred to a Committee on Memoirs, nor was he to be remembered in any memorial service during the following sessions.

Furthermore, he requested that there be a moderate use of flowers at his funeral, and that a modest tombstone mark his grave with a simple inscription of his name and dates of his birth and death.

In addition, he requested that relatives and friends refrain as far as possible from mourning, and that they wear bright-colored garments to his funeral.

Finally, he said, "I found my hope of everlasting life in Jesus Christ solely, and attest my unspeakable joy and sweet assurance in Him."

The minister of whom I write has long gone to his reward, and as nearly as possible, his requests were carried out. I endorse his views. God bless his loved ones!

congregation was present. The broadcasts are made possible by the addition of \$1500.00 to the budget by the Board of Stewards of the church. Rev. Herchelle Couchman is pastor.

Arkansas Methodist

An Official Publication of
The Arkansas-Louisiana Episcopal Area
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
Except the Weeks of July 4 and December 25
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$2.00 PER ANNUM
Retired Ministers, and Wives of Deceased Ministers of the
Little Rock and North Arkansas Conference
Complimentary.
Office of Publication, 1136-1137 Donaghy Building
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
E. T. WAYLAND
EWING T. WAYLAND
ANNIE WINBURNE
Editors and Business Mgrs.
Assistant to Editors
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: H. O. Bolin, Mrs. Ewing T.
Wayland, Roy I. Bagley, Forney Hutchinson.
OWNED, MANAGED AND PUBLISHED BY
THE METHODIST CHURCHES OF
ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA
COMMISSIONERS:
Little Rock Conference—O. C. Landers, E. Vernon Markham, Charles W. Richards, Fred W. Schwendimann, Arthur Terry, Aubrey G. Walton, Burney Wilson.
Louisiana Conference—R. R. Branton, J. N. Fomby, George Ivey, H. L. Johns, Virgil D. Morris, Charles W. Price, Harry Squires.
North Arkansas Conference—Joel Cooper, J. G. Moore, R. J. Rice, Robert P. Sessions, J. Frank Warden, J. William Watson, W. M. Womack.
Entered as second-class matter, January 31, 1908, at the Post Office at Little Rock, Ark., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.
When asking for change of address, please include charge key number, former address, new address and name of pastor.
Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors of the Arkansas Methodist.

WHEN WE ARE LOST

We dislike to lose things. A trifling loss may torment us for days. From a dropped glove or a misplaced book up to a vanished fortune or a ruined reputation, losses are distressing.

But if we were told that we were lost, how much would that disturb us? Of course, that would depend on the situation.

There are times when to be lost means the prospect of physical death.

Admiral Richard Byrd had such an experience during his first stay in Little America as he was exploring the region around the South Pole. One night he left his cave to look at some meteorological instruments and to get some exercise. Since the danger of getting lost in that Antarctic darkness was real and also likely to be speedily fatal, he took the precaution to set up a line of sticks in the snow to guide him. But on this particular night he walked beyond the line before he realized it. Suddenly he discovered his situation and could find no trace of a way back to his cave.

He records that there came over him a sinking, sickening sensation, and he whispered to himself, "Now you're lost." Fortunately he did find his way back before it was too late. But it is hard for us in our warm homes to imagine the full terror of being lost in polar snow with inevitable death by freezing only a few moments ahead.

There was a time when the preacher in the pulpit could stir in his hearers something of this same terrifying feeling by telling them that they were lost souls. When Jonathan Edwards in his sermons pictured sinners in the hands of an angry God on the very brink of hell, his listeners fairly rose from their seats in fear. Such "hell-fire preaching" still stirs congregations in some places, but it would hardly be effective with those who read these lines.

Let us consider the lost sheep. It is not strange that sheep have served to shape so much the pattern of Scriptural thought and language. Sheep-herding was about the leading business of Palestine. And the shepherd's care of his sheep—patiently going after the stray ones, tenderly carrying the lambs in his bosom, guarding with his body at the gate of the sheepfold during the night—all this was a fit symbol of the Heavenly Father's care. It is no wonder that the Psalmist sang, "The Lord is my shepherd."

Then, too, sheep in their moods are so much like people. The lambs so lovable and so helpless, just like little children. The sheep so likable and yet so stupid, just like so many people. They go nibbling along with their nose to the ground, greedily devouring the blades of grass nearest to them, so seldom lifting their eyes to get their bearings, and thus they wander away from the flock or stray near some dangerous cliff.

Oh, it may be that the figure of the lost sheep does not seem to fit us, who think we are modern and smart. We think we know our way around pretty well. But Dr. Arthur Holt says, "a man is lost when he cannot define his present nor plan his future."

When life has no pattern of meaning for us, it becomes almost intolerable. We may like our job so well that we never look at the clock. But we do sooner or later look at the calendar, and ask what are these years adding up to.

Where are we getting? What's the use of it all? And our pleasures, they too begin to pall unless the good times we have here and there are woven together into some pattern of abiding and satisfying happiness.

And if you do not think we of our day have any "lostness," listen to the words of General Omar Bradley speaking at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Nov. 11, 1948: "With the monstrous weapons man already has, humanity is in danger of being trapped by its moral adolescents. Our knowledge of science has outstripped our capacity to control it. We have too many men of science, too few of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. Man is stumbling blindly through a spiritual darkness while toying with the precarious secrets of life and death. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience."

Yes, whether we feel sheepish or not, we are like sheep who have gone astray following the devices and desires of our own hearts, until we

WE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS

(Continued from page 1)

Now we are only burning the newly translated Book, when formerly we burned the translators of the Book. This we feel is evidence of some progress. Furthermore, it is quite possible that the most violent opponent of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible would find that his most vicious, vindictive rantings about the new version would sound almost complimentary if compared with some things said about former translations. It is likely, also, that they will be about as effective.

JONESBORO JUNIORS GIVE TO KOREAN

Members of the Junior Department of the First Methodist Church, Jonesboro, gave as their Christmas offering \$535.93 to be sent to Chaplain Ray D. Seals to be added to the fund for Insoo Kwak, a Korean medical student at the University of West Virginia. This is the second con-

tribution this conference year made by the Juniors, \$45.00 have been sent to Chaplain Seals for this purpose a few months ago.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR NEGRO STUDENTS

Marshall, Texas—Dr. Glenn Flinn of Dallas, Texas, has established a \$200 scholarship for Negro students from Milam County in Texas to be known as the E. A. Flinn Scholarship, in memory of his brother. Under the terms of the award, the recipient may choose either Huston-Tillotson College or Wiley College. The award for this school year was made to Warren Hawkins, son of a Methodist preacher, who is enrolled at Wiley.

PUBLISHER URGES EISENHOWER CREATE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

Rochester, N. Y.—(RNS)—Creation of a Department of Peace, headed by a Cabinet officer "on a par in authority with other Cabinet mem-

BISHOP HAILS BOY SCOUTS

Scouting develops individual initiative and, at the same time, the ability to cooperate, the president of the Council of Bishops of The Methodist Church believes.

Saluting the 3,250,000 Boy Scouts and leaders on the approach of Scouting's 43rd birthday observance, 7-13, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson has tuned his formal statement to the spirit of this year's slogan: "Forward on Liberty's Team."

Bishop Corson, who lives in Philadelphia, sees Scouting from the standpoint of an educator. He is a former college president, chairman of the board of trustees of Temple University and president of the Board of Education of The Methodist Church, to which 125 institutions of higher learning are related.

BROTHER HIRAM PRAYS FOR CRAFT

Bishop Hiram Abiff Boaz, 86, of Dallas, Texas has recently been made the R. W. Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, and is booked to speak for the Consistory in his home city next Maundy Thursday.

Like most retired bishops, Bishop Boaz has not let his status interfere with his usefulness. Since 1938, when he retired, he has organized and led a group of Dallas businessmen who have put into the treasury of Southern Methodist University more than a million dollars for current expenses. For relaxation he swings an accurate driver sufficiently well to beat most golfers half his age.

DAVAGE SUCCESSOR CHOSEN

Nashville, Tenn. — The Methodist General Board of Education has elected Prof. James S. Thomas of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., to its administrative staff, effective July 1.

His appointment was announced at the board's national headquarters here by the Rev. Dr. John O. Gross, executive secretary of the Division of Educational Institutions.

As an associate in the division's

have lost our sense of direction, our sense of security, our sense of real purpose.

Thirteen years ago, King George of England sent a New Year's message to the British Commonwealth. He closed his greeting with these lines: "I said to a man who stood at the gate of the years, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown,' and he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way'."

MARTIN'S WORDS HEARD BEHIND "IRON CURTAIN"

Tribute to their fortitude was paid Christians in Soviet satellite countries in shortwave broadcasts in several languages of a Christmas message from the new president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Bishop William C. Martin of Dallas, who was recently installed to this highest office of America's religious organization, assured the thousands reached by the **Radio Free Europe** broadcasts of deep sympathy and abiding love in their afflictions.

"Your faith and patience and courage have inspired us with new confidence in the final triumph of the Gospel," Bishop Martin said. "Because we have suffered so little in our own country we do not feel that we have the right to give you any counsel as to how your witness for Christ can best be borne. We have the promise of Scripture that no degree of suffering, nor even death itself, can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord . . . Loyal witness to His truth is never futile."

Bishop Martin declared his confidence that it is God's will "that there should be in our hearts the fullness of His unquenchable joy even when our surroundings are amrred with uncertainty, oppression and pain . . . We know that the final reality is not pain and strife and death, but joy and peace and life eternal."

The message closed with prayer that man-made barriers shall not be allowed to separate Christians from each other.

section on higher education, Prof. Thomas will represent the board to 13 Negro colleges that are related to the Methodist Church. The schools have a total enrollment of 6,500 students.

In his new post Prof. Thomas will succeed Dr. M. S. Davage, who was a board secretary 12 years prior to his retirement last summer. Dr. Davage is now serving as president of the recently merged Houston-Tillotson College, Austin, Texas.

bers," was urged upon President-elect Eisenhower by Frank Gannett, newspaper publisher.

"We shall achieve world peace not by compulsion but only by embarking upon a program as well organized and definitely planned as our armed defense against war," the Rochester publisher said in a letter to Gen. Eisenhower. "With much more zeal and determination than we prepare for war, we must fight for peace."

Expressing hope that the President-elect would include the suggested department in his plans for reorganization of the executive branch of the government, Mr. Gannett said that, because "peace is too precious to be entirely in the hands of diplomats," the State Department should be made a part of the proposed Department of Peace.

"Unification for peace is just as essential for our national security as unification of our armed forces," he said. "The State Department should not be the sole agency for conducting peace any more than the Department of the Air Force should control other armed services."

NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE NOTES

New Certifications

Rev. Alvin C. Murray of Marked Tree has been certified for The Educational Work of the Small Church (First Series) and Christian Education in the Church (Second Series).

Miss Mary E. Chaffin of Paragould has been certified for How to Teach in the Church School (First Series) and Ways of Teaching (Second Series).

Mrs. Samuel Auslam of Green Forest has been certified for Friendship and Marriage (First Series) and Preparing for Marriage (Second Series).

Conway District Institutes

A series of four area institutes on Christian Education has been planned for the Conway District, January 19-23.

There will be a general meeting in which the new plan of church organization will be presented. This will be followed by four group meetings: workers with children, workers with youth, workers with adults, and a group for pastors and church school superintendents. These meetings will be under the direction of Rev. R. E. L. Bearden, District Superintendent. He will be assisted by the three district directors: Rev. I. L. Claud, Rev. Raymond Dorman, and Mrs. J. Albert Gatlin.

The meetings are to begin at 7 p. m. at each place. The dates of the meetings are as follows:

North Little Rock, Levy Church, Monday, January 19.

Conway, First Church, Tuesday night, January 20.

Morrilton, First Church, Thursday night, January 22.

Dardanelle, First Church, Friday night, January 23.

Plans have been made for a vacation church school workshop to be held at Conway, February 9-10. The meeting will begin at 2 p. m., Feb. 9 and close at noon on Feb. 10.

Three units of work will be presented: Kindergarten, Primary, and Junior.

Each district is to bring a worker for each of the three groups. This district team will provide leadership for cultivation of vacation church school work in the respective district.

Camping Conference

A conference for camping leaders for the youth camps to be held in the North Arkansas Conference is being planned for Conway, Feb. 9 and 10. Each district of the conference is being asked to send representative persons to this meeting.

Yellville is planning a one unit training school on Christian Stewardship to be taught by Rev. J. Albert Gatlin, the school to be held in late January.

RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY

The 1953 observance of Race Relations Sunday in The Methodist Church will come on February 8. This special day has been set up by the church to further better understanding among the peoples of all

DR. VERNON TO BE IN INSTITUTES

IN the use of a better understanding and use of our Church School literature, Dr. Walter Vernon of the Editorial Division of the General Board has been secured for a series of sub-Conference institutes to be held as follows:

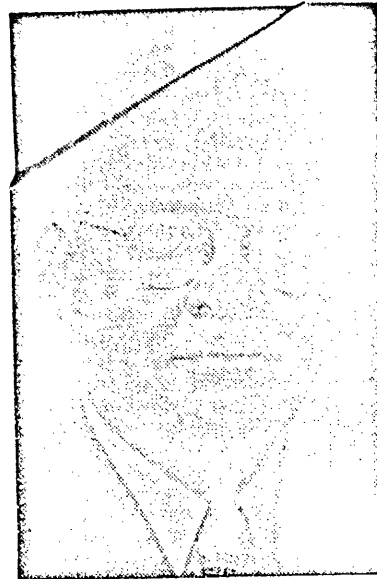
Fordyce, Feb. 18

Little Rock Asbury Feb. 19

Hot Springs (First Church) Feb. 20

These meetings will begin at 10 a. m. and will close at approximately 3:30 p. m. each day. In order to conserve time, it is suggested that a sandwich lunch be brought and served pot luck style at the noon hour.

This is an important series of meetings in which guidance will be given to workers with all age groups, with Mrs. W. F. Bates and Mrs. V. B. Story assisting in interpreting materials to workers with children and youth respectively. Those interested in a study of materials, may attend the meeting most convenient as to



DR. WALTER N. VERNON

time and place.—Roy E. Fawcett

standing among the peoples of all races and to inform Methodists of the needs of our schools for Negroes. The special offering received in churches throughout Methodism on Race Relations Sunday will benefit the thirteen Negro institutions related to the church's Board of Education.

Materials now being prepared to assist the churches in their observance of Race Relations Sunday will be mailed soon to all pastors. In addition to the new materials being prepared, a few hundred copies of a leaflet issued in 1950 are still available on request. Entitled **Case Studies**, it presents short write-ups on several graduates of Methodist colleges for Negroes. Requests for this leaflet should be addressed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Division of Educational Institutions, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

BUILDING PROGRAMS IN THE JONESBORO DISTRICT

(Continued from page 3)

furnishing of the church kitchen. Rev. F. M. Stage, Jr., is the Leachville pastor. The Methodists of Macy, a point on the Leachville charge, have overhauled the inside and out of their church building and added a new roof, at a cost of approximately \$1,200.

The Luxora Methodists have redecorated their sanctuary and are presently engaged in making other improvements such as rearrangement of the basement to meet the needs of the church program more efficiently. Rev. H. L. Robison is the pastor.

Lake Street in Blytheville is enjoying the use of a new educational building completed in March, 1949 during the pastorate of Rev. Theron McKisson. Built of tile block with plaster finish inside, the two story building has 3640 square feet of floor space providing space for six classrooms, restrooms, assembly room, fellowship hall, kitchen, and pastor's study. Total cost was \$26,000, \$5,000 of which is still owed. The debt is being retired at the rate of \$1,000 each year. There has recently been added to the sanctuary a dorsal curtain on which is hung a lighted picture, Sallman's Head of Christ. This had added much in the way of beauty and worshipful atmosphere to the sanctuary. H. G. McHaffey, George Stilwell, and Charles McDaniel served as the Building Committee and Allen Van Winkle was the treasurer for the building fund. Rev. Bob McMaster is the present pastor.

The building program of the First Methodist Church, Blytheville, Rev. Roy I. Bagley, pastor, has resulted in a new sanctuary and parsonage for this church. The former parsonage was situated on the site where the new sanctuary was to be built. It was sold and removed from the site and a new parsonage was built at a new location, being completed in March, 1950. Ground was broken for the new sanctuary in October, 1949 and the formal opening worship service held Sunday, May 18, 1952. Of Gothic architecture, the sanctuary is one of the most beautiful in Arkansas. The total cost of the sanctuary and parsonage was approximately \$400,000. The construction committee included B. A. Lynch, Dr. James L. Guard, Jesse Taylor, R. A. Nelson, Harvey Morris, J. W. Adams, J. L. Gunn.

One of the truly magnificent structures to be erected in Arkansas is the sanctuary completed one year ago at Osceola. Rev. Vance Womack was the pastor when ground was broken for this building in 1947. Continued progress was made on the building program under the pastorate of Rev. Herchelle Couchman, and the construction was completed under the present pastorate of Rev. Garland C. Taylor. The Building Committee has been composed of D. S. Laney, Chairman, Faber White, G. B. Segraves, and Dr. C. M. Harwell. The total cost including furnishings was \$260,000 of which \$45,000 is still owed. The architecture of the building is in keeping with the educational building erected several years earlier. The sanctuary has a divided chancel arrangement, with the floor around the altar and choir area of marble. The pews, pulpit furniture and wood paneling in the sanctuary is all of light oak finish, and the furnishings include a new Moeller Pipe Organ.

The Methodist Church of Joiner is presently engaged in completing plans for a new educational building which will tie in with the present church plant, providing an additional floor space of 2152 square feet. The new area is planned to accommodate all of the Children's Division, a young couple's class of the Church School, and two restrooms. The Building Committee includes Leslie E. Speck, Mrs. E. B. Chiles, Rufus Branch, O. W. Speck, and Jimmie Ralph. The cost of this program is thought to be approximately \$16,000, not including furnishings. It is hoped that the work may be completed before annual conference in June. Rev. E. E. Stevenson is pastor.

One of the strong rural churches of the Jonesboro District is the Whitten Church. This congregation last year added 2000 feet of floor space in an educational annex which provided four additional classrooms and a kitchen. A Butane heating system has also been recently added. Not including the generous amount of contributed labor in this improvement, the cost has been approximately \$4,000. At Dyess, \$300 improvements have been made on the church property, including the parsonage. Rev. M. J. Pollard is serving his second year as the pastor of the Dyess-Whitten charge.

The Keiser Methodist Church, Rev. J. M. Harrison pastor, is planning a building program with a view of adding facilities to its church

building. The Woman's Society now has more than \$500 in a building fund for this purpose. Definite plans will be announced later.

Lepanto Methodists are currently engaged in a \$12,500 improvement program which to date has seen a complete rearrangement of the altar and choir area and a redecoration of the pastor's study. The work features a considerable amount of oak paneling and indirect lighting. Future plans include the complete redecoration of the sanctuary, with new walls and ceiling to be added. Some further work to improve the exterior of the front is also planned. It is also contemplated that twenty-four stained glass windows will be installed in the sanctuary to replace present windows. These will be given as memorials and the cost of these is not included in the improvement program. The church also has plans to add to the present educational building, but the nature of these plans are not yet complete. At the first quarterly conference of this year, church officials voted to build a new parsonage. A gift of two lots has already been received for this purpose. It is expected that the present parsonage will be sold and proceeds applied on the construction costs of the new one. The Church and Parsonage Building Committee includes W. H. Cross, A. T. Bell, T. B. Goldsby, Dan Portis, Raymond Pritchett, Fred Stuckey, and James Wilson. Rev. W. A. Stewart, Jr., is the Lepanto pastor.

Methodists in Marked Tree have been engaged in a threefold building program which is calculated to give them one of the most complete plants for a church of its size to be found anywhere. The approximate cost of the completed program is \$48,000 exclusive of furnishings. The first part of the program was completed in June of 1952 and included the air conditioning, for winter and summer, of the sanctuary and all the educational facilities, and later the Fellowship Hall. The second part of the program was completed in September, 1952 and included the construction of Fellowship Hall, a building of 4,000 square feet of tile, brick and concrete construction, and provides a fellowship hall, parlor, kitchen, and pastor's study. The last part of the program which is now being completed is the remodeling of the entire educational facility on the ground floor of the main building which will now provide space for the entire children's

(Continued on page 15)

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ASSAILS SALACIOUS LITERATURE

LARGE-SCALE publication of pornographic and salacious literature is threatening the moral values of the nation, a special Congressional committee reported after a six-month study of the field. The report of the Select Committee to Investigate Current Pornographic Literature was signed by six of that body's nine members, including Rep. Ezekiel C. Gathings (D.-Ark.), the chairman. "Pornography is big business," the majority report said. "The extent to which the profit motive has brushed aside all generally accepted standards of decency and good taste and substituted inferior moral standards has become not only a national disgrace but a menace to our civic welfare. 'Parents who would not tolerate salacious conversation in their homes apparently do not object to, or are unaware of, the presence of degrading types of books and magazines devoted to such topics.' So-called 'comic' books were particularly castigated in the report, which described them as a 'degenerate outgrowth of long-established newspaper cartoon strips.' It was noted that a number of religious leaders had submitted statements and many representatives of religious groups had been heard by the committee during its months of investigation. "Civic and religious organizations throughout the land are in essential agreement that concerted action should be taken against the moral filth," the majority report said.

Religious Panel Tells

Foreigners How America Worships

A panel of Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish religious leaders faces up to a tough job each week as it tries to give foreigners a picture of how Americans worship. The panel meets at the State Department's international education center in Washington every Thursday. The visitors from abroad are students, scientists, physicians and industrial specialists brought to the U. S. under the Point Four technical assistance program. An introduction to America's religious life is part of a week-long orientation given the visitors before they start their training programs elsewhere in the nation. Panel members say the foreigners ask some difficult questions and that it is often a challenge to try to answer them.

Bishop Martin Honored In Dallas

Methodist Bishop William C. Martin of Dallas was honored at a dinner in Dallas in recognition of his election as president of the National Council of Churches. More than 700 persons attended. The dinner was held in the basement of First Methodist church of which Bishop Martin once was pastor. "Every job I've taken the last few years," said Bishop Martin, "has gotten too big for me. I've gotten used to it." The bishop listened to words of praise from the toastmaster, J. Edward Johnson, chairman of the First Methodist church board of stewards, who called him a "dynamic churchman and a great servant of God." Bishop and Mrs. Martin were presented with a television set by laymen.

Methodist Bishop Helps Lay Cornerstone of Catholic Hospital

A Methodist bishop assisted Roman Catholic Bishop Richard O. Gerow of Natchez in laying the cornerstone of the new Dominican Jackson Memorial Hospital in Jackson, Miss. Stressing the inter-creedal cooperation which made the Catholic hospital possible, Bishop Marvin A. Franklin, leader of Mississippi Methodists, said: "We are united in the common faith in the Great Physician." Lt. Gov. Carroll Gatlin, a leading Baptist layman who represented the state, paid tribute to the

nuns and others responsible for "making this dream come true."

Oklahoma Governor Gets Painting of Christ

A copy of Warner Sallman's oil painting, "Christ at Heart's Door," was presented to Gov. Johnston Murray in Oklahoma City, by a delegation of Durant, Okla., men and women. Durant has become noted as "The City of Christ Pictures," largely through the efforts of Ora O'Riley, who for a number of years has conducted a campaign there to have a picture of Christ placed in every public building in the town. Miss O'Riley said that Governor Murray assured the delegation that the painting would be hung in the State Capitol. "This will be the first time in the history of the United States that a picture of Christ has been displayed in a state capitol building," she said.

Nehru Meets With World Council Leaders

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru met in Lucknow, India with members of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee and, in an informal talk, denounced nationalism and war as outmoded ways of dealing with international problems.

"War is unnecessary today," he said, "because we now have the means of making the necessities of life available to all." The Indian leader condemned nationalism as "a narrowing force" and said that war is "a method that never achieves results but, instead, brutalizes humanity." He assured the Protestant and Eastern Orthodox world leaders that India's Constitution guarantees complete religious freedom "although this is not always observed." Urging a renunciation of fear in the approach to world problems, Nehru defended India's proposal for ending the Korean war as "worthwhile" because it "has given a basis for a future way out."

Churchmen Pay Overtime Parking Fees

Men of Salem Evangelical and Reformed church are giving police of Buffalo, N. Y., competition in the tagging of overparked automobiles. Instead of issuing the familiar \$2 red parking tickets, which motorists must pay at police headquarters, the Salem church laymen are placing on windshields a non-payable yellow ticket carrying this message: "To the owner or driver of this automobile: Your time had expired on this meter, but a member of Salem Evangelical and Reformed church inserted a coin for you. You are

hereby invited to attend the service Sunday at 10:30 a. m., 413 Sherman St." The ticket-tagger, all members of the Salem Churchmen's Brotherhood, are generous in putting masks in overtime meters because some of the yellow tickets bring queries from persons without church affiliation who attend the Sunday service.

Okla. Legislature Gets Bible-Reading Bill

A bill requiring daily Bible reading in Oklahoma public schools was introduced in the state legislature in Oklahoma City, Rep. William A. Shibley of Bristow, its sponsor, said that "the spiritual things should be before our children daily." The bill is patterned after a New Jersey law which was upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court last March. In New Jersey, Bible verses are read to school children each day.

Sees New Day of Mass Evangelism

A "new day of mass evangelism" is dawning, according to Dr. Joseph H. Edge, Nashville, Tenn., associate secretary of the Methodist General Board of Evangelism. Dr. Edge, addressing the annual meeting of the Association of Conference Evangelists of The Methodist Church here, urged that churchmen be ready for that "new day." "One can pick up almost any newspaper in the country and find an editorial or a front-page story stating the world's need for a great religious renaissance," he said. "Doors are opening wide to us—but are we ready to accept the challenge? Christ's commission must be our compulsion!" More than 10 evangelists and laymen from most Southern states, and some extending as far as Texas, Illinois and Iowa also heard a challenge by Dr. Z. T. Johnson, of Wilkes, Ky., president of Ashbury College, that they "recognize and live up to their responsibility."

Reports Mass Conversions Of North Korean Prisoners

Thousands of captured Chinese and North Koreans are being converted to Christianity.

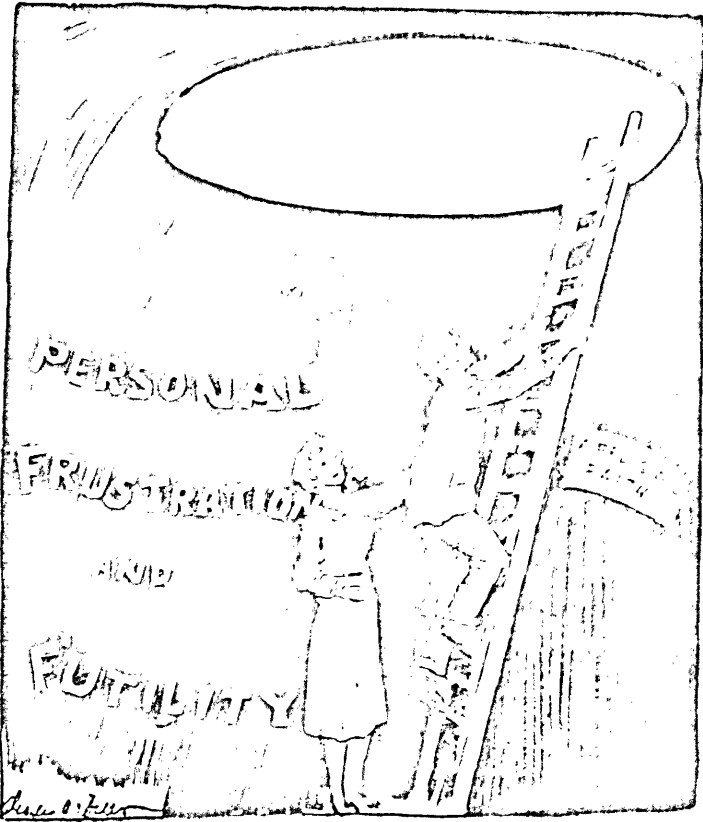
At the same time, a large number of Chinese and North Koreans are being converted to Christianity. The report is based on information received from various sources, including missionaries and church leaders. The conversions are taking place in various parts of the world, including China, North Korea, and other regions. The report also mentions that the conversions are being carried out by various religious groups, including the Methodist Church and the Baptist Church. The conversions are being carried out in a systematic and organized manner, and the report expresses optimism about the future of the Christian faith in these regions.

Court Decision Held Blow To Churches

A recent court decision in the case of *Evangelical Alliance v. Board of Education* is being viewed as a blow to the churches. The decision, which was handed down by the Supreme Court, ruled that the churches had no right to influence the curriculum of public schools. This decision is seen as a setback for the churches, which have long advocated for the inclusion of religious teachings in the public school system. The decision is also seen as a victory for the secularists, who have been fighting for the separation of church and state. The churches are expected to appeal the decision, and the case is likely to remain in the courts for some time.

THERE IS A WAY OUT

Chas. A. Wells



ANNUAL SIMULTANEOUS

January 11th Through January 18th, 1934

Campaign In Local Church

1. Solicit every Methodist Home for a new subscription or renewal for your church paper during the week of Circulation Campaign.
2. Make a report on Monday, Jan. 19th, to your District Superintendent and to the office of publication in Little Rock, of the results of the Campaign.
3. Any necessary follow-up work may be reported as soon as complete.

Watch Reports Of Campaign

Watch your issue of the paper of January 29th for a full report by Districts and by Charges of the results of the Circulation Campaign as received the week of January 18th through January 24th.

The Ministers and Members
The Methodist Church
In The Arkansas-Louisiana Area

I can think of no finer way to spend the year than to use the period to press the ARKANSAS METHODIST and the LOUISIANA METHODIST. The best result to make is to determine to secure a large list during the week of January 11th through 18th. There are no finer papers in Methodism, and we will give to the circulation campaign with enthusiastic cooperation.

Cordially yours

Paul H. Hamilton

NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE



R. E. Connell

BATESVILLE DISTRICT

R. E. Connell
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....1006

Maurice Lanier
District Director

Without the ARKANSAS METHODIST, Methodism within the bounds of our Area cannot be a connectional, and effective, Christian organization.—R. E. Connell.

CONWAY DISTRICT

R. E. L. Bearden
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....1324

Irl Bridenthal
District Director

There is only one way in which an adequate piece of work can be carried on in any organization and that is through informed persons. Regardless of strength in any other Area, nothing progressive can be accomplished unless the people know what is being done.

The ARKANSAS METHODIST is the single means at our disposal for providing vital information to the Methodists of our State. Our paper does this job well. We need only to see that it is available to more and more Methodists.—R. E. L. Bearden.

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT

W. F. Cooley
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....1276

S. O. Patty
District Director

In the Fayetteville District we appreciate the ARKANSAS METHODIST. It keeps us in touch with the work of our Church throughout the Conference, the Area, and the world.—W. F. Cooley.

FORREST CITY DISTRICT

Ethan Dodgen
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....1210

W. O. Scroggin Jr.
District Director

The ARKANSAS METHODIST renders a genuine service in bringing us news and inspiring reports of the doings of our Methodist people in Arkansas and Louisiana. This is greatly appreciated. But it is also indispensable in keeping us in touch with the work of The Methodist Church in the United States and throughout the world.—Ethan Dodgen.

FT. SMITH DISTRICT

W. Henry Goodloe
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....1819

Ben C. Few
District Director

A good church paper is indispensable in carrying forward the work of The Methodist Church within a district. Our ARKANSAS METHODIST meets the specifications in this respect. Its wide circulation and regular reading means an informed and co-operative ministry and membership for The Methodist Church.—W. Henry Goodloe.

JONESBORO DISTRICT

E. B. Williams
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....1487

Alvin C. Murray
District Director

If the ARKANSAS METHODIST should cease publication Methodism in Arkansas would not die, but it would be crippled so severely that the work of our Church in Arkansas would be seriously handicapped. Therefore, the ARKANSAS METHODIST is indispensable if Arkansas Methodism is to do its best work. I wish the ARKANSAS METHODIST were in every Methodist home in Arkansas.—E. B. Williams.

PARAGOULD DISTRICT

A. N. Storey
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....989

J. H. Holt
District Director

The importance of the ARKANSAS METHODIST being in every Methodist home cannot be over emphasized. It is vital to all our program. Our goal in Paragould District, "A 100% list on time".—A. N. Storey.

SEARCY DISTRICT

Coy Whitten
District Superintendent

Subscription Quota.....1018

W. V. Womack
District Director

The Methodists of the Searcy District have a great appreciation of the ARKANSAS METHODIST. It renders an invaluable assistance in the promotion of the program of the Church.—Coy Whitten.



J. M. Hamilton

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT

J. M. Hamilton
District Superintendent

People who are informed usually begin a discussion. The ARKANSAS METHODIST, with inspiration about the interest of the ARKANSAS METHODIST, always creates an interest in the more interest in our Church.—J. M. Hamilton.

CAMDEN DISTRICT

Connor Morehead
District Superintendent

Pastors and churches of the Camden District are urged to make the ARKANSAS METHODIST campaign for subscriptions. We shall be glad to have a fair deal, we shall be glad to have a fair deal.—Connor Morehead.

HOPE DISTRICT

E. D. Galloway
District Superintendent

In its field of service, I consider the ARKANSAS METHODIST an agency in stimulating and accelerating the work of the Hope District. It should be a weekly visit.

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT

F. A. Buddin
District Superintendent

The Methodist Church in Arkansas is in this publication serving the Church. The ARKANSAS METHODIST is unexcelled in quality of its presentation. In the circulation campaign, the ARKANSAS METHODIST is concerned with the prompt securing of the enlistment of the others not now subscribed.

MONTICELLO DISTRICT

Wm. E. Brown
District Superintendent

The ARKANSAS METHODIST is a most valuable asset to the Monticello District. Wm. E. Brown.

PINE BLUFF DISTRICT

J. L. Dedman
District Superintendent

We should have the ARKANSAS METHODIST in every Methodist home. It was always a delight to me to find the ARKANSAS METHODIST. Its presence indicated the positive presence of the Church. This is in addition to the fact that the ARKANSAS METHODIST is a source of inspiration and is worth more than its mailing list.—J. L. Dedman.

THE ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA AREA GIVES ONE WEEK

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District Director

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church. "I Saw It In The ARKANSAS
e more of our folk reading this paper,
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ANSAS METHODIST an indispensable
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ery Methodist home.—E. D. Galloway.

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ana has just cause for genuine pride
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d for January 11-18 we shall be con-
vals of present subscriptions and the
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ristian character and church loyalty.
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LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

Jolly B. Harper
District Superintendent

THE LOUISIANA METHODIST is like having another man in the field. It gets
information to the ministers and laymen in a way that is both prompt and accurate.
I want it to cover my District like a blanket.—Jolly B. Harper.

BATON ROUGE DISTRICT

Edward W. Harris
District Superintendent

Running a local church, district or conference program without the strong right arm
that is THE LOUISIANA METHODIST would be like running a modern business with-
out the aid of a publicity, promotional, or sales department.—Edward W. Harris.

LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT

Karl Tooke
District Superintendent

We have never had a better Conference Paper than THE LOUISIANA METHODIST.
I wish that it could be placed in every home in the Lake Charles District. Greater
efforts must be made to place it in the hands of the workers and officials of the
local church. It can be a great help in the local and connectional program of the
Church.—Karl Tooke.

MONROE DISTRICT

W. H. Giles
District Superintendent

Monroe District quota for THE LOUISIANA METHODIST will be over subscribed
for 1953. Excellent features which come each week in editorials, devotionals, Sunday
School lessons, the general program of the Church, and Louisiana news makes it a
popular Church paper.—W. H. Giles.

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

Virgil D. Morris
District Superintendent

THE LOUISIANA METHODIST has proven its worth. Its readers are kept abreast
of the program of Methodism and are provided with local news of the churches in
Louisiana. I confidently expect a large increase in subscriptions in the New Orleans
District.—Virgil D. Morris.

RUSTON DISTRICT

George W. Pomeroy
District Superintendent

THE LOUISIANA METHODIST is meeting a mighty need in the Ruston District.
Its popularity is growing because of its interesting, informative and inspiring voice.
The work of the Dis' is vastly simplified because of information our people
have through the col' THE LOUISIANA METHODIST.—George W. Pomeroy.

SHREVEPO'

B. C. T
Di

THE LOUISIAN
news spread, and
a welcome place on

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ST has had its face lifted. The format, the increased
ty of interests represented, gives this, our official organ,
eading table.—B. C. Taylor.



Edward W. Harris



Connor Morehead



W. H. Giles



F. A. Buddin



George W. Pomeroy



J. L. Dedman



Karl Tooke



Virgil D. Morris



B. C. Taylor

ITS CHURCH PAPERS . . . JAN. 11th Through JAN. 18th

JANUARY 15, 1953

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THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINBURNE, Editor



WINTER FAIRIES

CHRISTMAS was over. The decorations were down, and everything had been put away, because New Year's Day was over, too. Everything was quiet. There was nothing to play with, and nothing to do. That is what Terry said, although just two weeks ago Santa had left him a rocking-horse, a teddy, a train, a new sled, some coloring books and picture books, and, of course, he had plenty of other toys as well.

The trouble was Terry had been indoors for three whole days. It had been snowing, snowing, snowing, and the wind was blowing in all its fury. Terry's mother was afraid that if he went outdoors to play, the wind might blow him into the street, or into a big snow-drift, or he might even get lost. It was a real blizzard, and nobody went out of the house unless it was necessary.

On the third day it practically stopped, and that night when Terry went to bed everything outside was very quiet and hushed. It was beautiful, too. The moon was shining as bright as day and everything was dazzling in its whiteness. Terry knelt on the floor before his window to have one more look before he jumped into bed.

"Hi there!" Terry looked around the room. Somebody had spoken. It was a very tiny voice, but Terry heard it. He looked all about the room, and then on the lawn outside, but nobody seemed to be anywhere.

"Hi there!" Terry turned around quickly this time. The soft little voice seemed to come from somewhere near his elbow. It was a strange voice. Terry had never heard it before. Yet where did it come from! Terry decided to call his mother. Just as he went to get up, he heard a soft voice say, "Hi ya!" then giggle. This time it seemed so close that Terry looked on the window-sill, and just outside the window on the ledge piled with snow stood a tiny fairy, no bigger than your thumb. He was all dressed, from head to foot, in a suit of fluffy white material all covered with diamonds. He looked so much like the snow itself that it is a wonder Terry ever saw him.

"Don't you know who I am?" asked the elfin man. Terry didn't answer. He was too surprised to talk, so he just shook his head.

"I'm a fairy. I've been here a great many times before, and although you have never seen me you certainly must have seen some of the things I did. You know we fairies love little boys and girls, but we feel so sad sometimes because we cannot understand them. They are really very queer. Don't you think so yourself?"

Again Terry shook his head.

"There you are. See what I mean by being queer. When you are together, you talk about us and you read about us, but when you meet us you won't talk. And another funny thing about boys and girls is that somehow or other they talk about us only in the summer-time. They like to think of us dancing and playing games in fairy rings on their

lawns, living in their gardens, and sleeping in their flowers, but they forget about us as soon as winter-time comes. I don't know what they think we do with ourselves all winter. What do you think happens to us?"

"I don't know. I never thought about it," answered Terry. "What do you do, and how did you happen to come here tonight?"

"That's just it—you never thought about it. Well I came here on business tonight," continued the fairy. "We fairies have plenty to do all winter. We like the cold, frosty, snowy winter nights as much as we enjoy the warm nights of summer-time. We do have time for dancing, playing, and sleeping, but we work, too. We are busy all the year round. In the summer we live in your garden, but in the winter we live in our own homes. These homes must be built, and they are far more beautiful than yours because our houses are built of pearls. They aren't really pearls, but they look like pearls because we build them out of the tiny, pearly teeth little children leave under their pillows and on their window-sills for us. Sometimes we have to go long distances for them, but they are all so glistening white that they make beautiful homes for fairies."

"What are you going to do now? I have no tooth for you. So why did you come to my window?" asked Terry.

"I told you before that I came on business, but I didn't say what my business is, did I? Well now, have you ever noticed the frost pictures on your windows?"

"Yes," whispered Terry.

"And who do you suppose makes those pictures?" asked the fairy.

"My mother said Jack Frost did," answered Terry.

"She is right, only she told you nothing about Jack Frost. I am one of the Jack Frost fairies. There are a great many of us, and our business is to decorate windows all winter long. It is hard to learn how to paint them, but once you learn it is really fun. You see we have to blow them on."

"Blow them on! How could you blow a picture on glass! What do you blow?" asked Terry.

"Hold on now. Not so fast," answered the little fairy with a laugh. "And one more thing, before I answer your questions I'm going to ask you one. Did you ever go outside on a cold day and just blow to see your breath?"

Terry nodded.

"It looks kind of white, doesn't it," continued the fairy.

Again Terry nodded.

"Well that's all we do. We blow our breath on your windows every cold night. When we first learn, our pictures get all mixed up, and sometimes they don't look like pictures when we are finished. But after we once learn, it is not hard, and it is really lots of fun. We learn to make trees and flowers, castles, woods, pretty faces of children, and a great many other things."

And then when the fairy finished talking, Terry noticed his window was covered with frost. He could no longer see the fairy, and he no longer heard his voice. It was dark and Terry couldn't see the frost pictures, so very quietly he got into bed. He went to sleep wondering

if his fairy friend had painted a pretty picture on his window and thought what fun it would be in the morning to look at each window in the house and find out if there had been any new Jack Frost painters who had their pictures all mixed up. He decided something else, too. He decided he'd be like the birds and butterflies and keep everything a secret. He'd not even tell his mother. He didn't, either.—The United Church Observer

AFTER SCHOOL

*Mother says when we come home
From school each day,
We need to get outside awhile
And really play.*

*We've had a very busy day
And studied as we should,
Our teacher is so very pleased
When we are good.*

*So now we play and have such fun,
We share with one another,
Then we put away our toys
And run in to help Mother.*

—A.E.W.

THE NEW YEAR

*Happy New Year,
What do you bring?
Cowslips and swallows,
The green buds of spring,
Blue summer weather,
Hay newly-mown,
Butterflies, rainbows,
Roses full-blown.
Autumn's bright apples
And gold ears of corn,
Gold harvest moon
And misty gold morn,
Winter's rimed tree-tops
And feathery snow,
Red holly berries
And white mistletoe.
New Year, the magician,
Bring to my door
Jewels and treasures,
What a rich store!*

Berta Lawrence in Child Education

JUST FOR FUN

On the first day of school, the teacher was asking each of the first graders to tell his name and what he wanted to be when he grew up. One little towhead spoke up importantly: "I'm Jimmy. When I grow up I'm gonna be a lion tamer. I'll have lots of fierce lions and tigers, and I'll walk in the cage and —" he hesitated, then went on: "But I'll want my mother with me!"

Two husbands were discussing their status at home.

Said one.

"I am the boss in my house. Last night, for example, there was no hot water when I wanted some, so I raised the roof. And, believe me, I got lots of hot water—in a hurry."

Then, after a pause, he added:

"I hate to wash dishes in cold water."—Portland Oregonian

Grocer: You want a pound of ochre? It it red ochre for painting bricks?

Small Boy: No, it's tappy ochre wot Ma makes puddin' with.—Clipped



1953 MARCH OF DIMES
TO HELP STAMP OUT POLIO

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. EWING T. WAYLAND, Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Woman's Division of Christian Service, meeting January 13-17 at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., will have among the delegates and visitors, Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, Little Rock, Christian Social Relations secretary for the South Central Jurisdiction Woman's Society; Mrs. G. W. Dameron, Pineville, La., members of the Woman's Division: Mrs. T. S. Lovett, Grady, president of the Little Rock Conference, Woman's Society; Mrs. Gertie Stiles, Ft. Smith, member of the Standing Committee of the Wesleyan Service Guild; Mrs. W. B. Landrum, Little Rock, Field Worker for the Woman's Division; and Miss Margaret Marshall, Hot Springs, rural worker in the Little Rock Conference and member of the Deaconess Bureau.

Friends in Arkansas and Louisiana will be interested to hear of the marriage December 20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, of Miss Julia Vissotto and Mr. J. V. B. Saunders, son of Methodist missionaries to Brazil. Miss Julia Vissotto spent two years in the United States as a Crusade Scholar, and visited and spoke to many groups in this area. Mr. and Mrs. Saunders will spend this year at the University of Florida while Mr. Saunders studies for his doctors degree in sociology.

Bishop Dana Dawson was the guest speaker at the New Orleans District Missionary Rally at Rayne Memorial January 5. Bishop Dawson showed pictures of his recent trip to Africa. Dr. Virgil Morris, District Superintendent, presented a Life Membership to the society that had the largest percentage of its membership present.

A Mid-year conference will be held by the New Orleans District Woman's Society January 22 at Rayne Memorial, New Orleans. Mrs. Glenn Laskey, Conference President, will be the guest speaker. Luncheon reservations should be made by January 19 to Mrs. R. C. McConnell, 5635 Ada Place, New Orleans.

The Osceola Wesleyan Service Guild entertained the Woman's Society of Christian Service with a buffet supper at the church December 15. The tables were decorated with Christmas arrangements and Christmas records were played throughout the meal. Following the supper the guests were entertained with an amateur hour, in which all seventy people present participated.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service and the four Wesleyan Service Guilds of the First Methodist Church, Little Rock, will have its annual joint dinner Monday, January 26, at 6 p. m. Mrs. Henry Stevenson, Society president, will preside, and Mrs. Curtis Stout will present a vocal sextet composed of members of the society and guilds. Mrs. W. B. Landrum, Field Worker for the Woman's Division, will be the guest speaker; her topic is "One for the

CHRISTMAS IN BRAZIL



Dear friends,

Christmas is coming, and with it the joy of sharing its story with friends near at hand, and friends near to our heart. As I greet you who are in this latter group, it is with memories of shared Christmases, with appreciation of ways you enrich the day for those around you, and with the hope that its message may be truly yours.

How many times have you told a Christmas story, and then heard the question, "Tell us another"? It happened to me again this week when I visited a suburban home, where the oldest boy is in our high school. We found his mother in a classroom, full of neighborhood children as well as five of her own, and they were an eager audience. Afterward, her story sounded like a Christmas present to the People's Central Institute. When the family moved to Caxias from "Shack Hill", they were far away from any school. Remembering what the Institute had meant to her and hers, the mother felt she had a mission in opening a school in her home; and now she was justly proud of the classroom she and her husband had built in the backyard.

"Tell me the Christmas story" brought a variety of answers from the night primary classes. Originality came forth in a poem, or an illustration, and carefulness in copying Luke's story. They were written on used Christmas cards — some still

*"Christmas needs no other message
To keep it dear on earth
Than just the simple, sweet old story
About the Christ Child's birth,
For as we read with awe and wonder
Of angels and a star
We know with a divine assurance
How dear all children are.
Each with his heritage of spirit,
Assured him at his birth,
May have a gracious part in bringing
Redemption to the earth."*

Sincerely,
Mary McSwain

Money."

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of the First Methodist Church of Van Buren met at the church on Tuesday, January 6, for a 1:00 o'clock luncheon followed by the business and devotional program. The president, Mrs. Edwin Buckalew, presided at the meeting. Mrs. Phil Holder was devotional leader, her subject being "Sowing Seeds of Kindness" with Mrs. Bob Vandergriff, Mrs. J. H. Hogard and Mrs. Henry Pope taking part. Circle No. 2 was hostess with twenty-five members present.

The Lula McSwain Society of the Emmet Methodist Church met Monday afternoon, January 5, at 2 p. m.

December, 1952
People's Central Inst.
Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

signed "Margaret", "John", "The Wilcoxes"; after all, why not? One of the beauties of the Christmas story lies in receiving it from others and making it our own.

"Tell the story", or sing it. As I write, the day school children are practicing carols for their closing program, when they will present the story of the First Christmas to their relatives and friends. Already the Children's Clubs have dramatized "Why the Chimes Rang" using the puppets which they themselves made. At the Mothers' Club, lots of cheer went into the making of red stockings and Christmas booklets for a surprise, to be given to their own children and to others.

It is not easy to answer, "How shall we share Christmas more and more?", but here's one effort. The Children's Society of our church began to have their ideas of sharing greatly expanded with the arrival of pictures and letters from 164 different children's groups in the United States during the early part of this year. In September they went with other church members to the suburb of Piabeta to visit a new Methodist congregation. Impressed by the needs of those children, early in November they gave a program to raise money, and actually made \$15.00 (450 cruzeiros, a large sum for them.) Since they were a link in sharing, they are getting a lot of joy out of further sharing.

May you enjoy telling the Christmas story this year, and as you share it, remember

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Shreveport District

The Shreveport District Executive Woman's Society of Christian Service met for its December meeting in the home of the president, Mrs. Glenn Bryant of Vivian, December 17.

The business session was presided over by Mrs. Bryant, with all officers present giving reports. The Meditation was given by a former District officer Mrs. W. L. McClelland of East Point, who gave the poem "The Beggar and the Star" by Vivian Laramore Radar.

The house was beautifully decorated with Christmas scenes and motifs.

The hostess served luncheon to the following officers and visitors: Mrs. D. L. Kelly, Mansfield; Mrs. M. A. Robertson, Gilliam; Mrs. Fred Wilson and Mrs. B. F. Adams, Coushatta; Mrs. W. L. McClelland, Jr., East Point; Mrs. W. C. McDonald, and M. F. Smith, Rodessa; Mrs. W. R. Simmons, Mrs. L. D. Salter, Mrs. W. Campbell and Mrs. C. A. Black, Shreveport.—Mrs. C. A. Black

Hope District

Hope District Executive Board met in the home of Mrs. C. I. Parsons, Texarkana, November 14, with Mrs. T. S. Lovett, Conference President, as a guest. Mrs. L. B. Tooley presided at the meeting, and Mrs. E. D. Galloway gave the opening prayer. Miss Norene Robkin, Texarkana, was elected Secretary of Youth.

Mrs. Hicks, Mena; Mrs. Raymond Harris, and Mrs. O. S. Carpenter, Texarkana; sub-district chairman were present.

Officers reported plans for the remainder of the year.—Mrs. W. R. Shackelford

EGYPT'S HIGH COURT UPHOLDS FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

Cairo, Egypt—The State Council, Egypt's supreme court, has upheld freedom of worship as the inherent right of every Egyptian and called on the government to simplify the conditions laid down for granting permits to build places of worship. Its ruling was made in an appeal brought by a Coptic Christian from a Ministry of Interior ruling forbidding the holding of services by the Copts in a church built at Qassassin, a town northeast of Cairo.

Dr. Abdul Razzak Sanhuri, Council president, pronounced the ruling. It was the second such decision handed down by the court since last summer.

The court held that the constitution guaranteed the right of worship to all Egyptians so long as they did not disturb public order.

The Ministry prohibition against the Coptic services had been based on the church builders' failure to get a permit for its establishment.

The world is not perishing for the want of clever or talented or well-meaning men. It is perishing for the want of men of courage and resolution who, in devotion to the cause of right and truth, can rise above personal feeling and private ambition.—Dr. Robert J. McCracken, pastor, Riverside Church, N. Y. C.

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CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

PARAGOULD DISTRICT MINISTERS WIVES ENTERTAIN HUSBANDS

The Methodist Minister Wives of the Paragould District met December 18th at Walnut Ridge, First Church, for a Turkey luncheon with their husband as guests. The tables were tastefully decorated for the occasion with each place marked with a small favor.

After lunch each lady introduced the guest husband and told the most humorous thing that ever happened in their experience. Mrs. S. B. Wilford, the president gave the welcome address to the guest and Rev. John Bayliss gave the response.

In the absence of Mrs. Jesse Johnson, Brother Johnson led the group in stunts and games, before the exchange of gifts. Mrs. Wilford presented to The District Superintendent, Rev. A. N. Storey and wife a gift from the group. Singing of Christ Carols and prayer closed the very enjoyable occasion.—Mrs. Loy Turner

PARSONAGE DAMES OF FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT MEET

On Monday, Dec. 22, the Fayetteville District Parsonage Dames met at Rogers First Methodist Church, for a brief business session while the ministers had a meeting.

Mrs. Vernon Chalfant is chairman of the group. Other officers are: Mrs. James W. Workman, Jr., Vice-chairman, and Mrs. H. E. Pearce, Secretary-treasurer. The group voted to have a covered-dish luncheon once a quarter hereafter. The group voted to send cards to Mrs. H. M. Lewis, Rev. E. W. Faulkner, Mrs. Claud Harvison and David Dykes who were ill, a sympathy card to Mrs. Charles Wages who recently lost her mother; and Christmas greetings to Bishop and Mrs. Paul Martin, Mrs. Sam Yancey, Mrs. F. R. Hamilton, Mrs. J. T. Randle, Mrs. G. G. Davidson, and Mrs. William Sherman. A potted plant was sent to Mrs. William Sherman who is the oldest member of the District Parsonage Dames.—Lucile Pearce.

OBSERVE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

All pastors of the Little Rock Conference are urged to observe "Commitment Sunday," by conducting Temperance services, preaching Temperance sermons, and urging their people to sign "Commitment Pledges," on Sunday, January 25th.

Read the New Methodist Discipline: Paragraph 149 (2-d) page 56; Paragraph 246 (5) page 98; Paragraph 969 (d) page 247. The last General Conference set "Commitment Sunday" on the last Sunday in January each year.

Please forward to J. L. Tucker, Box 516, Smackover, Arkansas, on Monday, January 26th, a post card with the number who signed the commitments in YOUR services. These must be compiled and forwarded to the General Board of Temperance immediately.

Commitment Folders may be ordered free from the Service Department, 815 Demonbreun Street, Nashville 2, Tennessee.—J. L. Tucker, Chairman, Conference Board of Temperance.

CABOT METHODIST CHURCH HAS SPECIAL SERVICES

The Cabot Methodist church of which Rev. Ray McLester is pastor, is engaged in a rather unique evangelistic campaign. Sunday, the 11th at both services at the close of an evangelistic type of messages, the members present made new covenants with the Lord in "Holy Habits" of living. At two in the afternoon the pastor led the workers through the "Spiritual Life Chart", written by Thomas.

Following this meeting the workers visited the non-present and inactive members of the church Sunday afternoon and also Monday and Tuesday evenings. Sunday afternoon of the 18th, these workers will go out to win commitments of the unchurched for Christ.

Rev. Roy I. Bagley, our pastor at Blytheville, First Church, will begin a series of messages, running from the 18th through the 25th.—Reporter

SPECIAL PROGRAM AT BETHEL

On January 18, 1953 the members of the Bethel Methodist Church, near Jacksonville, Ark. will celebrate Loyalty Day. All our friends are invited to come spend the day. There will be singing, preaching, fellowship, and dinner on the ground. Plans for building the new Bethel Methodist Church will be discussed.

Program for the day:

- 10:00 A. M.—Sunday School.
- 11:00 A. M.—Worship Service,
Speaker — Dr. C. M.
Reves, Hendrix College.
- 12:00 Fellowship.
- 1:00 P. M.—Dinner on the ground.
- 2:00 P. M.—Hymn Sing.
- 2:30 P. M.—Introduction Special
Guest, Presentation of
church plans.
- 3:00 P. M.—Hymn Sing.
- 3:15-4:00 P. M.—Town & Country
Commissioner, North
Arkansas Conference.
- 6:30 P. M.—Youth Groups, Adult
Bible Study.
- 7:30 P. M.—Worship Service,
Speaker—Rev. Ralph
Ruhlen, Professor of
Religion, Hendrix College.

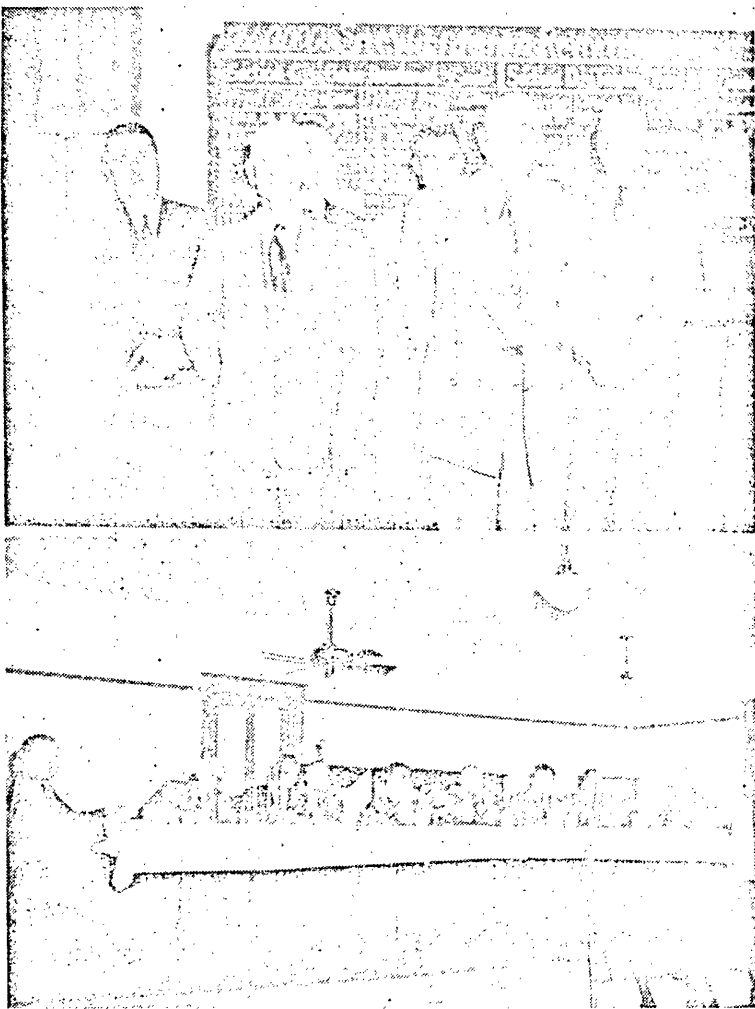
FAULKNER COUNTY LAYMEN

The Methodist Laymen of Faulkner County are planning a lot of work for the year of 1953. During the last quarter of 1952 sixty-nine lay speakers filled appointments in eleven rural Methodist churches in this county. For the first quarter of 1953 we will use seventy-three speakers, thirty-one men are taking part in this work.

Sunday, Jan. 11 we will have the following engagements: Vilonia, B. A. Short; Mt. Olive M. C. Webb; Cypress Valley, Jimmy Ligon; Mayflower, M. C. Davis; Oakland, C. C. Calhoun; Mt. Vernon, Marvin Stevenson; Bethlehem, Charles Anderson. Other churches will have their pastors on this day. Once a month we meet in a dinner meeting with the host church furnishing a free meal. This month we will meet at Greenbrier Jan. 29, at 7 p. m.

At such meetings we hear reports and make plans. Also a special speaker is on program. Rev. J. A. Gatlin will be our speaker at this

McGEHEE METHODISTS COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



Methodists of McGehee on Thursday evening, December 4, celebrated the successful conclusion of a stewardship revival which resulted in more than \$60,000 being raised in cash and pledges toward the building of additional building facilities at McGehee. Several hundred church members and friends were on hand for the victory dinner which was held in Booster Hall and served by the women of the church. The above pictures were taken at that time. Leaders shown in the top photo include, first row, (l to r) Fay Joyner, Chairman of Campaign; D. L. Swantz, Co-chairman; second row, Dale C. Loyd, Section Leader; Gale Rowland, Section Leader; Sam Bowman, Section Leader; and Taylor Prewitt, Section Leader.

The lower picture shows the head table at the victory dinner; seated, l to r, L. L. Jones, Mayor of McGehee and team captain; Dr. William E. Brown, Monticello District Superintendent; Rev. J. Edwin Keith, Associate Minister, First Methodist Church, Little Rock, who directed the Stewardship Revival; Sam Bowman, Section Leader and Toastmaster for the Victory Dinner; Bishop Martin, who gave the principal address at the dinner; Rev. Mouzon Mann, McGehee pastor; Taylor Prewitt, Section Leader, and Chairman of the McGehee Official Board; and Fay Joyner, Chairman of the campaign.

meeting. The last meeting in each quarter we check the wants of each church and make appointments for the succeeding quarter. We pray that we may do a lot of good-for God and churches.—W. H. Fleming, Chairman

LONSDALE CHURCH RE-ACTIVATED

For some five years the Church at Lonsdale left without a pastor, has been dormant. Some three years earlier a small storm in the spring of the year struck the Church-house knocking it out of line and ruining the old shingle roof. The small membership is made up of people of limited means who are not able to meet the cost of repairing the old building and saving it for further years of service.

Lonsdale is in the Arkadelphia District and had been served by the pastor of Traskwood Circuit. It is a rural village eighteen miles east of

Hot Springs on the old Little Rock Highway, now State Road 88, and on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Rural Dale nearby is the consolidated High School for the section of the county at Lonsdale.

At the last meeting of Annual Conference, I was appointed as pastor of Morning Star and Lonsdale. The people of Lonsdale have responded with new interest since they again have a pastor and preaching services each month. They are now at work to repair and recover the Church. Other friendly people of the community are helping with donation labor and such gifts. But with it all, we do not have sufficient funds to meet the bills for materials we must purchase.

The Lonsdale Church needs help from some source outside its local membership. If you are interested in this building enterprise write, Rev. Albert Burroughs, 223 Langston St., Hot Springs, Ark.



"Along A Country Road"
The North Arkansas Conference
The Town and Country
Commission

The Methodist Church

Hendrix Station, Conway, Arkansas

Paul E. Martin, Bishop
Rev. Floyd G. Villines, President
Mr. Lester Hutchins, Vice-President
Rev. David P. Conyers, Secretary
Rev. J. Albert Gatlin, Executive Secretary

IN LOVE WITH AN IDEA AND IN LOVE WITH PEOPLE

Twelve years ago I made a trip to a rural community some eight or nine miles from Morrilton to interview a very fine Christian lady about transferring her church letter from her community to Morrilton. The church life in the little community had fallen to a low ebb because of such circumstances as the church building demolished by a storm left the community with no place to worship, and difficult times in general. The family interviewed, and some few other persons could have driven to Morrilton to church and could have made a splendid contribution to that church. However, after thoughtful consideration this did not seem to be the wise course to take. Therefore, we decided to re-vive the church interest in the rural community. A lay program was begun with the use of some fine men from Morrilton and a Junior Pastor was assigned to serve as associate to the pastor at Morrilton. Our faith was justified by wonderful results. Soon an old store building was converted into a church. A live Sunday School was going. The people were happy. The Morrilton and Conway county Methodist Cooperative Program was born. The next year we had three Junior Pastors assigned and the work spread. There were nine rural churches in the program now. Scores of people were taking part. New buildings and remodeled buildings soon came forth. A great spirit of cooperation and fellowship developed. During these twelve years great good has been accomplished. The work continues in a great way. In this brief statement, which will be expanded in the near future, we have merely lifted up once again the possibility of a natural area program which had its birth in the minds of those who not only had an idea but also loved people and loved the church.

WORK AT SANATORIUM

I wish to express my personal gratitude to friends in Arkansas and Louisiana for their help and cooperation throughout the year of 1952. This spirit of interest is very encouraging. Because of the help given, the work of helpfulness has gone on. Many patients have benefited due to the concern thus manifested.

One of the channels of help is the Methodist Sunshine Fund. This Fund is made possible because of free-will offerings sent in by individuals and groups. Let me say that any one wishing to share in contributing to this fund may do so. The check, or money order may be sent to me at the State Sanatorium. Any amount sent will be appreciated.

A number of our patients do not have sufficient finances to care for their needs. When a Supervisor lets me know that a patient needs Streptomycin, PAS or Isoniazid and is unable to pay for it, this Fund makes

I have seen this idea take hold and grow over our Conference until it is well established in many areas. However, it has not had nearly the growth that it should have had and might have had. The past few weeks you have been reading some splendid articles by Floyd Villines who is working in the Beebe area with his fellow pastors and the laymen and laywomen, and youth, in a wonderful way through the natural area program. Others over the Conference are having the same experience. This is one of the fine ways in which we can extend the Kingdom of God throughout the Conference.

Across American Methodism this idea is growing. It was born in the minds of numbers of men almost simultaneously. Many men are today giving their time and energy in developing this great idea. Back of the idea is a deep abiding love for our Church and our people.

In Arkansas there must be a definite, all out effort to keep intact many of our old established communities and little churches. If we lose our base line, our centers of Methodism, our very heart of life, then we lose our church in the years ahead.

We must also go into every new industrial center and establish churches and follow our people there who have gone from the villages and rural areas over the state.

If we are to have larger cities and new industrial centers, then there will be a better market for farm products in the rural areas. Now is the time for pastors to get in close contact with agricultural leaders and help create a better rural community life.

A great idea, a great love, great and energetic work, large vision, sacrificial living, is needed and needed now.

it possible for me to take care of this need. There are often request for New Testaments and Bibles, and again we can call on this fund and the needs are again met. Often there are needs for Pajamas and other wearing apparel that those of limited means do not have, and this Sunshine Fund supplies the necessary things. The services for the children in the Masonic Hall are aided by this Fund.

During the Christmas Season the writer was able to buy an amplified Automatic record player and played Christmas carols for both institutions, and distributed gifts to each patient and employee out of this Fund.

Another channel of benefit to patients I wish to mention, and say thank you for is the literature sent me. This literature comes through the mail in packages, bundles and boxes. It is sent by churches and persons who desire to share. It is used and surplus literature from the

HENDRIX COLLEGE NEWS

New Year Opens

Appreciation for the benefits received from others is an important virtue, and it should be expressed even though it costs to do it, President Matt L. Ellis told Hendrix students January 6 in the first chapel program of the new year.

Receiving benefits obligates a person to live up to the high purposes of those bestowing the benefits, President Ellis said. He urged students to fulfill their obligations to their parents, their country and to God.

Dr. Coffman To Participate In Panel Discussion

Dr. Ashley R. Coffman, Hendrix band director, has been asked to serve on a panel to appear regularly in the Southwestern Musician magazine. The panel will be composed of men from five southwestern states.

Dr. Coffman, who received his doctor's degree in the summer of 1951, has also been asked to write an extensive summary of his doctoral dissertation, to appear in the Journal of Research in Music Education.

Library Receives Gift

The library has received several hundred volumes from the personal

library of W. M. Chamberlain, former Little Rock resident who now lives in California. The volumes cover a variety of subjects and testify to the wide interests of Mr. Chamberlain, who was for a number of years an editorial writer for the Arkansas Gazette. They were purchased and presented to the library by a Hendrix alumnus who prefers not to be named.

Bishop Martin Praises Hendrix

Bishop William C. Martin, Hendrix graduate who was recently elected to the presidency of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., pays tribute to Hendrix in a recent letter to President Matt L. Ellis.

Referring to his new responsibility, Bishop Martin wrote that "Anything less than my best endeavors would not be satisfactory or worthy of the Christian college to which I owe so weighty a debt of gratitude."

Bishop Martin graduated from Hendrix in 1918 and later received the honorary doctor of divinity degree. He is scheduled in April to become president of the Methodist Council of Bishops.—Hendrix College Public Relations.

SQUADRON ADOPTS ORPHANAGE IN JAPAN

People of Tillar were proud to learn recently that one of its local young men was instrumental in the support of a very worthy cause, even though he is serving with the Armed Forces in Japan. He is Sgt. Raleigh F. Birch, whose home is in Tillar, and is a member of the Methodist Church there.

Several months ago, he and members of his Squadron decided to "adopt" one of the orphanages in Japan. Upon the selection of this certain one they found it included one hundred and ten children. They ranged in ages from one to ten years; all are Japanese, some being orphans of World War II. They first found them huddled in the chapel with no heat, little food and few clothes. They learned that the Japanese Government helps its orphanages to some extent, but the small monthly payments goes a short way toward clothing and food for the hungry children.

The boys arranged parties and entertainments on special occasions and holidays and have taught them to play baseball and other American games. They also plan certain types of work projects that will earn them money.

Each month, each member of this Squadron contributes as much as he feels he can afford toward food and other essentials. Sgt. Birch and others wrote home to their families with a request for bundles of clothing, to which different ladies' clubs and organizations in both Tillar and

various departments of the church and Church Schools. Also the Upper Rooms which come every two months, prove a blessing. Around eleven hundred of these guides to worship are distributed for each issue. Also there are the Wesleyan Quarterlies provided by the two Boards of Christian Education which are used in the Sunday School classes and by patients who can not attend class. For all of this with the Arkansas Methodist papers, I am very thankful.—Bates Sturdy, Chaplain

McGehee responded bountifully.

He reports that he and the other boys love this job they have undertaken and feel that this task of helping this deserving little group of children is just an example of what an American heritage means to members of the Squadron.

This soldier's address is:

A 1/c Raleigh F. Birch 18357554
35th Installation Sqd.
APO 994 c/o P. M.
San Francisco, Calif.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, WARREN, DEDICATED

Last Sunday, January 11, was a great day in the history of The First Methodist Church in Warren. At the morning service Bishop Paul E. Martin dedicated the beautiful new sanctuary which replaces the one destroyed by fire, November 22, 1942.

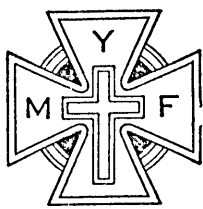
A series of evening services were held last week at which former pastors of the church, Rev. J. E. Cooper, Rev. E. D. Calloway and Rev. Dan Robinson were guest preachers, Rev. J. Ralph Clayton is the present pastor.

A reception was held last Saturday evening in the Social Hall of the educational building. A more complete account of this important event will appear in **The Arkansas Methodist** next week.—Reporter

HAVING A GUEST FROM THE METHODIST CHILDRENS' HOME

For the first time we had one of the children to spend the Christmas holidays with us. Little Minnie Manes nine years old spent two weeks in our home. We have never enjoyed a younger guest so much as we did Minnie.

Her behavior and mannerisms were wonderful. We were assured that the care and training that our children get in the Methodist Home is the very best. Brother McNeal and his helpers deserve a lot of praise for the wonderful work they are doing. We are certainly proud of our Methodist Home and its workers and children.—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wylie.



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA

Methodist

Youth

Fellowship

NEWS

YOUTH OF MONROE SUB-DISTRICT HEAR DR. LOWER

Youth from eleven churches of the Monroe Methodist Sub-District youth organization met at Memorial Methodist Church, Monroe, on Sunday afternoon, January 11, at 2:30 to hear Dr. Mark Lower, associate director of the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation, featured speaker for the afternoon program.

The program was under the leadership of the Senior and Intermediate Departments of Memorial Methodist Church, and presented in addition to Dr. Lower, the youth choir of Memorial, directed by Mrs. Z. C. Ambrose. Tom Naff, member of the Gordon Avenue Methodist Church, and student at Louisiana Tech, who is the president of the Sub-District presided.

Following the inspirational program meeting, there was a period of fellowship and, later, business.

Rev. M. D. Felder is the counselor of the Sub-District organization; Tom Naff, president; and Mary Virginia Works, of the Brownville Methodist Church is secretary-treasurer.

Churches participating: First Methodist, Monroe, with Dr. H. L. Johns, pastor, and Rev. Henry Blount, assistant pastor; Gordon Avenue Church, Rev. Martin D. Felder; Memorial Methodist, Rev. Ralph Cain; St. Paul's, Dr. B. R. Oliphint; Stone Avenue, Rev. I. L. Yeager; Southside, Rev. Lea Joyner; First Methodist, West Monroe, Rev. R. H. Staples; Brownville Methodist, Rev. Tillman Brown; Claiborne Methodist, Rev. Falcon Hearne; McGuire Methodist, Rev. W. C. Mason; Sterlington Methodist, Rev. J. A. Jones, pastor.

STUDENT RECOGNITION SERVICE AT NASHVILLE

Student Recognition Day service was held on Sunday morning, December 28, in The Methodist Church at Nashville. David Timberlake, of the University of Arkansas, had charge of the service and brought the message of the morning. He was assisted by Jeanette Lyons of Southern State College and Don Coulter of the University of Arkansas. Judy Bradley of Henderson State College and Mary Ann Bradley of the University of Arkansas were in the choir. James Bryant of State Teachers College, Charles Powell of U. S. Naval Academy and Rex Ramsey of Tulane University were ushers.

These young people are to be commended for this splendid service.—Reporter

WITH THE SUB-DISTRICTS

The Monticello Sub-District met on Monday, January 5, at 7:00 p. m. at Star City. An interesting program on "Christian Recreation" was given. Two films were shown. President Hubert McKeown, presided over the business session. A recreation period was held. The next meeting will be at Monticello on February 2. There were 101 present.

WANTED: THREE "PASTOR'S ASSISTANTS"

The Methodist Church is proposing to send three young laymen to serve as "pastor's assistants" in three areas where emergency and defense projects have added great numbers of people to earlier populations. These areas are Portsmouth, Ohio; Paducah, Kentucky; and the Savannah River Project in South Carolina.

The young laymen would be assigned by the pastors of these churches to calling upon the newcomers to the community, to survey the needs for church and religious education, to work with youth, and with various organizations of the church. They would be appointed for two years of service as "special home missionaries." Applicants must be college graduates and must have records of participation in church work as students.

Persons interested in these three appointments should write to Dr. M. O. Williams, Jr., personnel department, Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y.

OVER FIVE HUNDRED BETHEL CHURCHES

Nashville, Tenn.—There are over 500 local Methodist churches named Bethel, it was found recently when a check of the 38,000-church-school-superintendents mailing list was made by the Department of General Church School Work of the Board of Education.

There are probably an equal number of "First" churches. Other names recurring frequently in the list in-

clude "Wesley," "Bethlehem," "Bethany," "Asbury," "Rehoboth," "McKendree."

Because the same names occurred repeatedly on the mailing list, it was found necessary to give each church a code number.

The mailing list is set up by jurisdictions, conferences and churches, hence each address plate contains this coded information in addition to the name and address of the church school superintendent. The plates are filed alphabetically by churches within the conference.

About half of the churches bearing the name "Bethel" are in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the most of them having been named, during the days of Asbury and McKendree.

Since the word "Bethel" means a place where God is present, the fact that so many churches have this name reveals the faith so characteristic of the church.

OPPORTUNITIES OUTLINED

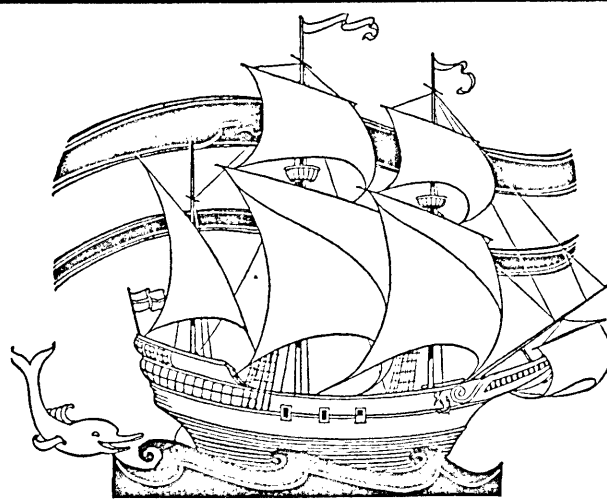
Alliance, Ohio — High-school seniors and juniors recently attended Mount Union College's twenty-first annual high-school day. Students from more than twenty-six area

schools registered for the program, which was designed to acquaint the students with opportunities for careers. Guests were welcomed by President Charles B. Ketcham, toured the campus and ate lunch with fraternities and sororities. Afternoon discussions, led by Mount Union faculty members, covered careers in business and social service, teaching, music, science and medicine, physical education, and general college training as a preparation for other jobs.

CHURCH GROUPS GET UN AID FOR KOREANS

Pusan, Korea—A \$200,000 program recommended by 25 Christian church groups in South Korea to fight disease, starvation and other effects of the war has been approved by the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA).

Sums ranging from \$500 to \$13,800 were allocated to 48 projects comprising the recommended program, with the bulk of the assistance going to hospitals, vocational training schools, orphanages and other welfare activities.



Like the Sailing Ships of Yore

WHERE once it was solely sailing ships that served as links between the lands that seemed so far apart, today communication—and through communication, understanding—is effected in many ways. Not the least of these is literature. The conquering of man's most ancient enemies, ignorance and fear, requires widespread battle-grounds, on whose fronts are those whose lifework is seeking, printing, and publishing the eternal verities.

In an age that seems to specialize in great achievements, there can be few greater than the spreading of Christianity. This publisher's duty and privilege in that respect is clear: to tender to the public those books that will further the cause of Christ.

The Methodist Publishing House



EVANGELISTS

Brady Cook

Evangelist
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Wisner, Louisiana
January 11-18
Rev. Ira A. Love

Swifton, Arkansas
January 19-28
Rev. J. E. Linam



Irene Cook

Singer
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Address, P. O. Box 2763
Little Rock, Arkansas

BUILDING PROGRAMS IN THE JONESBORO DISTRICT

(Continued from page 6)

division and part of the adult division. Work is also being completed for space on the third floor for the youth division. About \$4,000 will be required to furnish the new church school areas. The program was begun under the pastoral administration of Rev. Paul Bumpers and the work is being completed under the leadership of Rev. Alvin Murray.

On the Harrisburg-Pleasant Valley charge both churches are engaged in building programs. Tentative plans at Pleasant Valley are to replace the present church building there which was damaged last year in a severe windstorm. Services and Sunday School are being held at the present time in the community school. In Harrisburg a \$40,000 building is under construction which the congregation will use as a sanctuary. The present building will be converted to church school use. Albert Chandler, a Memphis architect, is directing the work. The new sanctuary is expected to seat approximately 400 persons, and its basement will have the kitchen, fellowship room, pastor's study, choir room, and rest rooms. The new structure is of dark red brick veneer construction. Earl Whitaker is chairman of the building committee. Other members are

Lawrence Reddman and Claud Heeb. Rev. J. T. Byrd is pastor.

North Arkansas Conference leaders who attended the Town and Country Convocation at Tilton last year saw there one of the finest rural church buildings to be found anywhere. Of stone and wood construction, most of the labor that went into this building was that of the members of the church and the pastor at that time, Rev. Porter Weaver. Much of the lumber was taken from nearby woods and milled for use in the construction, and the rock was hauled from nearby quarries. The inside of the structure is finished in oak and the sanctuary has beautiful stained glass windows. The 4320 square feet of floor space includes the sanctuary and six Sunday School rooms and was completed free of debt. The Tilton Methodists expect to dedicate the building in the near future. Construction was completed under the direction of the following building committee: Louis Wolfe (deceased), Malcom Smith, Oscar Pulley, and Ermal Catterton. Rev. Orville Brannon is pastor of the Weiner-Tilton Ct.

At Weiner an entire church plant has been constructed also under the pastoral administration of Rev. Porter Weaver. This is, incidentally, the first Methodist church plant ever built in Weiner, buildings have previously been shared with other congregations. The new structure is

of brick, stone, and concrete construction and is valued at \$50,000. The building has eight Sunday School rooms, pastor's study, fellowship room, restrooms, kitchen, and sanctuary. The sanctuary is finished in oak, and the congregation is contemplating installing new pews in the future. There is no debt on the building. The Building Committee includes C. O. Wofford, E. E. Hogue, J. H. Westerman, P. E. McGaughey, S. J. Norsworthy. Construction was begun in 1946 and concluded in 1952.

Churches on the Bono Ct., have been improving their buildings. The Bono church has recently redecorated its sanctuary at a cost of \$600.00. The Trinity church redecorated its Sanctuary, giving special attention to the altar arrangement and installing a new pulpit. At Shady Grove Methodists have full use of a former school building made available through a school consolidation move. Building has now been remodeled into church building with church members contributing most of the labor. \$1,000 cash was spent on the \$3,000 job.

Caraway Methodists as well as the Mt. Carmel Methodists have plans for building programs. New Haven on the Brookland charge recently spent \$800 in renovating the sanctuary, installing new walls, ceiling, painting the inside and adding asbestos shingle siding to the outside walls. All the labor in this project was contributed by church members.

ORDAINING THE TWELVE TRIBES

By BISHOP NEWELL S. BOOTH
Elizabethville, Belgian Congo

I have just ordained Jean Kalesa as an elder in the Methodist Church.

Twenty-two years ago I pled his case with the older folks at Kanene who thought that he was too young to enter the Training School. Maybe he was, but all his life since then has justified the pleading. He has become one of the main influences in the training of our teachers and pastors in the Southern Congo. He is a Luban. That makes twelve tribes or nationalities that I have ordained or received into Conference membership during the last two months.

In Angola we had an international, interracial ceremony—four nationalities among five ordinants. Two of the men had started their work and studies in Norway and were elected to orders there. An Englishman has been a missionary in Africa, ordained a deacon in America, and elected to elder's orders by the Angola Conference. An American completed his requirements, and in his first year as a missionary was ordained. An African completed his years of service and studies for his ordination. Four of the new tribes of Israel in one afternoon.

Then in the Central Congo nine members of the tribe of the Atelela were ordained at Wembo Nyama. This youngest of the Conferences now has the largest number of or-

dained ministers in the area.

In Mocambique I ordained or received American, Portuguese, Swedish and Vatswa ministers; and in Rhodesia Shona, Norwegian and American.

And here this afternoon, in addition to the Luban minister, I ordained to the ministry a member of the Sanga tribe, and at Conference we had received a Bemba.

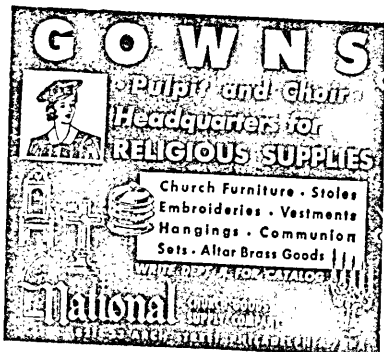
I told all these people that in nine different languages I had read those words of ordination questions, asking if they were ready to "set forward . . . love" as the great aim of their ministry. Each different shade of meaning brought by the change of language has given me new significance and weight of challenge in these words—"set forward love."

It is the privilege of us all, and not only of these men out of the twelve tribes, to set forward love as our expressed purpose. In a world where so many things are set forth as the means of solving our problems—force, money, knowledge—we are those here in the Christian church in Africa who are determined to meet the needs of this great continent by our aim "set forward love." We invite all to share that aim and to work with these men of the twelve tribes especially ordained to that task.

EUROPEAN TOUR FOR STUDENTS

Evansville, Ind.—A European tour will be sponsored by Evansville College next summer. Professor and Mrs. Harris D. Erickson, members of the college faculty, will conduct the tour. Countries to be visited include England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Germany and France, with optional side trips to Austria, Switzerland and Italy. The group is tentatively scheduled to leave Evansville on June 14, and will return in six to eight weeks. The tour will be open to both students and non-students, with college credit available for those who qualify for it, Dr. Erickson said. Anyone

wishing further information should contact Dr. Erickson at Evansville College.



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SAILOR

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HELPING BUILD ARKANSAS

The Sunday School Lesson

By REV. H. O. BOLIN

Lesson based on "International Sunday School Lessons; the International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching," copyrighted 1951 by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



LESSON FOR JANUARY 25, 1953

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FORGIVE?

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:
Matthew 18. Printed Text: Matthew 18:15-22.

GOLDEN TEXT: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another." (Ephesians 4:32)

We have come now to the fourth and last lesson of Unit IV: "INNER RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING". This has been a great unit of study. It should have done something to the lives of all of us. The aim of the unit has been to help students to discover some of these inner resources for Christian living with the view of putting them into practice in their daily living.

The themes of all of these lessons have been in the form of questions. The first was "WHAT ARE THE ROOTS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER?" If one is to successfully grow Christian character he must begin with the roots of such character. We noted that the roots of such character are thought, imagination, motives, and attitudes. Theme of second lesson: "HOW FACE SUFFERING?" There are many types of suffering that come to the individual from various sources. Some suffering comes to the individual because of inherited weaknesses; some, because of his own acts and attitudes in the breaking of God's laws; some comes because the individual accepts it rather than surrender some high ideal or worthy cause. It was this latter type of suffering that Christ underwent on the cross. This is the type of suffering that Christians experience when they take up their crosses and follow Christ. It is not the thorn in the flesh type of suffering that comes to all alike, but a voluntary suffering that one might escape if he were willing to surrender high ideals and worthy principles. All suffer. The Christian, however, has the advantage over the non-Christian along this line. Christ is under the yoke of suffering with the Christian and is constantly encouraging him and giving him strength to bear his burden.

The theme of the third lesson: "VISIONARY OR SERVANT?" The Scripture of the lesson deals with the transfiguration of Christ, and the healing of the epileptic at the foot of the mountain on which the Lord was transfigured. We noted the fact that it is not a matter of choosing whether one will be a visionary or a servant. The two really belong together. The person who attempts to serve without spiritual experience works in his own strength alone and can never accomplish the highest type of Christian service. If a visionary spent all of his time in rejoicing in his Christian experiences he would become an idle dreamer. All need to climb the mountain with Christ to get their spiritual batteries charged, but they must return to the darkness of the valley to let their light shine. The true order is, vision and reality; experience and service.

This bring us to our lesson for to-

day: "WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FORGIVE?" This lesson is placed last because it is about the hardest thing one has to accomplish in the development of Christian character. It is no easy matter to fully and freely forgive one who has greatly wronged you. Many claim to have done this who really have not. A little conversation with them on the subject will reveal the presence of an unforgiving spirit toward those who have wronged them.

A Look at the Scriptures

In our printed text we have two paragraphs, both of which deal with the matter of forgiveness. The first (Mat. 18:15-20) also makes provision for discipline in the early church. It seems to express a limited forgiveness. The wrongdoer is given only three chances to repent; one when he is contacted by the person he has wronged; another when contacted again by this person together with one or two witnesses; the last step is to bring the matter up before the church. If the wrongdoer remains unrepentant through all this procedure, he is then excommunicated, or turned out of the church. The record goes on to say, "Let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

The second paragraph (Mat. 18:21-22) is unlimited in its scope of forgiveness. The expression came from the Lord in answer to a question raised by Peter. For many years the Jewish rabbis had thought that to forgive a wrongdoer three times was sufficient. No doubt Peter felt he was being generous when in his question he mentioned "seven times". The Lord insisted that that was not sufficient: "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." That is, the Lord was here expressing the idea of unlimited forgiveness.

Some commentators say that the first of these paragraphs expresses Matthew's opinion rather than that of the Lord. They give two reasons for this contention: first, the Christian Church was not in existence at the time the words were spoken; and second, the Scripture passages has the Lord speaking lightly of Gentiles and tax collectors. It is a matter of record that on other occasions he spoke kindly of them.

These same scholars claim that the second paragraph, which deals with unlimited forgiveness ("seventy times seven") reveals the true Spirit and teaching of the Lord. It will be noted that the first paragraph limits the number of times that an offender has to repent, to three.

The writer cannot see much conflict in these two paragraphs. It is true that the Christian Church did not come into existence until that memorial Pentecost at which time the Holy Spirit was poured out on

the disciples. But no one would contend that Christ did not know that there would be such a church. He could have been giving instruction with regards to the future rather than a condition that already existed. Now, with regards to speaking lightly of Gentiles and tax collectors; this statement was not too harsh. There were Gentiles in his day and tax collectors who never accepted him and who were certainly outside of the Christian fold, as would be the erring brother who was excommunicated.

It is a fact that on the surface this paragraph seems to limit forgiveness to three opportunities, but such is not really the case. This limit only dealt with the privilege of remaining as a member of the church. As a matter of fact a person, even after he is excluded from the church, still has unlimited opportunities to repent, and on repentance could be re-instated as a member. There is no limit to repentance here, but if a rule for excluding people from church membership was to be set up at all there must needs be a limit somewhere, but this limit only extends to church membership and not to the privilege of repenting at any time in the future. So, after all these paragraphs harmonize. One definitely teaches an unlimited forgiveness, while the other does not prohibit such forgiveness, though under certain circumstances it might have to take place outside the church, and in which case it might lead to re-instatement in the church.

What is Forgiveness?

We are living in a world of relationships. A person's relationships look in two directions—toward God and toward fellowmen. These relationships must be kept intact if one is to be a Christian. We have heard the old song, "Get right with God, dear sinner." Another song might be written on getting right with your fellowmen; for you cannot be right with God while you are wrong with them. It was Jesus himself who said, "For if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses." Life is in the form of a triangle extending from self to God and from self to fellowmen. Any person who breaks this triangle, and does nothing about it, is doomed.

Since no one, except God, is perfect the matter of forgiveness comes in. These relationships are constantly being broken. Two things are absolutely necessary for their restoration—repentance and forgiveness. The unlimited forgiveness taught in our lesson simply means that as often as any one wrongs you and repents of the wrong, you must forgive.

There is some difference in the matter of forgiveness on the part of God and that of man. God alone can forgive sins. Men can sin against each other and forgive each other, but that does not settle the account with God. God so identifies himself with the human race that there is a sense in which all sin is against him. David had sinned grievously against Uriah, but in praying to God he cried out, "Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this wickedness in thy sight." As a matter of fact, David had sinned against many people. As a king, he had sinned against his subjects in setting a wrong example. As a father, he sinned against his family. Then he sinned grievously against Bathsheba

and Uriah. But his sense of sin against God was so great that he said "Against thee and thee only have I sinned."

When one human forgives another he simply looks over the wrong that the evildoer has committed against him. He tries to bury the hatchet without leaving the handle sticking out. He tries to reach such a state of feeling toward the one who has wronged him that when he sees him he thinks of his friendship for him rather than the wrong he has done him. This is hard to do. We often hear people say, "I will forgive but I will not forget." That is not real forgiveness. To forget does not mean that one gets the wrong entirely out of his mind. He would have to become insane to do that. It simply means that he has gotten over resentment against the wrongdoer and the desire for revenge upon him. When this is fully done past friendship is restored and the two march down the pathway of life together as though no friction had ever occurred.

The above statement puts the matter of forgiveness between individuals on a very high plain. Some claim to have forgiven who refuse to be in intimate relationships again with those who wronged them. Sometimes such procedure might be wise. This is especially true if there is extreme danger that the wrong might be repeated. One who takes that attitude in the matter of forgiveness, however, needs to be very careful that he does not deceive himself. It is very easy for one to make himself believe that he has forgiven another when he really hasn't. One who takes such attitude toward forgiveness should raise the following questions with himself: "How do I feel toward this person who has wronged me? Do I hold any ill or hatred in my heart against him. Is my desire for revenge upon him completely gone? When I see him do I think primarily of the wrong he has done me? Would I rejoice at any calamity that might come upon him, or, on the other hand, would I be sorry for him and render whatever help I could to ease the blow that has fallen upon him? Would I rejoice over any good fortune that might come his way? Would I lend a helping hand to assist him in accomplishing some worthy task? Can I pray for him and become conscious of the presence of God in my own life while I thus pray?" These are searching questions indeed. If one can properly answer them, he may assure himself that he has forgiven the one who has wronged him even though he might deem it unwise to continue a former close relationship with him.

One thing we need to bear in mind with regards to human forgiveness and that is that one can forgive another whether the other repents or not. This makes forgiveness much harder but it can and must be done. Any hatred in your heart or desire for revenge against another will completely throttle your own spiritual development. So, for our own good, it is necessary to forgive even those who never confess that they have wronged us or ever asked us to forgive them. We say it with all reverence, man can do a thing at this point that even God cannot do. Man can forgive a person who doesn't repent and ask for forgiveness. As the moral Judge of the universe, God cannot forgive any person who refuses to repent and seek forgiveness.