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Let's Be Constructive

PEOPLE who are concerned with the building of a better world where peace, decency and opportunity prevail are constantly having to deal with forces which are intent on fostering misunderstanding, ill-will, and deception. So many examples of such encounters can be given that such a recital would fill volumes. Illustrations may be drawn from international relations, groups on a national level, racial groups, various economic groups, experiences involving personal relationships, and even organized church groups. The usual line is for one party to use whatever means possible to create mistrust and suspicion concerning another party for the purpose of either destroying or relegating to a place of uselessness the party in question.

Such groups should be seen for just what they are, seedbeds of hatred, prejudice, jealousy, suspicion and ill-will. The means which they employ to gain their desired goals oftentimes reveal their very nature. Destruction of life and personality is their chief cornerstone.

Granted that the world would be better if certain groups or forces were destroyed; but there are ways and means of bringing about such blessed elimination other than resorting to spreading suspicion, deception and prejudice.

We believe that any action which in itself inspires confidence, creative response, and is fair for all parties in question is in keeping with the Christian tradition.

Influence Of A Committed Life

WHAT undoubtedly is one of the great stories of this generation is that of a wealthy man in his late thirties and his wife who are forsaking their life of comparative ease and comfort to erect and operate a \$1,000,000 hospital in Haiti, built as a tribute to one of the world's greatest Christians, Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Newspapers recently have published the story of Dr. and Mrs. William Larimer Mellon, Jr., who went back to school in 1948 to secure necessary medical training to carry out their mission, meeting the medical needs of 100,000 Haiti natives in Artibonite Valley, a remote rice and banana growing section of the West Indies island, just east of Cuba. Dr. Mellon is a grandnephew of the late Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon, and son of the late founder and Board chairman of the Gulf Oil Company. The 50 bed glass and stone hospital was built with Mellon money.

Dr. Mellon relates how the work and philosophy of Dr. Schweitzer fascinated him to such an extent that he and Mrs. Mellon gave up their Arizona ranch at a comparatively late age to prepare themselves for their newly discovered mission. Dr. Mellon has since concluded his work for a medical degree and is taking special courses in New Orleans at the Oschner Foundation Hospital before leaving for Haiti. He and Mrs. Mellon expect to take up their new work within the next few months.

Christians and non-Christians alike thrill again and again to the story of Dr. Schweitzer and the great humanitarian work which he has personally conducted in French Equatorial Africa for almost half a century. Dr. Schweitzer, now 80 years of age, has been the means of inspiration for untold numbers of people. His example of unselfish service and love of life itself has moved many persons to lives of service.

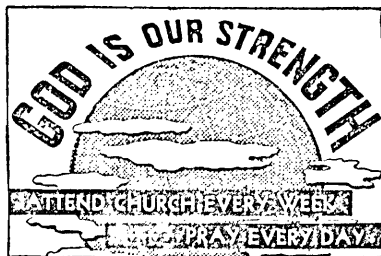
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There Is Strength For You In The Bible

FROM week to week we are running on the Religious News Service page a cut which we trust will be helpful in promoting the Church Attendance Crusade. Mats for these castings may be had from the General Board of Evangelism at Nashville, Tenn.

The cut, this week, suggests that we may find strength for our spiritual lives in a regular reading of the Bible. There is no other source of strength for Christian living comparable to the Bible. This is true, of course, because we must turn to the Bible for guidance in every other experience of Christian living whether it be prayer, faith, love, forgiveness or the many other blessings that come to us through a knowledge of the Bible.

There are some who neglect Bible reading because they feel that there is so much of the Bible that they do not



understand. We should not forget that the greatest Bible scholars of the past and present have found difficulties galore in their efforts to satisfactorily interpret the Bible. Even today it is quite common for Bible scholars to give conflicting interpretations of some Bible passages. This being true, the average layman should not be too much disturbed if he finds the Bible difficult to understand.

Let us always keep in mind that there is much in the Bible that we can understand. The great moral, character-building teachings of the Bible are very plain. These teachings have to do with everyday living and are as direct, pointed and understandable as human language can make them. After all, these are the portions of the Bible that point the way to good character here and determine destiny hereafter. They are the real Bread of Life for Christian growth. The moral and religious implications of the Sermon on the Mount are not difficult to understand. Those portions of the Bible difficult to understand are usually historical narratives, prophetic utterances, or controversial passages Bible students argue about. Usually they do not affect conduct.

The real value of the Bible to us lies in the fact that we believe that in and through the Bible God is revealing himself and his will and purpose to mankind. Believing this, we should not be surprised to find that our finite minds are unable to understand all that an infinite God is saying to us.

There is spiritual strength in Bible reading and in Bible study. Possibly there is no place where a sincere Christian will receive more help in understanding the Bible than in Sunday School and the preaching services of his church.

Temperance Forces To Try To Ban Beer Advertising

AS was reported last week by Religious News Service, Senator William Langer has again introduced a bill in the senate to ban interstate liquor advertising. In the past this bill has had the unqualified support of dry organizations throughout the nation.

At the present, however, temperance leaders have decided, after repeated attempts to pass this bill, that the bill embodies so many features that affect so many people that it is not likely that Congress will approve the bill at this time. Rather than fight a disappointing fight on the question again, temperance leaders have decided, this year, to give their support to a measure that will prohibit "beercasting," with the feeling that such a bill has a possibility of becoming a law.

That measure should have the unstinted support of all temperance forces throughout the nation. It would be a great step in moral progress if such a measure could become a law. What a blessed relief it would be to be able to turn on our radios or televisions without the necessity of exposing our children and ourselves to the disgusting propaganda regarding the superior qualities of some particular beer.

We Must Have Deep Convictions

PIOUS platitudes and cautious affirmatives would not have carried Methodism very far in the earlier days of our country. Pioneer Methodist preachers were motivated by strong convictions that made them a courageous, dynamic power in the formative period of our American life.

Necessary as deep convictions were to active leadership in earlier days, no less today are such convictions necessary if our laymen and ministers are to meet the bold challenges of our day. The cross-currents of our modern world are so strong that we will be swept from our moorings unless we have deep-seated convictions well anchored in a vital faith in God and a sincere faith in the supreme importance and mission of the church.

Leaders in Methodism must have a deep conviction that sin is not merely the absence of good; it is a positive, aggressive power that, allowed to work its course, will utterly destroy the finer possibilities of life here and ultimately destroy the soul in the world hereafter. Sin was no straw man in Paul's gospel. Christianity, for Paul, was never a sham battle. For him Christianity was a life and death struggle with a mortal enemy in which man is to conquer or be conquered. Methodism needs to cultivate that conviction about sin in order to be prepared to fight it as Methodism should.

Methodism need never be discouraged in the face of this great enemy of man if it keeps strong the conviction that we "can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth" us. There should always be the definite conviction, in the face of the seductive, alluring, deceptive temptations surrounding us, that we can be "more than conquerors through him." This we should preach and teach.

Our church needs to cultivate more definite convictions about the meaning of church membership. Our people should be made to feel anew the sacredness of the vows they took on

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The Brake Of Affliction

By REV. WILLIAM M. WILDER, Lincoln

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-16

I wonder sometimes if we in our day have not lost entirely the basic conception of the value of affliction that our New Testament writers and Christians had. We tend to look upon most pain as evil. We cry out with bitterness when disease strikes us. We look with tragic eyes toward others who have illness, or have suffered the loss of an eye, arm, or leg, and thank God in a pious, if somewhat selfish way, that it's not us.

But is our view of affliction correct? Is affliction necessarily evil? Is there not evidence to the fact that affliction is a necessity to happiness? Would happiness be fully appreciated if unhappiness were not at least a possibility? Would joy be as great, if it were not tempered with moments of sorrow and the knowledge that sorrow may lie just ahead. Do you know of anyone who is very great in quality of soul who has not had some kind of sorrow or affliction in life? Is it not possible that God uses the presence of affliction as a sort of brake to help us become conscious of deeper and fuller meanings of life?

Concern For Physical

We, as men and women, are mostly concerned about the physical in life. The very nature of life seems to make that necessary. From the moment we arise in the morning, we become subservient to the requirement of our bodies. We have to get dressed, to eat breakfast, and to take up the duties of work that are daily required of us. As humans we are obsessed by the physical.

The fact is that most of us sail through life in a serene fashion, scarcely conscious of much that is going on outside of our own little circle. Sometimes we give almost no thought to God, or the relation of evil and affliction, until we come face to face with a problem that is too difficult for us to handle alone. We may be like the young girl who was riding in the Yokima Valley country. It was a golden, autumn day—but a day with a runaway in it. Something frightened the horse, and there was a wild race over rough country, and a slim young body was hurled into a mass of stone. And the thought that flashed through the girl's mind when she realized that she was seriously and very probably permanently, injured was—"Now I will go to work; now I will do something with myself."

This girl had the type of personality that was always bounding from one task to another. Rarely did she take time to finish any job adequately, but was always satisfied to flit onward to something else. It seems cruel to find that she became bound to an invalid's chair for life, but through the long, slow years that followed, she worked, and wrote, and listened—and though she was often in great pain, and rarely cut of its clutches completely, she always declared herself indebted to that runaway horse. She had needed a brake on the wheel of her life: it gave her a sort of artificial check to waste. Her life became greater than it could have been if she had been allowed to continue to spin through existence, doing nothing worthwhile.

Greatness and Affliction

Now I do not wish to imply that God our Father sends evil to us, for I do not believe that.

But I do think that if we surrender ourselves wholly to Him, we will find we can come to utilize the affliction that comes and thus make ourselves more like Him. Have you ever realized how many of the world's great men overcame terrible affliction—affliction which acted as a brake on the wheel, giving them stability.

Somewhere I read that Napoleon, the great leader and general, was an epileptic. Robert Louis Stevenson was tubercular; Samuel Johnson, scrofulous; Alexander Pope, mentally and physically sick. Sir Walter Scott in an unfortunate manner became greatly in debt, and often lived in intense suffering. Yet, he continued to write to pay his debts, and stated, "I have no idea of such things preventing a man from doing what is in his mind."

John Milton was blind; Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only President to be elected four times, was a paralytic.

And then there are the wives, who, despite terrible affliction, have been the inspiration of their husbands. Think of Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, rarely out of the sick bed, yet the guiding light of Robert Browning, her husband. Recall Mrs. Edward McDowell, the wife of the American composer, who went about on crutches, but was a wonderful companion to her husband. Be reminded that Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell was stone deaf—her very deafness being a contributing factor in the work of her husband on the telephone.

Anne Shannon Monroe in "Singing in the Rain" tells of one husband whose invalid wife had just passed away. The mourners pitied the man, more for their discovery that he had been living with an invalid, than for the fact that she had now passed on. But here is what he had to say about his adored wife, "Always I knew she would be there waiting for me, waiting to hear all about my day, its little troubles and triumphs—every little detail that had any bearing on my endeavors; ready to bring her fresh, fine mind to bear on my least problem; to talk it all out to the end. . . My God, how like cutting off a man's right arm it is to lose such a wife."

New Attitude Toward Affliction

We must find for ourselves a new attitude toward affliction. Maybe affliction is usable; maybe it can serve as a brake on the wheel. Peter wrote: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you." Peter took it for granted that a Christian would suffer, and he went on to say, "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on his behalf." To Peter, suffering was the natural result of taking up the banner of Christ. Instead of looking to Christianity to provide him with a higher standard of living, and more pleasure, and greater security, he saw it as a cross to bear. We have since discovered that the practice of Christianity invariably brings a higher standard of living to the people who embrace its faith, but maybe we have forgotten that the central tenet of that faith is the fact of a cross of suffering and pain.

Many of the great lives of the world seem to be those to whom nature has tied a ball and chain, and said, "Slow down, not so fast." If you suffer from an affliction, maybe you ought to re-examine it, and you. Perhaps this is your opportunity to grow—not just in terms of what you want, but in terms of the Kingdom of God.

Affliction Narrows Choices

What are some of the ways that affliction may be used, and converted to something good. The first thing is that affliction cuts off your many-sided road of choices, and generally leaves you only one road to follow. Before your sickness, or suffering, you had so many things you could do. You could flit here and there, and very likely you spent your hours in many different pursuits. Now, because of your affliction, these other choices are closed to you. There are only one or two things you can do. Your tendency is to just sit and while away the time the best you can, but oftentimes you will discover the one thing you can do, and learn to do it better than you ever did before. You discover that you can move forward, though very slowly at times, on your single-minded road, where before your affliction, your wheels went around rapidly, but your gears seemed to be in neutral, and you didn't get anywhere.

Privilege Of Loneliness

Another gain of affliction is the privilege of loneliness. To many shut-ins, that will seem an odd gain, for many of them feel that they have far too much loneliness, and no doubt many of them have. But loneliness is helpful to the soul's growth. Lives, like trees, need space to grow; and also, like trees, lives need quietness and calm to grow. When one can only lie and think, one often gets closer to a real communion with God than those of us who live out our lives in the rush of daily events. Also, one has the benefit of avoiding the fallacy of mass thinking, mass urges, and mass habits.

Making Most of Time

Still a third gain of affliction is that one escapes a great deal of waste. When a shut-in gets a moment of being comfortable, he learns not to fritter it away, but to make the most of it. Some years ago when President Harper of Chicago University was told that he had but a short time to live, he very carefully selected the most important items on his desk, and went to work to get them finished. Affliction forces us to brake to a stop—then proceed more slowly. It's up to the person afflicted to find a place to move forward, and that of course is very hard. But make yourself aware of the fact that affliction can be usable in forcing you to a new perspective, a re-evaluation of the things of life. One can become more conscious than ever before of what Jesus was talking about when he spoke of the things of the spirit—and things that are eternal.

Affliction, as a brake, can be valuable—if nothing more it can help you take stock of who you are, and where you are going. If you will check your own life, you may discover that we spend a great deal of time doing things that are relatively unimportant; and some of the things that we deem important, when looked back on, are found to be insignificant. We're like milling cattle; we don't know where we're going, but we're on our way. Is this the way that Jesus meant for his followers to live?

Overcoming Through Christ

Let it not be misunderstood that affliction is an easy thing to overcome. It is not. I have seen people who were utterly defeated by their pain and trouble. But thanks be to Christ, we know that it can be overcome. There are people in every community who can witness to the fact that even in deep affliction, they are able to glorify God. Through Him, affliction can become merely a brake to stop you from proceeding pell-mell through life. It must help you to do something you might never have done without it.

Out on the west coast is Stanford University, one of our great schools. It is in existence because a handsome little boy was stricken by a dread disease, and died. His mother, though grief-stricken, was determined to use the money that would have been his into the founding of a university. Thus, Leland Stanford, Jr. University was created—out of affliction and sorrow, a great center of learning was born.

Maybe there is something that you, even you, can do in your time of affliction and pain. Remember we worship the God who made the cross of crucifixion, a symbol of death, into the symbol of victory.

MISSION BOARD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Congo Needs A Medical Doctor

The Board of Missions of the Methodist Church is making an emergency appeal for a physician-surgeon to serve mission hospitals in the central Belgian Congo for a three-year term.

By the end of 1955, four or five doctors now serving in three Methodist hospitals will have returned to the United States, two for furloughs, one to retire and one to withdraw from mission service, Dr. M. O. Williams, Jr., secretary for missionary personnel, said.

"This loss of qualified medical personnel will create an emergency situation in our Methodist hospitals at Minga, Tunda and Wembo Nyama," Dr. Williams said. "To continue to provide adequate service, it is imperative that a competent physician-surgeon be sent to aid the only doctor who will remain. We hope to find a qualified person by this summer and, because of the impending situation, send him directly to the field without the usual pre-field training in Belgium."

The person selected should be experienced in general medicine and surgery and, preferably, be under 35, Dr. Williams said. A married man with children will be acceptable, as there are both elementary and high school facilities, he added.

"It would be expected he would be a Christian layman with experience in a church," Dr. Williams said. "This is an opportunity for

a Christian doctor to render invaluable service in a time of real need."

Persons interested in such a three-year special missionary term or those knowing of a possible applicant are asked to contact Dr. Williams, whose address is 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

Calling Specialists!

Two men and two women—each specially trained or experienced in a different skill—are also being sought by the Board for service overseas.

One woman sought is an experienced elementary school teacher to serve in a school for missionary children in Malacca, Malaya. The group is about twenty-five in number, and the classes are the four upper elementary school grades. These children come from excellent homes, and the teacher will have opportunity to serve boys and girls who will become leaders in the years ahead. The teacher can be appointed for a three-year term, if desired, though the Board would like to name her a career missionary.

A woman nurse is needed for the 50-bed Methodist Hospital in La Paz, Bolivia. This is the internationally-known hospital, most famous in Bolivia, founded by Dr. Frank S. Beck. It is modern in all respects. The woman appointed would have a wide range of service opportunity, including the teach-

METHODIST SUPPLY ONE-FIFTH OF "BEST SERMONS - 1955"

Eleven Methodist ministers are represented in an inter-faith sermon anthology, **BEST SERMONS—1955 Edition**, edited by G. Paul Butler and published by McGraw-Hill.

The 52 sermons written by ministers, priests and rabbis "have been selected for their homiletic value and their spiritual message for our

time," according to Dr. Butler.

The Methodist ministers included and their sermon topics are:

The Rev. Nels F. S. Ferre, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., "I Am Sure" on Christian certainty.

The Rev. Lynn Harold Hough, former dean, Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J., "If Christ Were Lord of Education."

The Rev. Thomas S. Kepler, Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology, Oberlin, Ohio, "Wanted: A Faith to Remove Mountains."

The Rev. John Knox, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, "The Mystery of God."

The Rev. E. Stanley Jones, India, "Christ Is the Answer."

Chaplain Donald E. Lewis, 17th Infantry, Korea, "God Lives, Give Thanks."

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Washington, D. C., "Manger and Mankind."

The Rev. J. Richard Sneed, Los Angeles, Calif., "Happy Loyalty" on marriage.

The Rev. Ralph W. Sockman, New York City, "Life's Fifth Dimension."

The Rev. Leslie Weatherhead, City Temple, London, "The Limitations of Reason."

The foreword to the anthology is written by another Methodist, the Rev. Halford E. Luccock, professor of preaching, Yale University. Dr. Butler, a former member of New Jersey Conference, is religion editor of the New York Mirror.

EVANGELISTIC MISSION LAST WEEK IN PINE BLUFF DISTRICT

Article and photos by Georgia Neely

Some 300 members were gained for the Methodist Church through commitments and transfers in the United Evangelistic Mission conducted in the Pine Bluff District, February 20-27.

Bishop Paul E. Martin was speaker at a rally held at the First Methodist Church in Pine Bluff, Sunday afternoon, February 27, which closed the evangelistic crusade. People from throughout nine counties of the District attended the closing mass meeting.

During the week of the crusade, 35 churches in the Pine Bluff District had guest preachers to conduct services each evening, and the combined attendance each night for the night services averaged almost 2,000. Many of the guest preachers were from the Monticello District. Earlier this year, pastors from the Pine Bluff District had assisted in

similar UEM in the Monticello District churches.

Six hundred laymen worked in co-operation with the 70 preachers in forming visitation teams and contacting prospective church members throughout the District. A list of over 2,000 prospects—people with no church connections in the community where they live, had been prepared for the visitation teams prior to the crusade.

Dr. Arthur Terry, Superintendent of the Pine Bluff District, said the preachers met each day of the mission at either Stuttgart or Pine Bluff to give reports on the progress of the campaign. Dr. Cecil Culver, Superintendent of the Monticello District, led the preachers in study for the next day's activities; and the Rev. Mouzon Mann, pastor of the McGehee Methodist Church, was the inspirational speaker at the morning sessions.

Laymen attended supper meetings at the local churches before they formed their visitation teams. They received instructions for the night's assignments from the visiting preacher.

Dr. Terry said the annual affair was sometimes referred to as a "preaching, reaching, walking, talking, revival mission." He added that the mission this year involved more than 13,000 Methodists.

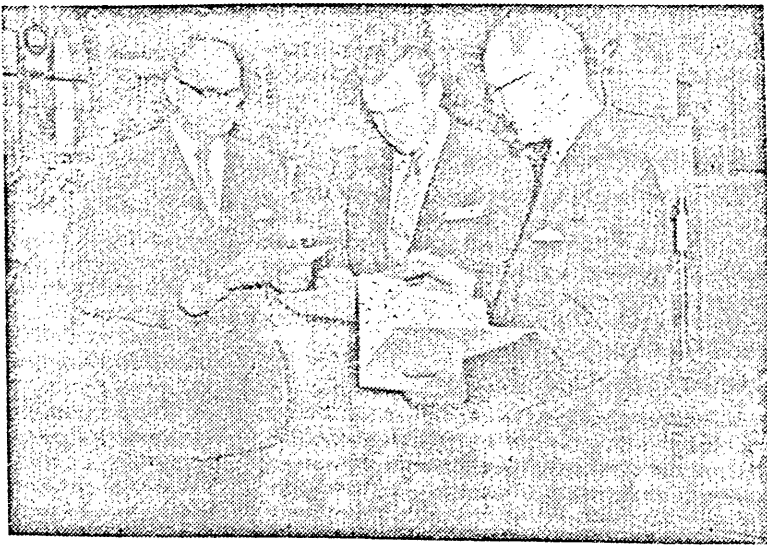
The Rev. Kenneth Shamblin, pastor of the Pulaski Heights Methodist Church, Little Rock, is chairman of the Little Rock Conference Board of Evangelism.

Rev. Mouzon Mann, pastor of the First Methodist Church, McGehee, furnished the inspiration at the morning instruction sessions for the pastors and guest pastors last week in the Pine Bluff District Evangelistic Mission.



Bob Lindsay and Lewis F. Fuess, laymen of the First Methodist Church, Stuttgart, visit Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lundquist, of Stuttgart, who united with the Stuttgart church as a result of the evangelistic visitation-preaching mission. Bobby and Janet are the Lundquist children.

Dr. Cecil R. Culver, Monticello District Superintendent, Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblin, pastor, Pulaski Heights Methodist Church, Little Rock, and Dr. Arthur Terry, Pine Bluff District Superintendent, look over mission reports. The evangelistic mission was on a reciprocal basis with the Monticello District program having been held last month. Dr. Shamblin is the Little Rock Conference Director of Evangelism.



NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

REV. AND MRS. ROY W. BEVAN of Dalark attended Ministers' Week at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

DR. HARRISON HALE, head of the Science Department, Southern State College, Magnolia, was the speaker at the meeting of the Methodist Men's Club of Winfield Church, Little Rock, on Monday evening, February 28.

REV. FORREST E. DUDLEY, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Pittsburg, Texas, was the speaker at the city-wide meeting of the Wesleyan Guilds of Texarkana. The meeting was held at Hardy Memorial Methodist Church (Texas) on Monday evening, February 28.

REV. J. WILLIAM WATSON, pastor of the First Methodist Church, North Little Rock, has recovered from a severe case of the mumps. During his illness, the pulpit was filled by Rev. R. E. L. Bearden, Rev. James Clemons, Dr. E. T. Wayland and Rev. Henry A. Rickey.

THE CHOIR of the Little Rock Junior College, John H. Summers, director, gave a special program at the evening service of Winfield Church, Little Rock, on Sunday, February 27. Mr. Summers is organist and choirmaster of the First Methodist Church, Little Rock.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCH WOMEN of Magnolia met at the Jackson Street Methodist Church on Monday, February 28 for the second session of the study "India, Pakistan, and Ceylon." Mrs. Halmon Wilson was in charge of the program.

MRS. WARREN JOHNSTON writes that she now has an apartment in Baton Rouge and is making progress although it is very slow. Her address is 2270 Pickett Ave., Baton Rouge. Mrs. Johnston was injured in an automobile accident which took the life of her husband, Dr. Warren Johnston.

THE CONWAY DISTRICT DAMES met at the home of the district superintendent, Rev. Henry A. Rickey, and Mrs. Rickey on Thursday afternoon, February 17. After a business meeting at the First Methodist Church, the ministers of the district joined their wives at the district parsonage for refreshments.

DR. ETHAN DODGEN, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Jonesboro, was elected president of the alumni of the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University at a luncheon meeting held on Wednesday, February 9, at Highland Park Methodist Church, Dallas. The luncheon was held in conjunction with Ministers' Week at S.M.U.

REV. HERSTON R. HOLLAND, pastor of Henderson Methodist Church, Little Rock, has announced that two morning worship services will be held at his church each Sunday until Easter. An increased attendance has made the two services necessary, and the program will be extended past Easter if attendance continues to grow, according to Mr. Holland.

REV. HENRY A. RICKEY, district superintendent of the Conway District, spoke at a fellowship dinner in the Washington Avenue Methodist Church, North Little Rock, on Wednesday, February 16. The church, under the leadership of Rev. Earle Cravens, has recently purchased a new parsonage, next door to the old one, so there will be room for expansion.

DR. JOHN KEITH BENTON, dean of the School of Religion of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., will be the speaker in a series of Bible lectures to be held in the First Methodist Church, Texarkana, March 27 to April 1. The theme for the lectures will be "Christian Beliefs." The churches of the Texarkana area will join in the series.

A MEMBERSHIP CLASS, sponsored by the Membership and Evangelism Commission of the Jackson Street Methodist Church, Magnolia, is meeting each Saturday morning at 9:00 a. m. and each Wednesday afternoon at 3:45 until

Palm Sunday for the children and is taught by the pastor, Rev. David M. Hankins, Jr. The first session was held on Saturday morning, February 26.

At a fellowship dinner on February 23 in Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock, plans were adopted for a Visitation Evangelism Campaign, March 14-17, to be led by Rev. Henry A. Rickey, district superintendent of the Conway District, and preceded by instruction of the teams for three Sundays by the pastor, Rev. Irl Bridenthal. Work on the new educational building and chapel is proceeding according to schedule.

THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP of the Barnett Memorial Methodist Church, Star City, had charge of the evening worship service of the church on Sunday, February 20. The theme of the service was "The United Nations." Young people taking part were Jo Ann Clary, Betty Ann Johnson, Iva Spring, Joe Teeter and LaRea Tucker. Rev. Phil E. Pierce is pastor of the church.

THE CHILDREN in the Sunday Schools of the United Church of Christ (Kyodan) have dedicated their 1954 Christmas offerings to the evangelistic work of the Japan Inland Sea Mission which had been carried on for fifty years by a Gospel-ship called the "Fukuin Maru." It was used to reach the children and people on the 500 small islands scattered around the Inland Sea.

BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN preached on Sunday morning, February 20, in the Harrison Methodist Church. On Saturday evening a dinner was given at the Hotel Seville, honoring Bishop Martin and Rev. and Mrs. E. G. Kaetzell. It was announced at the meeting, according to the pastor, Rev. H. J. Couchman, that Harrison was the first church in the Conference to over-subscribe its quota on the Methodist Hospital Drive.

THE BRADLEY COUNTY GROUP MINISTRY has been organized and is composed of the Methodist churches in Bradley County. The group meets monthly. The purpose of the organization is to get better acquainted with each other, the needs and problems, to plan a more united emphasis in the church program and to provide a ministry of lay preachers in each of the churches when the regular pastor is not present.

REV. J. EDWARD LENTZ, a Methodist minister, has been appointed executive director of the southern office of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. His office will be in Atlanta at 63 Auburn Ave., N. E., it has been announced by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, council president. The Rev. Mr. Lantz has been pastor of Lowell Heights Methodist Church in South Bend, Ind., since 1951. For six years previously he was a staff member of the Editorial Division of the Methodist Board of Education, Nashville, Tenn., as associate editor of youth publications.

BISHOP LORD TO INTERPRET CBS DRAMATIC PROGRAM

The strain that the death of loved ones puts on the Christian faith of those who mourn them is the problem Bishop John Wesley Lord of Boston will help solve on a CBS network television presentation Sunday, March 13.

The thirty-minute program, **LAMP UNTO MY FEET**, will first dramatize the story of a minister whose daughter dies. The pastor's trust in God's goodness wavers, then is restored by the counsel of a similarly bereaved friend.

During the second fifteen minutes Bishop Lord will discuss with Dr. Lyman Bryson, the program's moderator, the test of faith.

This Lamp Unto My Feet program will be carried live on most TV stations using Columbia programs at 10 a. m. E.S.T., Sunday, March 13.

This program is scheduled for Pine Bluff's TV station, KATV, Channel 7.

Office of the Chaplain
Munich Sub-Area,
APO-407, New York
8 Feb. 1955

Dear Brother Wayland,

Your *Arkansas Methodist* readers may be interested in a project which our chapel in Munich is sponsoring.

We plan \$1.00 presents for children of Poland, Czechoslovakia, refugee children, as well as stateless children for the Easter season.

May we cordially invite all readers of the *Arkansas Methodist* to send either one dollar packages or \$1.00 cash for one of these children?

We have a nice chapel seating 350 people and it is full on Sundays. Our church has three choirs and a Sunday School with 400 enrollment.

Truly the work here offers great opportunity.

Best wishes to all.—Ray D. Seals, Chaplain (Major).

INFLUENCE OF A COMMITTED LIFE

(Continued from page 1)

ice and sacrifice. The Mellons are among them.

All of which points up in a rather forceful way the amount of influence that a thoroughly committed life has. Dr. E. Stanley Jones is credited with having said many years ago that the world has yet to see what God can do with and through a thoroughly committed life. Dr. Schweitzer by his ministry has unquestionably set in motion influences which will live on eternally in the lives and service of others. People throughout the world, including Haitians, are being and will be blessed through the dedication of one individual.

In this day when heads and would be heads of governments and nations, military leaders, diplomats, financiers, industrial and labor leaders, and others are jockeying for places of leadership, it makes one wonder just who are the real leaders of the world: these, or others whose lives are committed to the alleviation of misery and suffering without hope of personal gain or profit.

WE MUST HAVE DEEP CONVICTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

entering the church. We, as leaders of the church, should feel a definite responsibility to help our people generally to have deep convictions about the sacredness and importance of these vows in the development of Christian character.

Methodism will be impressive and powerful only so long as its activities and purposes are motivated by the deep conviction that its message is of God and its mission, under God, is to help bring in His kingdom.

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ARKANSAS METHODIST

THE GIFT WITHIN YOU

If someone were to say to were, "Stir up the gift of God which is in you," what would you think he meant? Most likely you would ask yourself, "What special gift have I?"

Commonly, when we speak of gifts of God, we think of unusual native endowments such as a glorious singing voice, an artistic touch, or a power of literary expression.

Not many of us, however, have these outstanding talents in such degree that we could be called gifted. Most of us are just ordinary run-of-the-mill individuals. Even in our family life we may have been overshadowed by some more brilliant brother or sister. In school we were not singled out for special distinction. Since leaving school we have made no name which gets featured or no fortune worth mentioning.

Ego-Building Tricks

Of course, we can always think of some persons who seem less gifted than ourselves. Hence, when we feel dwarfed in the presence of our superiors, we can build up our egos by taking a look at those who seem less favored. But in the long run it is not too satisfying to depend on the apparent inadequacies of others for our own well-being.

Emerson once said, "Every man I meet is my superior in some way. In that, I learn of him." What if we caught Emerson's insight and attitude, and instead of concerning ourselves with our own traits, we were to study the traits of others, looking for their gifts that we might learn of them and link ourselves with them. Certainly such an attitude would enrich our inner lives and sweeten our relationship with our fellow men.

Before me is a letter written by an elderly man. The snows of age were upon him, but the light of his eyes was undimmed. He was like a house lighted up on a winter evening. Such houses make me think of



some lives. The writer of this letter was in prison awaiting expected execution as a martyr, but his hardships had not put out the fire of his spirit.

Stir Up God's Gift

He wrote to rekindle the enthusiasm of a young friend. So far as we knew, this young man was not of exceptional ability. But he had something which is possessed by every one of us. That something is a spirit which the writer thus defines: "Stir up the gift of God which is in thee by the putting on of my hands; for God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind." Such was the counsel Paul wrote to young Timothy.

Let us consider one of these gifts of God. Take the spirit of power. Paul says, "Stir it up." And the word he uses suggests the stirring of a fire. When a fire has died down, what is the first thing we do to it? We poke it. That's what most of us need when we get into our low moods of fearfulness. We should immediately try to shake ourselves out of such unworthy states.

When the fires of faith and courage need reviving, we must bestir our wills to action. We must put more fuel into our minds. A good coach does not merely shout orders to his team, he builds up their morale as well. Think how Jesus coached the apostles. Not only did he stir their wills, but he fed their minds with thoughts like these: "Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" or "I go to prepare a place for you." Such thoughts rekindle hope.

Refueling Faith

Years ago a friend of mine, a frail little woman, was being taken on a Mediterranean cruise to restore her health. Her husband died on the voyage. She came back to the difficult task of raising her ten children. She lost two of her four sons in World War I. Still, her tireless energy and indomitable spirit amazed those who knew her. She simply abounded in good works.

What was the secret of her strength? It was this: she used her iron will to stir up God's gift within her and kept refueling her mind with her religious faith.

On A Wide Circuit

W. W. Reid

"O WHERE'S THE SLAVE SO LOWLY..."

Ireland's sweetest troubadour, Thomas Moore of Dublin, spent his teens during a period when to be Irish was to be under the then despotic rule of England, to be a Roman Catholic was to encounter civil disabilities, and when freedom-loving patriots (and that Moore always was) were taking hope, courage, and some degree of direction from the current ideologies and events of the French Revolution. "The harp that once through Tara's halls", "Let Erin remember the days of old", "Forget not the field where they perished", were, in their day, highly inflammatory "against the English Tories."

In a preface to an early book of his songs and poems, Moore tells something of his teenage experiences:

"Born of Catholic parents, I had come into the world with the slave's yoke around my neck; and it was all in vain that the fond ambition of a mother looked forward to the bar as opening a career that might lead her son to honor and affluence. Against the Papist all such avenues to distinction were closed; and even the University, the professed source of public education, was to him a 'fountain sealed'. Can any one now wonder that a people thus wronged and trampled upon should have hailed the first dazzling outbreak of the French Revolution as a signal to the slave, wherever suffering, that the day of his deliverance was at hand. I remember being taken by my father (1792) to one of the dinners in honor of the great event, while the following toast was enthusiastically sent around, 'May the breezes from France fan our Irish Oak into verdure.'"

Eventually, of course, the excesses of the French Revolution turned the Irish patriots against the methods used: but not at first. Elsewhere Moore quotes the renowned Robert Emmett, matchless patriots orator, as saying as late as 1797, "Thus France wades through a sea of storm and blood; but while, in one hand, she wields the sword against her aggressors, with the other she upholds the glories of science and literature, unsullied by the ensanguined tide through which she struggles..."

I recount this page of history because every one of us can understand and appreciate the situation of Thomas Moore and of Robert Em-

met and many another Irishman. They are not too unlike our own Revolutionary heroes. You and I would have been in there fightin' and conspirin', too! They were under the heel of a despot; they were second-grade citizens in their fathers' land; they thought they saw hope over the horizon. . . Eventually England eased some restrictions — France and America frightened her into action. Eventually those who hoped for great things from the French Revolution were disillusioned. But what hate and pain and agony England might have avoided by earlier understanding and action! . . .

Does history repeat itself? And do we learn nothing from its pages? Consider the African who in the Belgian Congo — ancient home of his fathers — is a second-rate citizen, denied educational and many other equalities with the "rulers": can we not see how he will look longingly to communism as a possible hope on the horizon for his tomorrow? Or the Indian, or Malay, or Chinese — writhing under England's, or America's, or France's acts of superiority, seeking some greater share of earth's food, or wealth, or knowledge, or intangible "freedom" will he not listen to the blandishments, and even accept the hand, of communists? Even if it is a gamble, they ask, what that we have can we lose?

We may be sure that Asia and Africa will be disillusioned by communism. We may be sure that all the justice and rights, that now-underprivileged people are seeking, will eventually be theirs. But what hate and pain and agony might be avoided if these things could be given men, and given now, not as by-products of fear of communism, but because they belong to all men and all brothers. Would that my America might lead out in a campaign of establishing righteousness and justice across the earth — and refuse to align herself on the side of despot, colonial master, or economic profiteer.

BENEVOLENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS SHOW GAINS

At the end of two-thirds of the current fiscal year, Methodist general benevolence and administrative funds showed steady gains and an increase over a similar period last year, according to Dr. Thomas B. Lugg, of Chicago, executive secretary and treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance.

Largest gains were noted in World Service Specials, with receipts totaling \$66,442.97, or an increase of 23.55 per cent over the same period last year. A favorable increase was noted in all columns with the exception of the General Administrative Fund, which was off 6.34 per cent.

An increase of 2.24 per cent was seen in World Service, which received \$5,221,836.95 dur-

The Layman's Column

By
Charles A. Stuck
Lay Leader
North Arkansas Conference



"COMPANY'S COMING"

What a joyful phrase that was a few generations ago. In the slower-paced life of horse-and-buggy days, the coming of company always meant good times. There were good things to eat; long and fascinating conversations to be heard; the thrill of having the visitor tell his story; the boyish admiration for the father of the house who rose to the full stature of his character as he became the gracious host and proudly presented his wife and children to the stranger.

It's no use trying to yearn for those gracious days. As good as they were, there are much greater days to be lived now and in the future. But in another way, "Company" is always coming to our churches. There is the family just moved to town, or the young couple who have committed their lives to God and eagerly look forward to their fellowship in the church family, or the wide-eyed boy or girl who has just joined the church from a confirmation class held by the Pastor.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if every Christian had a feeling of joyful expectancy about every new church member? What a heart-warming experience the stranger would have if he or she had the same taste of hospitality that we gave our visitors in the days when people visited more. Do you long for the "good old days"? Why not make them "good new days" as we find again the genuine pleasure of welcoming the newcomers to the Lord's table. Arkansas and Louisiana hospitality is a brand all its own. Let's use it for the Lord's work just as we do on other occasions. The "fellowship of kindred minds" can find new and richer meanings if we treat our new members for awhile at least as "company".

ing the past eight months. General Advance Specials rose 27.71 per cent to total \$2,359,535.03.

The new figure of \$557,507.45 for the Fellowship of Suffering and Service, represents an increase of 12.60 per cent. The Week of Dedication fund received \$101,547.89. This is an upward swing of 16.27 per cent.

To date, the Methodist TV Ministry received \$72,321.67 and receipts for the Bishops' Appeal for Korea totaled \$1,326,723.24.

Marked Tree

Observes Golden

Anniversary

A capacity congregation attended the services at the First Methodist Church, Marked Tree, on Sunday, February 13, which marked the fiftieth anniversary of the church. Bishop Paul E. Martin delivered the sermon at the morning worship service and was present for afternoon ceremonies which were centered around the church's golden anniversary.

The afternoon service followed a covered dish luncheon served in the church's Fellowship Hall at the noon hour. Rev. Martin A. Bierbaum, Marked Tree pastor, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the program that included the giving of the history of Marked Tree Methodism by Mrs. C. A. Dawson, reading of telegrams and official greetings by E. M. Calvert, official board chairman, the relating of his experiences as the Marked Tree pastor by Rev. John A. Womack who served Marked Tree for fifteen years; words of congratulations by the Jonesboro District Superintendent, Rev. Elmer J. Holifield; and a message by Bishop Martin. During the afternoon, Mrs. Otis Grant, president of the Marked Tree Woman's Society presented and pinned corsages on the four charter members of the Marked Tree church present. Two of the charter members, Mrs. E. Ritter and Mrs. J. J. Hickman, assisted Mrs. Dawson in the presentation of the Marked Tree history.

The following is a portion of the Marked Tree history as presented by Mrs. Dawson:

Marked Tree Methodism History

By Mrs. C. A. Dawson

Marked Tree has a most unusual heritage, in the way of worship, and this heritage is, in fact that we have the mounds, built and left, by the mound builders. I can think of three such mounds near town. One about a mile north, near Clyde King's home, and two south of town, near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Whit Bolton.

Archeologists tell us that the mound builders are a prehistoric race of people, living along rivers in Arkansas and a good many of them also lived in Wisconsin and Ohio, and they tell us that these mounds were their altars and the places where they buried their dead.

The earliest preaching that I could find any record of having been done in this area was that of Rev. Isaac Brookfield in 1819. The ministers of the Methodist Conference of 1821 record his name and say that he came to Arkansas from New Jersey at that time to be the first Protestant Missionary to the Indians and the white men. He went on horseback through many sections of the wilds of Arkansas. Later, when his health broke, he acquired some land near Harrisburg, this land here being too wet for farming. On his farm, the workmen conducted a tannery, made shoes and bound books, and had a general store. He died and was buried near Harrisburg in 1844.

The Indians who were found in this country, were of a peaceable nature and the pioneers had no fear of them, but in the early 1860's terror was spread when lawless white men, known as the "Murrells" from Tennessee, with a criminal band of followers, infested the waterways and robbed the countryside, stealing horses and slaves and defying all law. It is said that the Murrells were the ones who chopped the "M" on the tree, from which our town was named.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1894 with William Rudisell as Superintendent. It survived until cold weather. The first Sunday School that met regularly, was organized by Dr. J. R. Black, who owned and operated the Nyal Drug Store, and this Sunday School



met in the old Ritter Ice House, where the Arkansas Drug Store now stands. This gave Evangelists and itinerant preachers a congregation, and in 1898 the Methodist Conference put the "Marked Tree Mission" under the care of the Rev. Tom Seaton, whose salary was \$80.00 per year for the one Sunday he preached here. Meetings were held in different buildings, and under brush arbors in the summer time. Other ministers who served while Marked Tree was mission were Rev. Mr. Wilson and Rev. Mr. Taylor.

The "Ladies Aid" was organized in May 1904, with fifteen members, and Mrs. Mattie Johnson, as president, and Mrs. C. E. Walker, as secretary (Mrs. Walker was Cashier of the bank). The society had two aims, one was to promote "Christian Sociability," and the other to raise money to build a church.

E. Ritter gave the lot and the ladies raised \$600.00 and borrowed \$600.00. The church was organized and built for \$1200.00, and the Bishop assigned Rev. J. H. Barrentine as pastor, who came once and sometimes twice a month. Our records were very meagerly kept, but as nearly as we can tell the charter members were: Mrs. Anna Ritter, Mrs. Fanny Goodwin Pate, Clarence Caple, Charlie Eberhardt, Mrs. John Wall, Matt Wall, Mrs. Don McElfresh, Mrs. L. F. Williams, Mrs. Mary Hart, Miss Hattie Hastings, Mrs. Virginia Patillo, Mable Miller, Mrs. J. J. Hickman, Mrs. Almonta Smith, Mrs. John Krier, Mrs. Bertha Tribble and Mrs. John Hopkins, and we have with us today four of that number.

Rev. F. C. Sterling was the next pastor serving from 1906 to 1908. He was a part time blacksmith and lived at Bay, Ark., but was a good preacher. Rev. T. O. Rorie served from 1908 to 1909 and he and his family lived on Home St. in the house where Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberts now live. He was our first resident pastor. Rev. Charles Brooks served from 1909 to 1910, assisted by Rev. W. W. Padgett, and during that time our first parsonage was built on the same lot and just at the rear of the church. Rev. Mr. Brooks and his wife were the first to live in it. Rev. J. F. Jernigan served from 1910 to 1913 and in 1911 the parsonage was moved to the side of the church and two rooms were added. Rev. and Mrs. Jernigan had two children. Other pastors who came to serve were: Rev. A. B. Haltom, 1913-1915; Rev. J. W. Thomas, 1915-1919; Rev. E. T. Wayland, 1919-1923; While Brother Wayland was here we built the "Tabernacle" in the rear of the church, where the parsonage had stood. It was an open air building and could be used only in the summer time. Brother Wayland, also, brought with him his own printing press and printed our first Church Bulletin. Rev. E. W. Faulkner served from 1923-1924. Rev. W. W. Albright served from 1924-1928.

By 1924 the church membership had grown to 113 and it was decided to build a new church, so in 1926 the frame building was torn down and while the congregation worshiped up town

in a vacant store building, our buff brick building was built costing \$36,000.

The trustees at that time were the same as now — Mr. J. D. Dubard, Mr. L. V. Ritter, Mrs. J. J. Hickman, Mr. C. A. Dawson and Mr. F. R. Proctor.

Rev. J. W. Downs served from 1928-1930; Rev. Guy Murphy, 1930-1931; Rev. Lester Weaver, 1931-1933; Rev. J. Abner Sage, 1933-1935; Rev. J. A. Womack, 1935-1950.

During the fifteen years of leadership under Brother Womack, they grew to greatness. The organization and equipment were brought to a high level; a red carpet was laid, a Hammond Organ was bought, the Choir was robed and a \$25,000 parsonage was built. The church membership was brought to 373. Brother Womack's salary was \$1800 when he came and was \$3600 per year at the time of his retirement. The entire Church Budget at the close of 1950 was \$12,007.97.

Fire destroyed our sanctuary in August of 1942, but by Jan. 1944 we were back in a more beautiful sanctuary in spite of war shortages. The organ had been carried to safety and the choir robes were not damaged, but our beautiful carpet was ruined. However, the fact that it and the thick padding under it, held so much water, kept the floor from burning and we held worship services in the basement during the entire 18 months of re-construction.

The next pastor the conference sent us, was Rev. Paul Bumpers. He was a young man, just 27. He saw the possibilities of the work here and lent himself wholeheartedly to organizing a Jr. MYF group, a church school worker's organization and laying the groundwork for a vigorous church in general. Under his leadership we got a \$52,000 building and remodeling program under way, including Fellowship Hall, Lounge, Pastor's Study and office, new kitchen, remodeling of the basement and air-conditioning for the entire church plant. Many new members were added while Brother Bumpers was here.

In 1952 the Conference sent us Rev. Alvin Murray. Brother Murray had been a classmate of Brother Bumpers, and seemingly with no difficulty picked up the building program of the church.

The building and air-conditioning were completed in January 1953. Many more new members were added to our church roll, and with better classroom facilities our Sunday School increased a great deal. A Nursery School was added for 3 and 4 year olds, and our church won second place in the Arkansas Town and Country Church contest for 1953-1954. Also, that year, Brother Murray was given a ministerial robe for Christmas by the church and he wore it for all formal services.

Brother Martin Bierbaum is now our pastor, and with his help, we feel confident that we can complete paying what we lack on our church debt, and continue our fine church program.

PROTESTANT PERSECUTION IN SPAIN CONFIRMED

Reports of Protestant oppression in Spain recounted by a Methodist bishop following an official visitation last summer for the Council of Bishops have been reinforced by a documented book soon to be published. After his three-month tour of Europe, Bishop H. Bascom Watts of the Nebraska Area said that in Spain Protestants can not worship in any structure that has the appearance of a church, can not publish literature, can not have day schools, often find mailed packages of books have been confiscated, and are deprived of jobs. He also related stories of raids on Protestant buildings, of intercepted private letters, and of tapped personal conversations.

Methodism has no work in Spain. Bishop Watts said that valuable property formerly owned by the Methodists is now occupied by the Falange party. The Board of Mission, he said, still pays taxes on the property, and is negotiating for its recovery. Some Protestant groups are at work in Spain, and an evangelical seminary, with only 10 students, is one hope for Protestantism.

The book which confirms Bishop Watts' observations is "The Oppression of Protestants in Spain," written by Jacques Delpech and published by Beacon Press. Dr. John McKay, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., wrote the introduction.

"The book," Bishop Watts commended, "confirms both the information and the impressions I gained on a brief stay in that country last year . . . it should do much toward clarifying public thinking in this country on the Spanish dictatorship."

Hospital and Home Board Hear Report

Institutions affiliated with the Methodist Board of Hospitals and Homes received a total of \$5,211,822 in special gifts during 1954, Dr. Karl P. Meister of Chicago, executive secretary, told a special meeting of the board in Chicago February 8. This amount includes gifts for individuals, estates, wills, bequests, etc., and is in addition to funds secured from other sources, such as financial campaigns.

Ten of the 199 institutions affiliated with the board reports special gifts of more than \$100,000.

Eight gifts of more than \$10,000 each were given to Methodist hospitals. The hospital reporting the largest amount of gifts was Christ hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, with a total of more than half a million dollars.

Fifteen children's homes had gifts of more than \$10,000, with the Children's home in Winston-Salem, N. C., showing the largest total of almost \$300,000.

In the list of homes for aged, 19 institutions reported gifts of more than \$10,000. The largest amount reported was in excess of a half million dollars and was at the Methodist Church home, Lebanon county, Cornwall, Pa.

Other hospital figures in Dr. Meister's report includes the following:

—The 73 hospital with 25,143 full-time personnel and a total bed capacity of 17,738 served 630,949 inpatients and more than a half million outpatients.

—Assets of Methodist hospitals amount to \$184,403,804.

—These hospitals provided \$4,069,556 free and part-pay service to patients.

—Schools of nursing related to Methodist hospital need 2,755 first-year students in addition to the 6,615 currently enrolled.

—Sixteen building projects, total-

ing \$5,645,915, were started last year.

Dr. Meister also reported that the 69 homes for aged affiliated with the national board were operating at almost peak capacity with 6,458 guests cared for during the year. These homes have 1,636 approved applications on their waiting lists. Nineteen homes reported having launched building projects with a total of \$3,687,592 involved.

The denomination has 49 homes and special agencies for children and eight homes for youth and deaconesses affiliated with its national board.

The 199 hospitals and homes served 1,198,839 persons last year and gave a grand total of \$8,623,291 free or part-pay services. Fifty nine building projects amounting to \$30,633,399 were started during the year.

Record Relief Shipments In 1954

Church World Service, international relief and rehabilitation wing of the National Council of Churches, shipped 30,648,792 pounds of emergency relief materials abroad in 1954. The shipments were valued at a total of \$12,134,750.

They represent an increase of about eight per cent over the 1953 figure in quantities of supply and a more than 25 percent increase in dollar value, declared Dr. Wayland Zwyer, associate director of the agency. He said the 1953 figure of 28,400,011 pounds valued at \$9,699,169 was double the amount sent any previous year.

Most of the food, clothing, medicine and other relief materials went to distress areas in Asia and Europe, Dr. Zwyer said. He pointed out that government surplus foods, furnished free to the churches for this purpose, played a major role in the year's achievement.

Church Architecture Conclave Held

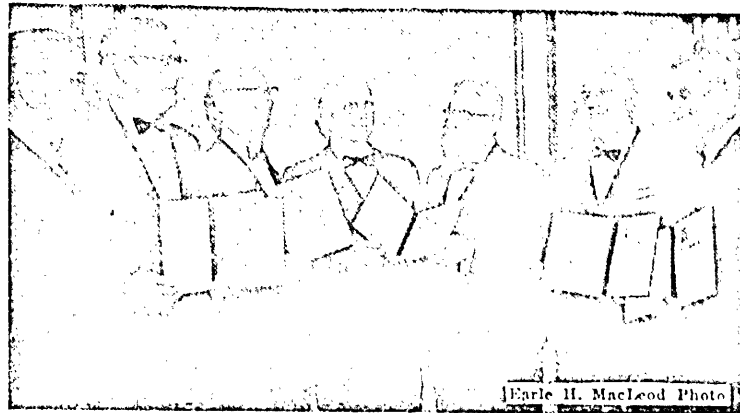
Leading architects from all parts of the country met in Cincinnati with church specialists and ministers for a conference on the problems and challenges of a boom in church construction that is expected to top all records in 1955, for the third year in succession.

More than 200 delegates met February 23-25 for the annual national Joint Conference on Church Architectural Guild of America and the Bureau of Church Building of the National Council of Churches.

Stressing the magnitude of the construction boom, Dr. Harry Atkinson, director of the Bureau of Church Building cited a recent National Council survey which disclosed that six major Protestant denominations spent more than a third of their current income for church building last year.

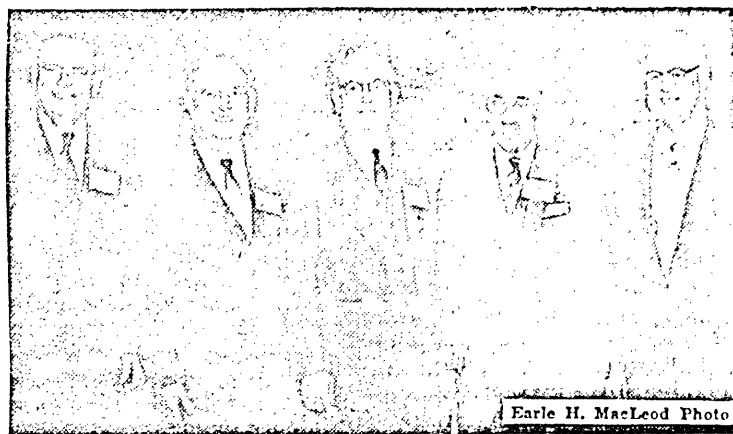
Total U. S. expenditures for new churches and for remodeling and replacing out-dated buildings, he said, rose from \$472,000,000 in 1953 to \$558,000,000 in 1954 and are expected to reach will over \$600,-

NAMED TO METHODIST HALL OF FAME



Five persons were honored with membership in the Methodist Hall of Fame in Philanthropy at the annual meeting of the National Association of Methodist Hospitals and Homes in Chicago Feb. 9. Dr. Frank Prentzel, Jr. (third from right) superintendent of the Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia and secretary of the Methodist Board of Hospitals and Homes, presents the citations on behalf of the board, while Dr. Karl P. Meister (extreme left) executive secretary of the board, looks on. Those receiving the awards are, left to right: Edward Gallahue, Indianapolis, Ind.; Robert A. Lambert, M.D., Greensboro, Ala.; Rev. Charles C. Jarrell, D.D., Oxford, Ga.; Dr. Prentzel; Clarence N. Wesley, Evanston, Ill.; and Harold B. McKibbin, Wichita, Kan. Each was honored for distinguished service and gifts to Methodist hospitals and homes.

OFFICERS OF HOSPITAL-HOME ASSOCIATION



New officers of the National Association of Methodist Hospitals and Homes were installed at the close of their annual convention in Chicago Feb. 9-10. Left to right, they are: Rev. Clarence W. Tompkins, executive director of Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge, Iowa, president; Rev. C. A. Sweazey, superintendent of Methodist Home, Versailles, Ky., president-elect for next year; Ralph M. Hueston, superintendent of Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, vice president; Rev. C. O. Greene, superintendent of La Fon Old Folks' Home, New Orleans, secretary; and A. C. Durden, superintendent of Methodist Home of South Georgia, Macon, treasurer.

000,000 this year.

Highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Conover Award to one individual who has done most during the year to further good church architecture. The award is given in memory of the late Dr. Elbert M. Conover, former director of the Bureau of Church Building.

Awards were also given for the outstanding churches built during the year, selected by a conference jury from models, blueprints and photographs submitted by architects in all parts of the country.

ALASKA TO HAVE METHODIST WORK CAMP

A Methodist Work Group will construct a camp for Methodist young people in Alaska in the summer of 1955. The project, jointly sponsored by church agencies in the Pacific Northwest, the Division of National Missions of the Methodist Church, and the Methodist Student Movement, will be located on Eagle River, thirty miles out from Juneau, Alaska.

Ten students who have completed

their sophomore year in colleges will be needed. They should have "a Christian attitude of service and be committed to living in a group democratic process." The campers will live in tents under rather primitive conditions. Work, worship, study, and recreation will be guided by experienced leaders. The camp will begin June 4 and conclude August.

(Continued on page 15)

Latest medical facts about beverage alcohol and the human body are discussed by an outstanding physician, in a new leaflet titled "Alcohol and the Human Body", by Leonard C. Williams, M. D.

A noted Oklahoma City churchman and an outstanding physician and surgeon, Dr. Williams is a member of the American Society of Surgeons.

In the new leaflet he discusses the nature of beverage alcohol and its effect on the body; its properties as a food, and as a medicine. Particularly interesting is his discussion of the use of beverage alcohol in the treatment of heart diseases. He concludes that alcohol is not beneficial in heart disease, but in reality is quite harmful.

Dr. Williams concludes that "There is no medical authority, at the present time, who will maintain there is any possible benefit to be derived from the use of alcohol internally."

Copies of the leaflet are available at \$1.75 per 100 from TEM Press, 100 Maryland Avenue, N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE NOTES

By Ira A. Brumley

March, Month of Training

While the month of March had not been designated as a special month for training work it has developed that a large number of schools are to be held during March, or completed during the month. The following schools either will be held during March, or having begun in February will be completed during March:

Gentry, a one-unit school, using the course on Teaching Youth, being taught by the pastor, Rev. Worth W. Gibson.

Monette, a one-unit school, on The Work of the Local Church, being taught by the pastor, Rev. Bennie Jordan.

Marmaduke, a one-unit school on The Work of the Local Church, being taught by the pastor, Rev. Gerald D. Hammett.

Lepanto, a five-unit three day school using the following specialization units: Kindergarten, Mrs. William Stewart, Jr.; Primary, Mrs. H. E. Tomlinson; Junior, Rev. William Stewart, Jr.; Teaching Youth, Rev. Bennie Jordan; Helping Adults Learn, Rev. Arvill C. Brannon.

Brinkley, a one-unit school on Teaching Children, taught by Mrs. J. H. Monday.

West Helena, a two-unit school with the following courses: The Work of the Local Church, Rev. Otto W. Teague; and Teaching Children, Mrs. J. H. Monday.

Stranger's Home, a one-unit school on How to Teach in the Church School, taught by Miss Mary Chaffin.

Springdale, District-wide training school with five courses being offered: Teaching Children, Miss Margie McCarty; Guiding Seniors and Older Youth, Dr. Paul M. Bumpers; Toward World Brotherhood, Rev. Walter A. Hearn; Old Testament: Content and Value, Rev. Ralph Hillis; Helping Adults Learn, Rev. Archie Boyd.

Conway, a five-unit school, with the following courses being offered: Guiding Nursery Children in Christian Growth, Mrs. J. H. Monday; Guiding Kindergarten Children in Christian Growth, Mrs. W. F. Bates; Understanding Ourselves, Rev. Alfred A. Knox; Christian Beliefs, Rev. E. B. Williams; and Jesus' Teachings Concerning Women, Miss Mildred Osment.

Paragould District Training School, with five courses being offered: Teaching Children, Mrs. M. G. Joyce; Teaching Youth, (Instructor to be announced); Preparing for Marriage, Rev. Robert Paul Sessions; The Work of the Local Church, Dr. Earl Brewer; How the Bible Came to Be, Ira A. Brumley.

Calico Rock, a one-unit school on Teaching Children, Mrs. J. H. Monday.

Cotter, a three-unit school with the following courses being offered: Teaching Children, Mrs. J. H. Monday; The Methodist Youth Fellowship, Rev. Pryor Reed Cruce; Christian Stewardship, Dr. C. M. Reves.

Clarksville, a four-unit school, with the following courses being

offered: Teaching Children, Mrs. Paul M. Bumpers; Teaching Youth, Rev. Worth W. Gibson; The Work of the Local Church, Ira A. Brumley; Jesus' Teachings Concerning Women, Dr. James S. Upton.

Charleston, a one-unit school on Teaching Children, Mrs. Waldo Wettengel.

Schools are being worked out for Piggott and Booneville, but not complete yet for the announcement of courses. At least three or four other schools are in process of being worked out for late March.

When the schools for the month of March have been completed the training program for this conference year will have surpassed most years in the history of the North Arkansas Conference, with April and May left for additional training program.

The membership of the Training Council of the North Arkansas Conference has been a growing membership this year. A number of new persons have been certified, and many have new certifications.

Membership Training Months

Most of our pastors have come to realize that children and youth, and even adults, should not be received into the membership of the church without first being given special training for church membership.

Many of our pastors have already started a training class in training for church membership for the children and youth who are to join the church during the Easter season. A few are having their training period after Easter and planning to receive the children at a later date.

It is hoped that pastors who have not already started their training class for church membership will do so at an early date.

Materials have been prepared to assist pastors in this work. There should be a copy of the particular material prepared for the age group, in the hands of each person being prepared for church membership.

Youth Rally

It is not too early for your local church to begin making plans to have a large delegation of youth attending the conference - wide youth rally to be held on the Hendrix campus on Friday, April 1.

There will be a workshop period from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for all who can arrive for such a program.

The workshop and the inspirational period have been planned in terms of Senior and Older Youth, but not for Intermediates.

It is hoped that a large group of pastors, adult counselors, teachers, and other workers with youth will plan to attend.

It is more and more recognized that the future of our youth program depends upon well trained adult leadership.

Have your youth leaders secured a copy of Guidebook for Workers With Youth? This should be in the hands of all adult workers with youth.

Has your church secured copies of "I Belong?" This is the book to be read by your young people as the spring reading project for

VISITORS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

The tables of the foreign missionary enterprise of the Methodist Church have now been turned. Nowadays missionaries on furlough and nationals from other countries visit institutes, assemblies and camps in this country, to make missions come alive for youth or young adults.

For the fifteenth consecutive year the Joint Department of Missionary Education, a unit of both the Board of Education and the Board of Missions, will itinerate international students and missionaries.

"Many persons have never had a chance to meet a missionary or a Christian from another country," said Miss Jennie Youngblood, staff member of the Joint Department of Missionary Education, who is

responsible for itinerating these persons. "Next summer some of these people may have that special privilege."

Missionaries and nationals participate in occasional informal interest groups, act as resource persons, speak at one of the assembly periods or at a World Friendship dinner.

Miss Youngblood explained that a missionary may be asked to teach a course in missions or a course on the work of the church in the country where he served; but international students should not be asked to teach classes because sometimes they do not have sufficient teaching techniques, language, or knowledge of materials to do an adequate job.

Some of the annual conferences have asked that the itineration of missionaries and nationals in their territory be handled through their own executive secretaries. Otherwise, deans or directors of summer agencies will make their own requests on the forms already sent them.

Each year the Department of Missionary Education receives over four hundred requests for missionaries and nationals to serve in summer meetings. For this reason it is important that the request be received before April 1, if possible. Send all requests to Joint Department of Missionary Education, Attention Miss Jennie Youngblood, P. O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

TRAINING TEACHERS TO BE EVANGELISTS

"Do you have a practical plan for training teachers to be evangelists?"

While this question appears in the report of the commission on education to the quarterly conference and to the official board (Form QC-56), Methodism has never fully realized the evangelistic potential of the church school, according to the Rev. Walter Towner, director of the Department of General Church School Work, General Board of Education.

"The church school is already a tremendous force for evangelism, but could become more effective through added encouragement and cultivation," Mr. Towner said.

In order to implement this question, the Department of General Church School Work has prepared a plan for training teachers to be evangelists. This material appeared in the January Newsletter for church school superintendents and has recently been reprinted in leaflet form.

The plan for training teachers to be evangelists is the result of a need expressed by a number of persons in the field. It is hoped it will prove helpful to those pastors and church school superintendents who do not already have a definite plan for training teachers in this important phase of Christian education.

The leaflet, *A Plan for Training Teachers to be Evangelists* (8342-B), is available free from the Service Department, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION STATISTICS

If statistics talk, those compiled recently by the Department of Leadership Education, General Board of Education, have many interesting things to say in regard to increases in this field.

The upward trend began immediately after the close of World War II, according to the Rev. M. Earl Cunningham, director of the Department. New records were set in the years 1947-1952 inclusive and again in 1954.

Net increases for the past four years have been as follows: Number enrolled, 29,171; courses completed, 23,069; number of enterprises, 161.

Mr. Cunningham pointed out that the attendance in these enterprises is increasing much more rapidly than the number of schools. He suggests that each subdistrict have at least one accredited school each year to supplement the training carried on in the local churches.

Totals for 1954 and increases over 1953 were reported as follows: Enterprises, 1570 — gain, 143; enrolled, 133,983 — gain, 18,151; courses completed, 90,363 — gain, 13,313.

Mr. Cunningham attributes the steady increase in leadership education to the growing conviction on the part of ministers and other leaders that lay workers must be trained if they are to serve the church effectively, and to the fact that the number of leaders who understand how to use effective methods of training persons for positions of responsibility in the church is rapidly increasing.

Methodist Youth. This piece of material will help your young people to have a larger vision of the church's program and their relationship to it.

These may be secured from The Methodist Publishing House at thirty-five cents per copy for single copies or at thirty cents per copy where as many as ten copies are secured.

Order copies now and get them in the hands of your young people in order that they may begin reading at once.

EPWORTH RECTORY TO BECOME METHODIST HOME

Epworth Rectory, boyhood home of John and Charles Wesley, has been purchased from Church of England authorities for 5,000 pounds (\$14,000) and will be converted into a home for aged Methodist ministers, it was announced in London. Officials said the project is subject to approval by the annual meeting of the Methodist Conference of Great Britain to be held in July. Conference President W. Russell Shearer said more than 3,000 pounds toward the purchase price had already been raised by "private appeal." He has issued a public appeal for funds to make up the balance, pay off outstanding debts against the structure and defray the cost of necessary remodeling. The building, a 17-room house near Doncaster, Yorkshire, was built in 1709 to replace one, destroyed by fire earlier the same year, in which the founders of Methodism were born. The Rev. Samuel Wesley, father of John and Charles, was rector of the Anglican parish of Epworth, and the building had remained a Church of England property until now.

Bible Courses Taught At 45 N. C. High Schools

Some 3,000 students enrolled for elective Bible courses at 45 public high schools in North Carolina during the 1953-54 year, it was announced in Raleigh, N. C. A. B. Combs, director of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education of the State Department of Public Instruction, made the report in a statement "prepared for persons wishing to learn what is being done with reference to Bible teaching as the result of specific planning." Mr. Combs pointed to a ruling of Attorney General Harry McMullan that "there is no prohibition in the statutes against teaching courses in Bible in the schools of this state as an elective course." He noted that the Bible teaching is not sponsored or promoted by the State Department of Public Instruction.

Thousand Phone Calls Build Church For Young Couples

One thousand telephone calls are held largely responsible for 300 young married couples in Westwood, Mass., realizing a long-cherished hope — a church of their own. The young people, mostly war veterans and their wives who settled in this fast-growing community, wanted their children to have a church so they could get a religious education without having to go to nearby towns. The Rev. Herbert Johnson, an Episcopalian of New Bedford, met with the couples and a plan of action was set in motion. A thousand phone calls were made, and an equal number of circulars mailed, asking for pledges. The drive resulted in \$50,000 being pledged in two months. So a fine new church — St. John's Episcopal — is now being built. There will be a wing on the building for a Sunday School and classrooms. Until the church is finished the members attend services in the gymnasium of a school across the street.

Baptist Church Windows To Honor Christian Leaders

Christian leaders of many denominations will be honored in stained-glass windows planned for the new First Baptist church being built a few blocks from the White House in Washington. The Church, which will be one of the most imposing Baptist structures in the world when completed, probably will be ready for use late this year. But the intricate art work of the great windows of the nave and sanctuary

may take years to complete. Among the 20 great Christian leaders of the past who will be depicted are John Wesley of the Methodists, John Knox of the Presbyterians, George Fox of the Quakers, John Calvin of the Reformed Church, Martin Luther of the Lutherans and Phillips Brooks of the Episcopalians. St. Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Chrysostom have been chosen from the ranks of the early Christian Church.

Religious Groups To Fight UMT Plan

Religious groups opposed to Universal Military Training opened a fight against legislation to require six months of military training for all boys at 18 as the House Armed Services Committee began hearings on the President's new military reserve program. The UMT feature is incorporated in the over-all reserve proposals. The hearings opened with a promise from Chairman Overton Brooks (D-La.) that

opponents would be given all the time they desire to present their case. Advocates of the program were heard first, however, and testimony from opponents probably was delayed until the week of Feb. 21. Present plans of the House leadership call for the reserve training bill to reach the floor about March 15, so that it can be voted upon before legislators go home for the Easter recess. Churchmen leading the fight against the UMT plan were pessimistic over the outcome. The Formosan crisis, coupled with the change in Russian leadership, apparently was building up support for UMT in Congress.

Complete Campaign For Funds To Restore Old North Steeple

A campaign for \$150,000 to restore the steeple of Boston's historic Old North church, toppled over last Aug. 31 by Hurricane Carol, was completed with a contribution of \$25,000 from American industry. Charles J. Hardy Jr., chairman of the board of ACF Industries Inc. and head of industry's committee for the Old North Steeple Restoration Fund, presented a check for \$25,000 to Frederick M. Kimball of Boston's Lantern League at a luncheon in the Overseas Press Club in New York. It was the largest single contribution received during the drive to rebuild the famed steeple from which a signal was flashed by lantern to Paul Revere to start his historic ride in 1775 to warn the people of Lexington and Concord of the approach of the British. Officials of the Restoration Fund said the industry gift signalized achievement of the fund goal. Mr. Kimball, a direct descendant

of Paul Revere, said now "we know that the Old North church steeple will rise and stand again, symbolizing freedom as it has for nearly two centuries." Reconstruction is expected to begin about March 1, he said. Dedication ceremonies are planned for April 19, anniversary of Paul Revere's ride, and the new steeple probably will be completed by Aug. 31, just a year after its predecessor was toppled over.

Vatican Radio Sees No Change In Communist Position On Religion

No substantial change in the Communist attitude toward religion can be expected as a result of the shift of power within the Kremlin, the Vatican Radio declared. It said this was so because Nikita S. Khrushchev, first secretary of the Communist Party and now generally regarded as the top man in the Soviet Union, was the signer of an article published last November in Pravda advising Communists on what course their anti-religious efforts should take. The article in question directed anti-religious workers to stop interfering with church activities and insult the feelings of churchgoers. It said the Communists should concentrate on "well-organized scientific atheistic propaganda" to help believers "free themselves" from religious errors. The Vatican Radio said that if there was a new idea in recent Communist directives for anti-religious work, it could be put this way: Destroy religion, but with nice manners and, as far as possible, without being odious to people.

Protestant Center Plans TV Fund Campaign

Launching of a campaign to raise \$250,000 to enable the Protestant Radio and Television Center in Atlanta, Ga., to "make our dreams in the field of television come true as they have in radio" was voted by the Center's board of trustees. The interdenominationally owned and operated center distributes religious radio programs to several hundred stations in the U. S. and to the Armed Forces radio network. Some of its programs also are beamed behind the Iron Curtain by the Voice of America. Five denominations and three educational institutions participate in its ownership and operation. They are the Presbyterian U. S. A., Presbyterian U. S. (Southern), Protestant Episcopal, Methodist and United Lutheran Churches, and Emory University, Agnes Scott College, and Columbia Theological Seminary. The campaign for funds to finance television operations is a third step in a long-range expansion program for the Center, officials said here.

Graham Group Relays 'Conscience Money' To Store

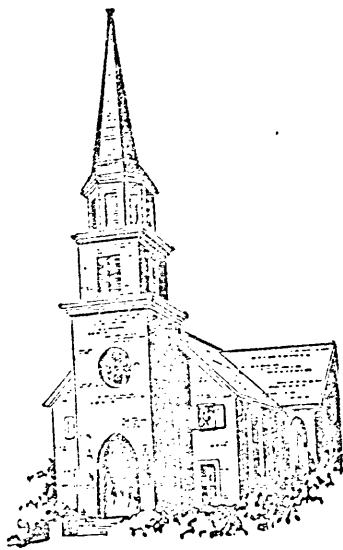
Lou Oppenheim, member of a local family that has operated The Parisian Store in Jackson, Miss., for over a quarter century, has received \$990 in "conscience money" from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The money had been sent to the association's Minneapolis, Minn., headquarters in an envelope bearing a Jackson, Miss., postmark along with a pencilled note saying it had been taken years ago from The Parisian Store. The Billy Graham evangelistic team conducted a religious revival campaign here in 1952.

There Is Strength
for YOU

in the Bible

where
EXPERIENCE
and
REVELATION
produce

a true and
indispensable
source
of
STRENGTH



Read your Bible
regularly



THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINBURN, Editor



A SPRING ADVENTURE

A TRUE STORY

By May Hoover Mumaw

WHICH kind of stories do you like best, boys and girls, true stories or make-believes? Well, both kinds are pretty nice, are they not? My children like either kind, just so it is a story; but this one to-day is a true story.

When you were driving along a country road with Daddy, did you ever see a bunny run across the road? Probably not if you kept to the paved roads which are so full of automobiles all the time; but when you get off on a road that is but little used you have seen a rabbit scurrying across the road, frightened because you got so near to him.

Did you ever wonder how the old Mother Bunny took care of her little baby bunnies?

The other morning I was washing dishes when my little Sonny, who is five years old, came hurrying into the kitchen.

"Mother, Mother, come quick!" he shouted "I have a wonderful surprise for you."

"Yes, dear, just as soon as I finish the dishes," I replied.

"Oh no, Mother, do not wait, but come quickly. It is a wonderful surprise."

Of course, Mother left the dishes and hurried out with Sonny to see the surprise. Don't you just love surprises? Well, all mothers do, of course. As I hurried along with Sonny trying to keep up with him, I tried to guess what the surprise might be.

I guessed baby kittens, I guessed a nest of baby chickens, I guessed twin calves, oh, I guessed everything I could think of, but Sonny said each time: "No, we never had a surprise like this before."

Around back of the barn he led me, and there in a straw stack what do you suppose the surprise was? Well, I am sure you never could guess, so I will just have to tell you.

Children, there in a side of the stack was a nest of baby bunnies! Don't you wish you might have seen them? I do, I am sure.

You all know how hard the birds work to make nests for their babies. Of course a rabbit does not have wings, so they cannot fly here and there hunting material to make a nest for their babies, so how do you suppose a rabbit does manage?

There in the side of the straw stack was that nest, all burrowed out to keep the babies snug and warm, but of course the straw would not be soft enough for little tiny, helpless rabbits, so the straw had to have a warm lining.

The lining in that nest was of fur.

Sonny said: "Mother, Mother, where did the mother bunny get that fur to make the nest?"

Now, where could it have gotten it? Well, I should not have known had I not had the opportunity to watch a tame rabbit make a nest once several years ago.

I sat quietly by the pen and

watched the old mother bunny tear fur from her own body to line the nest she was making for her babies.

Don't you think the mother bunny must love her babies very dearly to go to that trouble to make a nest for them?

I wish you all might go down back of the barn and peep into that nest full of little baby rabbits. Perhaps some day when you go to visit Grandma on the farm you will find a nest of baby rabbits. Oh, I hope you will, for it is a stunning sight.—In Exchange

A HELPER

On a recent dismal day Johnny, aged 6, and his mother were driving to town. He kept scrambling around, peering from the side window, from the back window, until his mother asked: "Johnny, what on earth are you doing?"

"Smiling," said Johnny.

"Well, couldn't you smile sitting down?" asked this mother.

"Then the people couldn't see," said Johnny.

He is no show-off, and his mother was mystified.

"I'm smiling at people who aren't in cars," he explained. "Because it's such a bad day I thought it might make them feel better."—Eleanor Clarage, Cleveland Plain-Dealer

"When you were hired," the woman told her maid, "you told me one reason you were such a good maid was that you never got tired. This is the 3rd afternoon I've come into the kitchen and found you asleep."

"Yes, ma'ma," agreed the maid cheerfully. "That's how I never get tired."—Santa Fe Mag. hm, Santa Fe Ry.

MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE WIND

By Kate W. Hamilton

"Oh, dear, what a wind!" said Jean, stepping outside the door and then drawing back a little. "I don't like to go to school in such a wind."

"Oh, yes you do!" laughed mother. "Brave-hearted boys and courageous girls like things that are hard. Any one can do easy things. Do you know what this March wind is saying?"

"No, what does it say?" asked Jean.

"It sounds to me as if it were laughing and saying: 'Now, I will make all weak, easily-troubled people stay indoors today, but the brave folks will come out and run a race with me. I will make their cheeks rosy, I will tumble their hair, and I will try to run away with their hats, then we shall see which is the stronger!'"

"I'm not afraid to race with the wind," said Jean, and bidding a hasty good-by, she was off. "I won't go down the road, but I'll go down the hill; then it will be a sure-enough race," she told herself.

Whe-cw, went the wind catching at her coat and sending around her a cloud of dry leaves that had held fast to the trees all winter, Whew!

"Blow away, Mr. March, I'm not afraid of you," laughed Jean, catching up a pretty little broken branch from the grass, and waving it as if it were a banner. "Why, I am one of your brave-hearted soldiers."

The spelling lesson was pretty hard that day, and Jean was almost ready to think she never could learn all those long words, and then as she heard the window near her rattle, she thought: "Hear that old wind! He is working as hard as ever, and I won't give up, either. I'll keep on belonging to his brave-hearted army."

But the hardest thing to do came a little later. The teacher thought that Jean had given a right answer

in some number work, but a moment later Jean knew that she had not. Should she tell? If she said nothing the lesson would be marked perfect. "But brave hearts must be honest hearts," thought Jean, and she told the truth.

"Thank you, Jean. An honorable girl is better than a perfect lesson," said the teacher.

"I think that March wind helped me all day long," said Jean to her mother that night.—The Sunbeam.

DON'T YOU AGREE?

*I was wearing my dress
Trimmed in ribbons and lace,
When Grandma said,
"Let me look at your face
And see if it's wearing
A smile or a frown—
Whether the lips are turned up
Or the corners pulled down;
For a lovely pink frock
Makes a better impression
If nicely matched up
With a pleasant expression."*

—Clarice Foster Booth,
Christian Advocate.

A HAPPY FAMILY

*What makes a happy family?
Listen and I will tell.
It's not your house, it's not your
clothes,
Nor the car you like so well.
Nor trips you take, nor the radio
Nor money you have to spend.
It's something better than all of
these
Something that will not end.
It's love of dad, who works so hard
To get the things you need.
It's mother, loving and helping you
By every kindly deed.
It's brother's love and sister's love,
And your love for each one
That makes the joy and happiness
When every day is done.*

—Susie Potter Hesse,
Storytime

JUST FOR FUN

"Doesn't your new baby brighten up the home?" asked the gushy neighbor.

"I should say so," replied the new father. "We have the lights on all night nowadays." — Northwestern Bell, hm, Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.

"I'm warning you!" said the exasperated piano teacher to his pupil. "If you don't behave yourself, I'll tell your parents you have talent!"—American Weekly.

Tardilius was always late, and always had a different excuse. One hour late a particular morning, the boss greeted him with, "Well, Tardilius, what's today story?"

"Well, sir," came the reply, "my little girl was afraid of the storm last night and turned the mirror on the mantelpiece round to the wall. When I came downstairs this morning, I couldn't see myself in the looking glass, and, naturally, I thought I'd gone to work."—Assembler, hm, Automotive Body Division, Chrysler Corp'n.



GOOD TIMES

*It's lots of fun on a winter day
To spend some time in the yard at play*

*All snugly dressed to keep out the cold,
And to hurry in as soon as I'm told.*

*These days are a happy part of the year,
But aren't you glad spring will soon be here?*

—A. E. W.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. EWING T. WAYLAND, Editor

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE TO HAVE GUEST SPEAKERS



MRS. C. A. MEEKER



MRS. W. E. HORTON, JR.

Guest speakers for the Fifteenth Annual meeting of the Louisiana Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service which will be held at First Methodist Church, Lake Charles, Lake Charles, March 16, 17 and 18 include Mrs. C. A. Meeker and Mrs. W. E. Horton, Jr.

Mrs. Meeker is the editor of *The Methodist Woman*, having served in this capacity since 1950. Prior to this she had served as a rural worker, Field Worker, under the Woman's Division, and editor of the *Woman's Home Mission*, publication of the Woman's Home Mission Society.

She will make three addresses at the meeting; on Thursday morning she will speak on "The Indispensable Woman"; Thursday afternoon on "Treasures For the Kingdom" and Thursday evening she will speak on "Certain Women".

Mrs. Meeker was a well-liked teacher and leader at the Jurisdiction School of Missions on Mt. Sequoyah in 1952, and Louisiana women will give her a warm greeting.

Mrs. W. E. Horton, Jr., will make her first official visit to the Louisiana Conference as President of the Jurisdiction Conference Woman's Society. She will address the meeting at the Fellowship Dinner on Wednesday evening on the subject "What Doth the Lord Require of Thee?"

Mrs. Horton is a native of Louisiana, but has lived in Houston, Texas, and has served the church there in many capacities. Before her election as Jurisdiction President in 1953, she served as vice-president, treasurer, and then president of the Texas Conference.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The John Wesley Sub-district W.S.C.S. met at the Princeton Church, February 15th, at 10:00 a. m., for their quarterly meeting. Included in this sub-district are the churches from the Dalark Circuit, Sparkman, and the Princeton Circuits. The ladies felt quite fortunate in having three visitors as their speakers for the day. Rev. R. O. Beck, from Gurdon, spoke in the morning hour on the "Family Life Conference" and his experiences there.

After their "potluck" dinner they heard talks concerning Arkansas Schools by Mr. Eckells and Robert Thomasson, county school supervisor.

Mrs. Alvin Stone, district president, presided at the meeting in the absence of the sub-district president. Thanks and appreciation were shared toward the Princeton Circuit for their hospitality and the ladies noted the date for the coming group ministry meeting to be held in Sparkman April 6, in order that they might make plans for their next sub-district meeting.

Miss Lassiter, rural worker, was given the opportunity to bring out a few points on the importance of the group ministry and her job as

worker with the people and not for them. Women from the Princeton Circuit and from Sparkman were well represented there for a day of sharing and becoming more aware of the responsibilities as members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.—Reporter

The Executive Committee of the Little Rock District Woman's Society of Christian Service met at St. Paul Methodist Church, Little Rock, February 18, 1955.

Mrs. Joe L. Simpson, president of the district presided. Mrs. J. Gordon Wilson led the devotional. Thirteen members were present.

The Committee recommended that the Visitation Campaign be continued until all societies in the District have been visited and that the campaign for District Members be stressed. A year's subscription to the *Methodist Woman* will be given each new District Member.

During the noon hour, the women of St. Paul Church served lunch.

Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, Conference President, and Mrs. Earl Cotton, Jurisdiction Secretary, were present.—Mrs. Guy Cazort

A program welcoming the 23 new members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service at First Church,

FINANCIAL REPORT—LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE W. S. C. S.—THIRD QUARTER, 1954-55

RECEIPTS:	
Balance Nov. 15th, 1954	\$13,336.56
Undirected Pledge to Missions:	
W.S.C.S.	\$13,336.56
W.S.G.	2,195.88
Projects:	
W.S.C.S.	957.62
W.S.G.	105.82
McKimmey Fund	428.55
Stahley Fund:	
W.S.C.S.	678.58
W.S.G.	16.00
Conference Rural:	
W.S.C.S.	369.62
W.S.G.	10.00
Special Memberships:	
Honorary Baby (15)	75.00
Adult Life:	
(13) W.S.C.S.	325.00
(2) W.S.G.	50.00
Memorial	100.00
In Remembrance Gifts:	
W.S.C.S.	77.50
W.S.G.	10.00
Methodist Urban Community Work	432.04
Credit on Pledge:	
W.S.C.S.	16,778.47
W.S.G.	2,387.70
TOTAL Credit on Pledge	
W.S.C.S. and W.S.G.	\$19,166.17
Youth Fund	636.18
Children's Service Fund	44.91
TOTAL on Appropriations	\$19,847.26
Cash for Supplies:	
W.S.C.S.	1,022.69
W.S.G.	236.12
Supplementary Gifts:	
W.S.G.	2.50
Cultivation Fund:	
W.S.C.S.	388.88
W.S.G.	34.05
Week of Prayer:	
W.S.C.S.	1,480.75
W.S.G.	294.75
Student Loan Fund	14.50
Alcohol Education Fund	175.95
E.T.W. Fund:	
W.S.C.S.	408.00
W.S.G.	3.00
Other Receipts	10.55
TOTAL Receipts:	
W.S.C.S.	\$20,960.88
W.S.G.	2,958.12
TOTAL Receipts from Districts	\$23,919.00
OTHER RECEIPTS:	
Ark.-Okla. Rural Work	150.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$24,069.00
Add Balance	\$35,723.17
C.S.R. and L.C.A. reported	\$12,068.56
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Pledge to Missions:	
W.S.C.S.	\$12,130.60
W.S.G.	2,125.99
Projects:	
W.S.C.S.	2,669.00
W.S.G.	105.82
Special Memberships:	
W.S.C.S.	525.00
W.S.G.	50.00

In Remembrance Fund:	
W.S.C.S.	77.50
W.S.G.	10.00
TOTAL Credit on Pledge:	
W.S.C.S.	\$15,404.10
W.S.G.	2,291.81
TOTAL Credit Pledge	\$17,693.91
Youth Fund	636.18
Children's Service Fund	44.91
TOTAL on Appropriations	\$18,375.00
Week of Prayer	\$1,775.50
Cash for Supplies:	
Home	199.06
Foreign	1,659.75
Supplementary	2.50
TOTAL to Division	\$21,411.81
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS:	
Administrative Expense	125.20
Rural Work	690.50
Cultivation Fund:	
W.S.C.S.	388.88
W.S.G.	34.05
Alcohol Education	175.95
Student Loan	14.50
E.T.W. Fund	12.00
Safety Box Rent	6.60
Dues—Jur. Deaconess Association	4.00
Ark. Asso. United Nations	50.00
Miscellaneous	21.85
TOTAL	\$22,845.34
Balance Feb. 15th, 1955	\$12,877.83

MRS. C. I. PARSONS, Conference Treasurer

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

ARCADEPHIA DISTRICT: Adult Life: Mrs. Charles Horne, Keith Memorial; Mrs. Irl S. Lancaster, Malvern.

CAMDEN DISTRICT: Honorary Baby: Randy Craig Braswell, Marysville, Harry Winsley Marshall, William Byron Whitley, Pamela Lucinda Wellbourn, Jackson St. Adult Life: Miss Rema Hutchinson, Miss Elizabeth Copeland, Camden First W.S.G.; Mrs. Flora Proffitt, Parkers Chapel.

HOPE DISTRICT: Honorary Baby: Phoebe Ruth Hambright, Prescott. Adult Life: Mrs. Leon Williams, Hope.

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT: Honorary Baby: Cheryl Joy Heiss, Carlisle. Adult Life: Mrs. Noel Cross, Mrs. H. M. Davis, Twenty-Eighth Street; Mrs. E. A. Ashcraft, Mrs. Artho Poe, Mrs. Mattie Parker, Hunter; Mrs. Maurine Page, Oak Forest.

MONTICELLO DISTRICT: Honorary Baby: Billie Rae Singleton, Janet Dennington, Dermott; Robert Britton Barnes, Jessica Ann Barnes, Patricia Ann Barnes, James Willard Nutter, Hamburg. Adult Life: Mrs. W. A. Laster, Dermott; Mrs. O. D. Chambliss, Fordyce.

PINE BLUFF DISTRICT: Honorary Baby: Deborah Gay Phelps, Brenda Eileen Phelps, Lodges Corner; Lorita Lou Patton, Whitehall. Adult Life: Mrs. Paul Wessels, Grand Ave., Stuttgart; Mrs. C. M. Flynn, England. Honorary Life: Mrs. G. M. Seawell, Carr.

Camden, was held February 7. Mrs. Paul Edwards brought a timely devotional "Breaking New Seas". The ladies were introduced and given a warm welcome into the group, after which a tiny nosegay of spring flowers was pinned on each.

At the meeting February 14, Mrs. Don Harrell brought the opening prayer and Mrs. W. J. Lester presented the Meditation, which appeared in the January *Methodist Woman*. Miss Mary Lou Henry, Minister of Music for the church sang "Lord, Have I Done My Best For Thee". Guest speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. R. H. Cole, Magnolia, who is Promotion Secretary for the Little Rock Conference. Following the meeting a Valentine Tea was held in the church parlor. Mrs. Nelson Thornton, president, was at the punch bowl, with Mrs. A. R. Condray and Mrs. Laura Fooks assisting. A Valentine gift was presented to Mrs. Cole by the Society.

The Stanford Society met February 17 in the home of Mrs. Earl Gramling, with Mrs. Leon Wilson, president, presiding over the business. Mrs. H. G. Gregory gave the devotional assisted by Mrs. George Hunt and Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. B. A. Robb led the program, assisted by Mrs. Lester Grooms and Mrs. Gramling.

Nine members, and one new

member, Mrs. Mic Gramling, were present.—Mrs. Earl Gramling

Mrs. Walter Birch, Mrs. Gordon Morgan, Mrs. A. C. Hale, Mrs. M. E. Scott and Mrs. Birdie Myers met with the ladies of the Strong Methodist Church on February 16 to organize a Wesleyan Service Guild.

Mrs. Jack Lockeby was elected president; Mrs. Barbare Cook, vice-president; Mrs. John Nunnally, secretary; Mrs. Opal Finney, promotion; Mrs. J. C. Burgess, treasurer; and Mrs. Gertha Duck, coordinator. Officers were installed by Mrs. Morgan in a candlelight service.—Mrs. John Nunnally

The W. S. C. S. of Winfield Methodist Church entertained with a "Treasure Hunt" and Valentine Tea, February 14th, honoring the thirty-five new members gained during the treasure hunt. Also honored were members of Circles who had been in Circle work forty-five years or more. There were twenty-four members so honored.

Mrs. Rex Hayes was general chairman of the arrangements committee. Mrs. Wylie Hall, Mrs. Currey Bishop and Mrs. Cecil Harder were members of the decorations committee. Music for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Henry Dewey, Mrs. Tom Buzbee, Mrs. I. J. Steed

(Continued on page 14)

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT EMMET

Emmet Methodist Church will have its Centennial Celebration March 7th through 13th. Former pastors are scheduled to speak each evening during the week. The celebration will be climaxed on Sunday, March 13, when Bishop Paul E. Martin will bring the message at 11:00 o'clock. There will be an old fashioned dinner on the ground at the noon hour. All former pastors, members and friends are invited to attend these services.

Methodism was organized in Emmet in 1855 when Dan Tyree, Dr. John E. Snell, Jim Vickers, Crawford Andrews, Ambrose McCollum and others erected a log house for church and school purposes. In the winter of 1879-80, Rev. Thomas Sage, a local preacher and the father

of the late Jesse A. Sage, moved to Emmet. He soon began to agitate the building of a Methodist Church in Emmet. Dr. John E. Snell and others were of the same mind. Dr. Snell gave the land and much of the material used in the building. In 1891, under the leadership of Rev. George E. Sexton, a larger building replaced the old one. In 1918, with Rev. F. C. Cannon as pastor, a beautiful brick building replaced the frame structure. During the past year this building has been repaired and redecorated at a cost of \$7,000.

The people of Emmet are looking forward to having their former pastors and friends with them for this occasion.—Joe W. Hunter, Pastor

AT GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY AT MARKED TREE



Participating in Golden Anniversary of First Methodist Church in Marked Tree, l. to r.: Rev. E. J. Holifield, District Superintendent, Jonesboro District, Rev. John A. Womack, former pastor, Bishop Paul E. Martin and Rev. Martin A. Bierbaum, Pastor.

DR. PETTY ADDRESSES MEN'S BROTHERHOOD AT STAR CITY

"Jesus was the greatest physician of all time" Dr. Richard C. Petty told the inter-denominational Men's Brotherhood in a meeting at The Methodist Church in Star City.

Dr. Petty is a local physician. He addressed the group at a supper meeting on the theme, "Religion and Health." Dr. Petty is a Baptist. He was introduced by program Chairman, Wilbur Tarver, Methodist. Allen Tarver, president of the Brotherhood is a Presbyterian.

Dr. Petty's address emphasized the close relationship between good living and good health. He stated that "fifty to seventy-five percent of patients have some type of emotional upset." These, he said, cause most of our ills. Dr. Petty says that a healthy mind usually means a healthy body. The remedy suggested by this physician was "faith in Jesus Christ," which can calm our fears and give us a healthy mind.—Phil E. Pierce, Methodist Pastor

PASTORS MEET WITH NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The pastors of the Conway District held their first meeting with their new District Superintendent, Rev. Henry A. Rickey, in First Church, Conway, February 17th. Every man, but one, was present, or accounted for.

Dr. Lud Estes and Harold Treash spoke of the current drive for the Methodist Hospital Development Fund. The following charges have accepted their quotas, 100%:

Conway, First, Conway, Wesley Memorial, Danville, Dover-London, Naylor, Gardner Memorial, Washington Avenue, Sylvan Hills, Rose City, Ola, Pope County, Pottsville, Russellville, Salem, and Waltreak.

One circuit, Morrilton No. 1, Will Yarbrough, pastor, pledged an amount equal to 250% of its quota. It is believed that when all the reports are in, the District will have accepted its full share for the Hospital campaign.

After careful consideration of the spring calendar of activities in the Methodist Church, and a devotional conducted by the new district leader, the group adjourned to the district parsonage, where the wives

1ST CHURCH, CLARKSVILLE TO BUILD NEW SANCTUARY

Last week, in a special session of their Quarterly Conference, called by the District Superintendent, Dr. W. Henry Goodloe, building committee was named for the construction of a \$100,000 sanctuary to go with the \$225,000 educational building recently constructed.

An executive committee was named from the building committee. Also a building fund committee was named. The congregation voted last January to build the new sanctuary and the action of this called session of the Quarterly Conference was in keeping with plans in mind at that time.

The new sanctuary, with an architectural design to match the new Educational Building will have approximately 3,800 feet of floor space.—Reporter

MRS. RHEA HONORED AT WALDO

The members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Waldo Methodist Church entertained with a six o'clock dinner, honoring Mrs. J. W. Rhea who is moving from Waldo to Magnolia.

Mrs. Rhea has been a member of the Waldo Church since 1919. She has served in many capacities. Among other services she has rendered, she has been a member of the choir, for ten years she was our pianist, she was president of the W. S. C. S. for four years.

Rev. W. B. Savage, pastor at Waldo, was master of ceremonies. Sharing honors with Mrs. Rhea were her daughter, Mrs. John Colquitt, Mr. Colquitt and their little daughter Ann of Magnolia.

Beautiful gifts were presented to the honoree, Mrs. Otis Fincher and Mrs. W. F. Crawford making the presentations. They recalled some of the many outstanding services Mrs. Rhea has rendered, not only to the church, but to the community as a whole.

Mrs. T. H. Jones was general chairman of the affair. Miss Ruby Cook directed group singing. Approximately one hundred attended. The reception rooms of the church were bright with spring flowers.—Reporter

had been meeting, for a social hour, with Mrs. Rickey, as hostess.

HARTMAN CIRCUIT CHURCHES JOIN IN RALLY

The Methodist Churches of the Hartman Circuit, Hartman, Spadra, Hay's Chapel and Mt. Zion—joined together in a church-wide "God Is Our Strength" Rally, at Hartman on Sunday, January 30, at the evening worship hour. Dr. W. Henry Goodloe, district superintendent of the Ft. Smith District was the speaker.

There were 250 or more present for the occasion. Special music was provided by the Triple Trio of the Hartman High School. Other lay people from the four churches and the pastor, Rev. Aaron F. Barling, participated in the services.

Each of the churches has shown a decided increase in attendance in Church School and in the worship services. During February each church will begin Prayer Cells, and will join in the Methodist Prayer Vigil for special periods of prayer in the churches. — Reporter.

FIRST SEMESTER DEAN'S LIST

Forty Hendrix students have won a place on the Dean's List for the first semester, according to Dean W. C. Buthman. Requirements for the list include making at least a B-plus average on all work taken during the semester.

Four of the group made an A average, the highest possible, on all work taken, Dean Buthman said. They are Thomas Cook of Ft. Smith, Steve Hill of Blytheville, Dennis Lucy of Little Rock, and Hornor Lyford of Conway.

Also winning a place on the list are: Ruth Anderson, Conway; Jim Armstrong, Little Rock; Mansel Baker, El Dorado; Jeanne Ballew, Jonesboro; Judy Briant, Ashdown; Jim Browne, Conway; Bill Cazer, Carlisle; Bob Clark, Conway; Mrs. Susie Lane Coleman, Conway; Sue Fulmer, Conway; Louie Galloway, Pine Bluff; Pat Hassell, Conway; Bobby Lee Hill, Blytheville; Ben Hogan, Cato; Betty Jane Johnson, Green Forest; George Kamp, Conway; Anne McCoy, Sheridan; Sylvia Millwee, Little Rock; Ernest Nipper, Camden; Marcia Nutt,

CHURCH AND PARSONAGE REDONE AT LOUANN

Louann Charge has done quite a bit of repair since last summer. The Louann Church was redecorated throughout, walls and floor were painted and varnished, new wool carpet in aisle and alter, new windows. All of this added to the entire church. A beautiful pulpit scarf was given the church as a gift from a young woman reared here but who now lives in Texas.

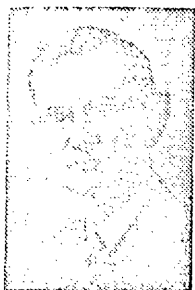
In late fall, a committee was appointed from the three churches on the charge to redecorate the parsonage. Louann church: Mrs. Henry Evans and Mrs. H. G. Harwell; Liberty: Mrs. Ivan Smith and Mrs. Mae Branton; Silver Hill: Mrs. Arthur Smith and Mr. and Mrs. William Watson.

First the parsonage was leveled up and some new foundation added. The living and dining room was finished with John Manville Celotex Wall Panels, the ceiling of Fibritex. The other rooms were papered. New rugs for living and dining room add much to the looks and comfort. A new water heater was installed and a back porch was added. Most of the work was donated for both projects. "FOR THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK."

The parsonage family wishes to thank the committee for its untiring efforts toward making the church and parsonage so comfortable and liveable. We especially thank the people who helped with the work and each one who contributed in any way toward these two much needed projects.—G. B. Pixley, Pastor

Washington, D. C.; Nelda Peeples, Jacksonville, Tex.; L. M. Phillips, North Little Rock; John Pike, DeWitt; Robert Rorex, El Dorado; Sherry Sager, Gillett, David Schallborn, DeWitt; Carl Slaughter, Little Rock; Joe Stroud, McGehee; Norman Totten, Benton; John Trieschmann, Little Rock; Thomas Trussell, Fordyce; Mildred Walton, Little Rock; Jim Westbrook, Camden; Marthell Williams, Helena; and Bill Womack, McCrory.—Chris Holmes

Saw



A Cross Road

By
Rev. R. A. Teeter

and stopped to consider which way to go. John Randolph, famous Virginian of the Revolution, lodged at an inn on a road intersection. When he checked out his host asked: "Where are you going?" Randolph replied: "I don't owe you anything more do I?" "No, sir." "Well, I'm going where I please." Mounting his horse he look puzzled and turned to the inn-keeper: "Which road should I take to Lewisburg." And got the answer: "Mr. Randolph, you don't owe me a cent. Take whichever road you please." Well, there is not a public directory at every crossroads of life. We may need help sometimes from the

fellow who doesn't owe us anything, even if he does seem a bit curious about our affairs. Crossroads are often confusing and may lead to disaster. St. Paul's ship was wrecked where "two seas met." It rode out fourteen days of storm when the way was clear, but a few moments of cross currents destroyed it.

We can't stand long at the cross road. Life is moving too fast for that. We've got to take one way or the other. Cross currents are crushing.

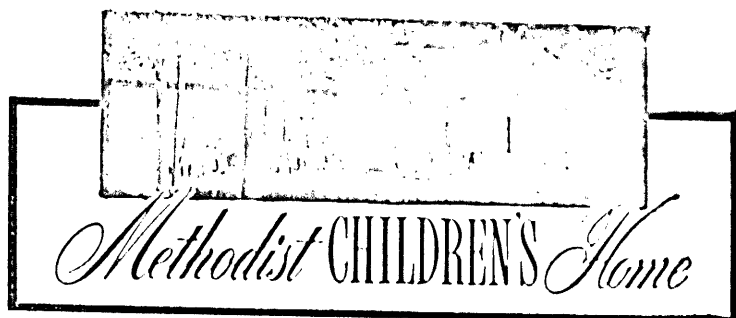
A donkey stood at the street intersection of a Jewish village. It could have gone off to carry the baggage of a Roman soldier. It could have just stood there. It did neither. It was led away to become the mount of Jesus of Nazareth. Thereby it became the most useful and the most famous donkey that ever lived.

We all come to crossroads. We can't just stand there. We shouldn't wait to be led away like a donkey. We've got to choose. And we may need help. We had better not act so proud or so smart that we can't get it in the crisis.

Meeting Commission On World Service And Finance North Arkansas Conference



Left to right: Elmo Thomason, Walnut Ridge, secretary; Harold Eggersperger, Blytheville, chairman; and Alf Eason, Russellville, chairman of the Board of Conference Claimants is shown reporting.



REPORT FOR JANUARY, 1955

We want to express our sincere thanks to the groups and participants listed below who have rendered a service or presented gifts to the Home in January.

The Fidelity Class, Gardner Memorial Methodist Church, N. L. R. toys and assorted gifts

Mulberry Methodist W. S. C. S. linen, towels, and dresser scarfs

Walter Tanner, Little Rock - Christmas cards and nuts

Mrs. J. L. Harrell, Little Rock - clothing

Clay Smith, Little Rock - meats

R. E. Palmer, Holly Grove - socks

Centerton Methodist Church - assorted gifts

Jimmy Peavy, Pine Bluff - bicycle

Damascus Methodist W. S. C. S. towels, and assorted gifts

Primary Department of Dermott Methodist Church - mittens

Iris Belcher, Little Rock - tickets for American Indian Review

Knight Cashion, Little Rock - tickets for American Indian Review

Junior Department, Grand Avenue Methodist Church, Hot Springs - linen

Chas. R. Baber, Veterans Hospital, North Little Rock - gum

Sam A. Sanders, Little Rock - money

Mrs. W. T. Meyers, El Dorado - toys

Circle No. 10, First Methodist Church, Pine Bluff - pictures, vases, rugs and assorted gifts

Children's Division of Corning Methodist Church - food and assorted gifts

1117 Battery, Little Rock - tickets for the American Indian Review

Bruce H. Anderson, Little Rock - tickets for the American Indian Review

The Marvin R. Kestner Family, Almyra - clothing

Blanche W. McClelland, Wilford - clothing

Mrs. P. J. Garot, Hot Springs - cards

Circle No. 6, Winfield Methodist Church - glasses

Siloam Springs Methodist Church - linen

Seas, Roebuck and Co., Little Rock - shoes

J. Lester Booker Company, Little Rock - tickets for the American Indian Review

Dr. C. B. Bradburn, Little Rock - tickets for the American Indian Review

Cordell's Exclusive Fine Foods, Little Rock - tickets for the American Indian Review

Friendship Class, Winfield Methodist Ch., Little Rock - birthday gifts

MEMORIALS FOR JANUARY

IN MEMORY OF:

Mrs. Floyd Richard by St. Paul Methodist Church, Little Rock

Mrs. Claude Hornberger by Arnes Williamson

Jess Boyd by Fidelis S. S. Class of Church of Dumas

Dr. Gibbs Briscoe by Burt Pickens, Jr., Memorial Methodist Church of Dumas

Mrs. Richards, mother of Rev. Charles Richard by Mrs. M. L. Socks and Mrs. Eddy Weintraub

Ether Francis Findley by Mrs. Esther Sanders

Dr. Warren Johnston by Paul and Verna Mardis

R. R. Chamberlain by Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Harris

Mrs. Sallie J. King by Mrs. I. C. Moore and Miss Berce Deaton

Mrs. Tom Love by Mrs. Mary Mae Nobles

Mrs. A. M. Crumpler by Elmer Archer and Alice Monroe

Mrs. Fred Mader by Reformation Department, McGeece Methodist Church

Mrs. W. D. Winfield by Mrs. Lucy G. Gentry Wharton

H. B. McKee by the W. S. C. S. and Mrs. Gentry's Class of the Arkansas Methodist Church

Mrs. Richard by Mrs. Willie H. Harrell

Mrs. L. L. Brown, Sr. by Mrs. C. H. Goodman and Elizabeth, Mrs. C. H. Clyde E. Reid and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones

W. R. Honey by John and Esther Honey, Edna B. Macanahan and S. J. and Kit and Thelma Macanahan

Hugh T. Roy by Mr. and Mrs. M. I. Teague

Mrs. Lillian Harrell by Mothers' Class of Heber Springs Methodist Church

Mrs. H. R. Massey by Circle No. 5, W. S. C. S. of the Forest City Methodist Church

Mrs. Russell Clemens by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fann

Mrs. Mary Macgibbon by Mrs. L. J. Polk and Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred D. Polk

Mrs. Russell Clemens by Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Richardson

J. W. James by Esther Mae and Ames Walker

Mrs. Doris Bell Duncan by Esther Mae and Ames Walker

Rev. G. C. Johnson by Esther Mae and Ames Walker

Mr. McCright by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stokes

Mrs. Neathery's brother by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stokes

Rev. Grover C. Johnson by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stokes

Dick Marron, Edgar by Kate Campbell Class, Augusta Methodist Church

Rev. Grover Johnson by Marion W. C. Rev. Grover C. Johnson by Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Jones

M. H. Newsome by Mr. and Mrs. James C. Perry

Rev. Grover Johnson by Marion Methodist W. S. C. S.

Rev. Grover C. Johnson by Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Feltman

Mrs. Stella Ware by Mrs. Irene E. Stokes

Ford Turner by Marion Methodist Bible Class

Ford Turner by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Coleman and family

Ford Turner by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Nance

Ford Turner by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Longkin and Lillian Longkin

Ford Turner by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ford

Ford Turner by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Ford

Ford Turner by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Rodgers

Ford Turner by Ford Turner Methodist S. S. Class

Mark McAfee by Vandyke W. S. S.

Mrs. Dan May by The late W. S. S.

Total Memorial—\$27.00

—T. M. McNEAL, Director

AREA CIRCULATION CAMPAIGN SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT NO. 3 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26TH

ARKANSAS METHODIST Little Rock Conference

Charge and Pastor	New	Re-new.	Total
ARCADEPHIA DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1334**			
Hot Springs, Oaklawn-Morning Star, Harry Weed	7	3	57
Malvern, Keith Memorial, Irl S. Lancaster	1		50**
Sparkman, Orrie Thompson	1		42**
CAMDEN DISTRICT			
Present District Total—2525**			
Camden, First Ch., R. B. Moore	1	1	107
Holly Springs Ct., James Ford	1		30*
Junction City, D. L. McCauley	1	1	56**
HOPE DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1401			
Emmett Ct., Joe W. Hunter	1	1	78**
Texarkana, First Ch., Wm. E. Brown	1	1	175**
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT			
Present District Total—2741**			
Douglasville, W. H. Sanders	1	1	28
LITTLE ROCK			
Asbury, Elmer L. Thomas	5	1	161
Hunter Memorial, Fred L. Arnold	1	1	72
Winfield, Fred R. Harrison	1	1	112
MONTICELLO DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1357**			
Hampton-Harrell, G. W. Warren	1	1	70**
Lake Village, Everett M. Vinson	1		38**
Wilmar Ct., J. Frank Walker	4	1	24
PINE BLUFF DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1611**			
Alzheimer-Wabbaseka, Harold Scott	1	1	54**

Charge and Pastor	New	Re-new.	Total
North Arkansas Conference			
BATESVILLE DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1044**			
Bethesda-Cushman, T. B. Parmenter	2		29
Newport, Umsted Memorial, M. L. Kaylor	1		50**
CONWAY DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1591**			
Perry County Ct., Robert Harris	4		13
Pottsville, Wm. C. Hightower	1		23
Vilonia Ct., Joe Linam	2		22**
FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1175			
Bentonville, Hubert Pearce	2	5	89
Fayetteville, Central, Robert E. L. Beardon	1	1	164
Wiggins Memorial, Arnold Simpson	1		42**
Madison County No. 1, Thomas Whiddon	1		39**
Prairie Grove, Glenn Bruner	2		85*2
Springdale, George Ivey	1	1	110**
FORREST CITY DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1329**			
FT. SMITH DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1812			
Ft. Smith, Goddard Memorial, Alfred Knox	1	1	125
Hartman Ct., Aaron Barling	2		60
Waldon Ct., Waymon Keel	1	1	12
JONESBORO DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1635**			
Blytheville, First Ch., H. Eggersperger	2		150
Jonesboro, Huntington Ave., J. H. Holt	1	1	103*2
PARAGOULD DISTRICT			
Present District Total—973			
Boydsville, Gus Evans	1	1	17
Hardy, Geo. L. McGehey	1		33**
Paragould, First Ch., S. B. Wilford	1	4	98
Piggott, Floyd Vlines, Jr.	1		98**
Rector Circuit, Dave Smitherman	5		19

Charge and Pastor	New	Re-new.	Total
Walnut Ridge, Elmo Thomason			
SEARCY DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1468**			
DeView Ct., Eugene Seemakers	1		27
Jacksonville, Harold Sprague	1		19*2
THE LOUISIANA METHODIST			
ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1047			
Alexandria, First Ch., J. H. Brown	1		90
BATON ROUGE DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1524			
Denham Springs, Fred Schenckmann	2	1	62**
Livingston Ct., A. D. George	2	1	17
Ponchatoula, Wilson Watson	2		16**
LAFAYETTE DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1045**			
LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT			
Present District Total—855			
Raymond, Clarence B. Krumm	1		24
Sulphur, James C. Whitaker	2		21
MONROE DISTRICT			
Present District Total—2049			
Monroe, First Ch., H. L. Johns	2		210**
Rayville-Holly Ridge, John F. Kilpatrick	1		70**
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT			
Present District Total—933			
New Orleans, Carrollton Ave., Luman E. Douglas	4		59
RUSTON DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1660**			
SHREVEPORT DISTRICT			
Present District Total—1435			
Bossier City, First Ch., A. M. Brown	2		24
Mansfield, Merlin W. Merrill	1	1	10**
SHREVEPORT			
First Church, D. L. Dykes	3		125
Mangum Memorial, Ira W. Flowers	1		73
Noel Memorial, John J. Rasmussen	2		155
Wynne Memorial, K. G. Rorie	1		62**

MARCH 3, 1955

Page Thirteen

METHODIST YOUTH

RICE BELT SUB-DISTRICT BANQUET



The above picture is the WSCS members of the Almyra Methodist Church who served the Rice Belt Sub-District MYF banquet, February 14. All the waiters dressed in similar costumes of the women of India. Reading from left to right, front row, Mrs. Wadene Hilliard, Mrs. Sadie Stephens, Mrs. Aline Bennett; back row, Mrs. Virginia Bennett, Mrs. Florence Knoll, Mrs. Edna Neukam and Mrs. Rosalene Bracewell.

Sixty-seven youth and adults were present for the annual banquet of the Rice Belt Sub-District MYF. This year Almyra Church was host to the event held Monday night February 14th.

The theme was "India." Most of the girls, and the seven Woman's Society of Christian Service members who served, were dressed in costumes similar to the clothing of the women of India.

The Gillett MYF provided the entertainment. Shirley Holloway sang "The Shoemaker." The Girls' Ensemble of Gillett High School, composed of Hazel Holzhauser, Helen Holzhauser, Fern Lehmann, Beverly Dake, Annetta Robinson, Margrite Robinson, Marlyn Johnson, Priscilla Lowe, Shirley Holloway, Alien McGraw and Lynette Gordon, sang a number. Mrs. Josephine Oehlsch-larger is the director and Miss Stover accompanied the group. Joe Lee Whiting and Jimmy Eichely told a folk story from the legends of India.

The DeWitt MYF furnished the

place cards which were paper designs of an ox pulling a cart. The MYF's of First Church and Grand Avenue Church of Stuttgart decorated the tables.

Linda Hargrove, Dixie Hillman, Sherry Kennedy and Don Riggin of the Lodges Corner MYF led the worship service; and Mrs. Bill Burkett gave the closing meditation. The attention of those present was focused up on Cross of Christ as being the answer for India and her problems. A review of the last ten years in the history of India was given. A letter from Wanda Stahley, a missionary in India from Stuttgart, was read. She told of the conflict between Christianity and Communism; and she asked for our prayers. Miss Stahley had sent to Stuttgart a beautiful sari, which is the chief garment of the women of India; it was worn by Mrs. C. E. Hillman to help create the worship center for the closing service. She stood facing the Cross which was placed in front of a world globe.

M. Y. F. AIDS BUILDING FUND

The MYF of Bethel Church, near Sheridan, held a very successful supper in the church on January 29 in their program to raise funds toward their pledge on the newly - constructed addition at the church. More than 150 church members and visitors were served.

Women of the church contributed the food and prepared and served the dinner.

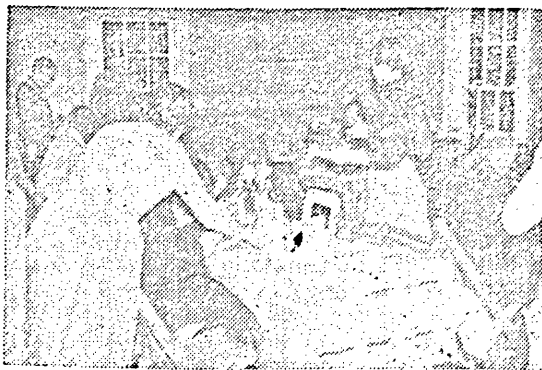
The proceeds from the supper will help pay construction costs of the congregation's recently completed extension. The supper was the first event to be held in the new addition.

President of the youth group is William Dorsey. Sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Clark and Mr. and

Mrs. James Clark.

New construction consists of the addition of two large Sunday School rooms at the rear of the sanctuary and a basement providing kitchen and recreational facilities.

The pastor of Bethel Church is Rev. Ernest Nipper.—Reporter



SWEETHEART BANQUET AT JENNINGS

THE Second Annual Sweetheart Banquet of the Rice-land Sub-District was held Saturday, Feb. 12th, in Jennings with the local MYF as host. The Valentine motif was used throughout.

Each church entered a candidate to be selected as Queen. Frankie Guillott of Jennings was chosen by the judges. She then named Joe Van Ness of Welsh to reign as her king.

Marsha Ewalt acted as mistress of ceremonies, while Nancy Moore, President, delivered the welcoming address.

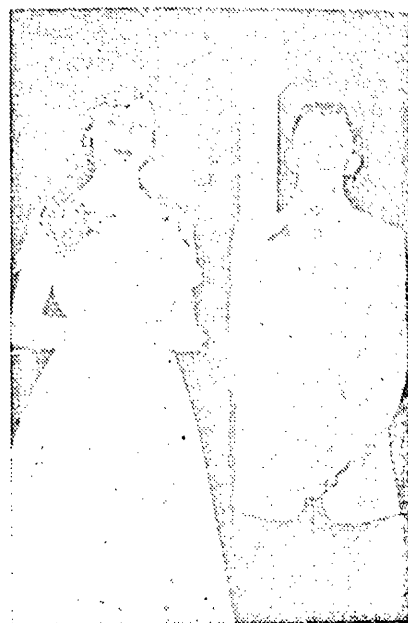
After the invocation by Rev. Ned Stout of Eunice every one enjoyed a meal prepared and served by a committee of women from the WSCS.

The program included group singing, a story by Rev. Robert Crichlow of Jennings; Ministers' Quartet composed of the Reverends Cooke, Stout, Winegeart and Crichlow.

Mr. Winegeart of Lake Arthur was the inspirational speaker, bringing a stirring message on "Stairways."

The laugh list of the evening was a womenless wedding staged by the Jennings MYF boys.

Mrs. Kathleen Maier of Stuttgart is the adult counselor for the Sub-



Frankie Guillott and Joe Van Ness

District Reporter.

About eighty persons attended despite flood, freeze and three basketball tournaments within the area.

Churches represented were Raymond, Lake Arthur, Welsh, Eunice and Jennings. — Myrtle Phelps, Secretary, Riceland Sub-District.

GORDON AVENUE CHURCH OBSERVES YOUTH WEEK

The young people of the Gordon Avenue Methodist Church, Monroe, presented a challenge to the adult members during Youth Week.

In connection with the Attendance Crusade, the young people assumed the responsibility Sunday, January 30, of seeing that the church was filled to capacity.

Wednesday evening, February 2, Dale Fleming led the mid-week prayer service, which was most inspirational.

Sunday evening, February 6, the entire worship service was turned over to the young people. This service opened with congregational singing, directed by Jimmy Branch with Elaine Hesketh at the organ, after which Jo Ann Gibson led in prayer. Members of Youth Choir: Jimmy Branch, Travis Brown, Wade Brown, Dennis Fields, Leon Osterland, Ray White, Larry Stephens, Ronny Stark, Carroll Peters, Melvin Peters, Kay Cantrell, Dale Fleming, Carolyn Fleming, Barbara Elliott, Sue Elliott, and Jo Ann Gibson, sang a special number. This is one of the outstanding choirs in this section. The scripture lesson was read by Sue Elliott. At this time all of the lights were turned off with the exception of the light reflecting directly on the picture of Christ and the light on the pulpit. In this quiet atmosphere where one could feel the very presence of God, Carolyn Fleming brought one of the most challenging messages ever heard by members of this church. She said in part: "Why should we be afraid to face life with all of its temptations, trials, and conflicts when we have God by our side at all times. He is there whether we want him or not."

It is a challenge to adults to listen to our youth of today bearing and the Young Matron's Circle No. 11.

The tea table and general decorations carried out the valentine motif. witness to their steadfast faith in

God. Churches with young people like those found at Gordon Avenue will move forward.—Mrs. Pearl K. Morgan

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from page 11)

and Mrs. Gilbert Hyde.

Receiving were Mrs. Eugene Stewart, President of the W.S.C.S. and Mrs. Fred Harrison, wife of the pastor.

Mrs. Wayne Bowen and Mrs. Jeff Smith were in charge of the guest book.

Serving at the tea table were Mrs. C. C. Reed, Sr., Mrs. R. D. Ginnocchio, Mrs. E. C. Reed, Mrs. James S. Goff, Mrs. O. A. Thompson, Mrs. E. N. Markham, Mrs. Roy Paschal and Mrs. W. R. Olsen.

Mrs. Robert Isaacson was chairman of the hostesses. Assisting her were Young Matron's Circle No. 12

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CINCINNATI YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

The Cincinnati Youth Fellowship was reorganized in Sept. of 1954 to stimulate more interest in church work for the youth of the community. The original membership was ten. Now there is a average attendance of 25.

The first group activity was the sale of Christmas cards, which enabled them to start a treasury.

The second group project was the purchase of a communion table, cross, and candle holders for a church worship center.

Much time after Thanksgiving was devoted to the many Christmas activities of which the group had charge. The busy weekend began Thursday evening, December 23, when the group delivered Christmas baskets to the older people and shut-ins in the community. The baskets had been prepared by the Cincinnati H-D Club. The youth delivered the basket and sang carols.

On the afternoon of December 24, the young people met to decorate the church Christmas tree. They had previously spent quite a few evenings practicing the program which they had planned for that night.

Since Christmas, different members of the Cincinnati Fellowship have shown their willingness to assist in the church worship services at any time. Different ones have commented that a large part of the attendance at all our church worship services are the community youth. These young people comprise the choir with willingness and sincerity at all times.

Rev. Charles Miller is pastor.—Glenita Randolph, Reporter

WITH THE SUB-DISTRICTS Alexandria

The Alexandria Sub-District met on Monday night, February 14, at Lecompte.

Glenora was in charge of the area program and Lecompte presented the worship program. After the business meeting, recreation and refreshments were enjoyed.

Lecompte won the MYF banner for having the largest number present with 29. Total attendance was 135.

The next meeting will be held April 4 at Oakdale.—Reporter.

Mississippi County

The Mississippi County Sub-District met at the Blytheville Lake Street Church on February 14. Rev. Byron McSpadden of Corning opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. McSpadden and his family were special out-of-town guests. Total attendance was 86.

Lynn McSpadden led the discussion on "Alcohol." Roger Sudbury and Bill Hardy, both of Blytheville, led in recreation. Refreshments were served by the Lake Street Methodist Church.

Noble Gill, Jr., of Dell, spoke on "Are You Able?" during the worship service. The service was closed with prayer time at the altar and the MYF benediction.—Betty Johnson.

Union County

The Union County Sub-District met on January 7 at Parkers Chapel.

The program on Vocations was headed by Mrs. Harvey Couch, who

A YOUTH TRIAL

Climaxing National Youth Week the UCYM Council of Forrest City, sponsored a "Mock Youth Trial", held in the sanctuary of the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Four youth, Jimmy Curtis, Elaine Smith, Linda Carroll and Paul Williams, were charged with burglary and petty larceny. Well known local lawyers, Judge O. H. Hargraves, prosecuting attorney Fletcher Long, defense attorney Knox Kinney, added to the dramatic realism of the trial. Youth of the various churches made up the jury and other youth acted as court officials.

The unfolding story of delinquency took shape in the words of the witnesses, some youth and some adult friends of youth. An unhealthy story of too little adult supervision, too little responsibility, and too little to do resulted in the youth breaking into a service station.

The youth jury brought in a verdict of guilty and fixed the sentence at two years in the state reformatory, "which sentence shall be suspended upon their continued good behavior." The jury went on to recommend leniency "since it is felt that the basic fault stems from lack of adequate supervision and recreational facilities for youth in this community". Additional recommendations from the jury included the suggestion that a Youth Center be established here. Judge O. H. Hargraves admonished the defendants that "each man must ultimately answer for his own acts, and

talked on Church Work; Mrs. Horace Williamson, School Teaching; Mrs. Charles Ashcraft, Home-making and Social Work and Rev. Charles Ashcraft, The Ministry.

After a worship service, the group met in fellowship hall for refreshments.—Carolyn Jones.

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that, although the delinquency of any youth is a reflection on the community as a whole, that responsibility rests with the persons willfully committing such acts."—Reporter

ALASKA TO HAVE METHODIST WORK CAMP

(Continued from page 7)

ust 9. Campers will assemble in Seattle, Washington, for briefing and orientation and fly from Seattle to Juneau.

Students in Washington State should send applications to the Rev. Clifford Knight, 814 Republic Building, Seattle 1, Washington. Others should send their applications to the Rev. R. C. Singleton, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

Other work camps will be held in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, Cuba, Mexico, North Dakota, Europe, Washington, D. C., and Virginia.

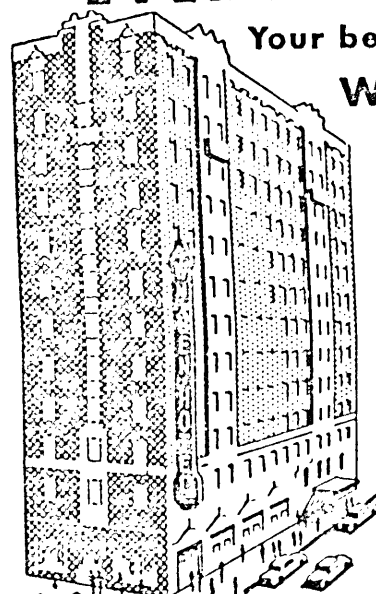
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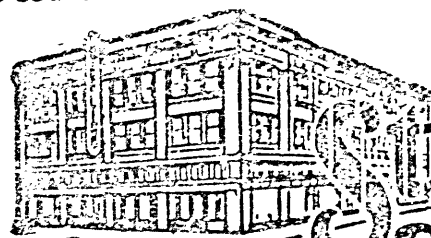
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LESSON FOR MARCH 13, 1955

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:
Matthew 6:5-8; Matthew 7:7-11; James 5:13-16.

MEMORY SELECTION: This is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)

UNIT V: "CHRISTIAN TEACHING" is a very long unit of study. It will continue through April 10. We began the study on January 2. Space will permit us to merely mention the subjects dealt with thus far. The general idea of the first lesson was the fact the Bible is the authority of Christian teaching; in the second, we studied about the living God; in the third, Christ, the revelation of God; in the fourth, we thought together about the all important matter of the Holy Spirit; the fifth dealt with man's nature and need; the sixth, the grace of God; the seventh, the new life in Christ; the eighth, the sacraments of the Church; the ninth, the fact that the Church proclaims the gospel; the tenth, the fellowship of Christian love; and our lesson today, "Prayer in the Christian's Life."

It will be noted that all of these subject have to do with our general theme—"CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS." It is well enough to keep them in mind as we go from one lesson to the next.

In the beginning it is well to note the aim of the lesson: "To help adults see the place of prayer in the Christian life and to be more effective when praying." That is a good aim. If the lesson reaches that goal it will be very helpful.

A Look At The Scriptures

Our first passage (Matthew 6:5-8) contains some very good advice concerning prayer, from no less authority than Christ himself. This passage has to do with some "don'ts" with regards to prayer. The Lord goes on to say "And when you pray, you must not be like hypocrites." Then he proceeds to tell what he means by hypocrites in this respect. They are people who pray with the wrong motive and also in the wrong manner. They pray, not to get help from God or to commune with God, but to be seen of men. They want people to think that they are very pious.

Back in those days the Jews had the habit of praying three times daily—dawn, noon, and sunset. The Pharisees were very strict in their religious observances. When the time came to pray they prayed, regardless of where they might be at that particular time. Some times they would be in the Temple, some times in some synagogue, or in the home, or out on the street, or in some place of business; wherever they were when the time came for these devotions they engaged in prayer. There was no harm in their praying three times a day, but they did it ostentatiously. If they were out on the street at the time of prayer, they made it a point to be in the busiest section of the city. If they were in the Temple they got as close as possible to the holy of holies where they could attract

attention of all and also leave the impression that they were very religious. Some times they would stand on busy street corners in a posture of prayer for as long as three hours at a time. They had no other motive to attract the attention of people and be considered to be very religious by them. Jesus declared that in trying to make themselves out to be something that they were not, they became hypocrites. Such people will never get their prayers through to God. Their only motive is to be seen of men, and men see them, and that is the end of it.

Another thing Christ warned against was the heaping up of empty phrases in prayer. He insisted that people are not heard for their much speaking, but rather for their sincerity in prayer. After all, God looks at the heart of the person engaged in prayer rather than merely listening to his words. Take for example the Lord's Prayer; it is the greatest of all prayers and should be the model of other prayers that are not expressed in exactly those words, but even this prayer is abused. There are literally hundreds of people who think that the power of this great prayer is not so much the thoughts it expresses as in the number of times one repeats it. For considerable time each day these people repeat this prayer over and over again in rapid succession, without once stopping to consider what it means. Sometimes they have strings of beads, and they slip a bead from one end of the string to the other for each time they say the prayer. When they are through they can count these beads and thus ascertain just how many times they have repeated the prayer. Is this really and truly praying? Doesn't it look a great deal like people who do it this way feel that they will be heard for their much speaking? When people repeat the Lord's Prayer they ought to take time enough to think about its meaning and thus undergird it with their own desires and make it their own prayer. A consecrated Christian insisted that at one time in his life he felt that the Lord's Prayer was a very short prayer, but as time went on he came to the conclusion that it was a very long prayer; one that it takes a lifetime to really pray. If we stop and meditate upon that prayer we will see that the man was right. At any rate, the thing the Lord was condemning was the repeating of words over and over again without taking time to consider their meaning or to undergird them with one's desires.

The Lord also gives some positive advice in this passage. He goes on to speak of the matter of secret prayer. This does not mean that the Lord does not want us to have public prayers. God is just as present

in public as he is in private, and will hear and answer prayers at any place and at any time when the conditions for successful praying are met. The secret closet and the closed door are not suggested as a means of helping God to hear and answer prayer. They are rather for the purpose of helping the individual who is doing the praying. When he prays in secret there is no temptation to be ostentatious, or even to wonder what others are thinking about his prayer. The supplicant is alone with God and he thus finds it easier to open his heart and unburden his life to the Lord. Public prayers are necessary, but there is one thing we need to remember and that is those who pray best in public are those who have spent much time in secret prayer.

Our next passage (Matthew 7:7-11) emphasizes God's willingness to answer prayer. This in turn encourages people to engage in prayer. Many scholars feel that this passage mentions three degrees of prayer—asking, seeking, and knocking. Asking is the simplest form of prayer. It consists in making petitions to Gods. If the person who is making the petition is sincere the other stages of prayer will follow. The seeking and knocking are simply putting feet and hands to our prayers. Prayer always presupposes confession of sins and consecration of life. When these things are done one is in harmony with God. Through petition, therefore, the individual receives the spiritual presence and power of God into his life, and he goes out thus equipped to bring about the desired and expressed in his petition. May we illustrate? Several years ago a man wanted to see his friend saved. He prayed earnestly for him. In prayer on one occasion he said, "O God, touch him with thy finger." Through inward impression there came back this thought to his mind, "Thou art the finger of God." He went out immediately to talk to his friend and pretty soon won him to Christ. Was the man really praying when he was talking to his friend about accepting Christ? Yes; he was practicing the second degree of prayer.

The writer once knew of a lady who practiced the third degree of prayer. She got the salvation of her husband on her heart. She was carrying a terrific burden. She couldn't sleep. At two o'clock in the morning her husband was awakened by her prayers. He felt that she was going too strong, and was greatly disturbed over her health. She told him frankly that she had vowed to God neither to eat, drink, nor sleep until he was saved. Before that morning dawned this man was saved. A few days later he joined the church. In less than three months from that time he had gone on to his future reward. This man's wife had not only made petitions for his salvation, and sought for it, she went to the last degree, she knocked for it. The door of answer was opened to her prayer, and not long after that the very gate of heaven itself was opened to this husband because he had a wife who would not quit. The writer is not advocating the practice of this method. He would be afraid to do so, but when one is definitely led by the Lord to go to that extent he can always rest assured that success will be his: "Knock, and it shall be opened to you."

As a further encouragement to prayer, the Lord uses an illustration taken from family life. He goes on to insist that if children asked for

food from their parents, they would not give them something they could not eat—a stone in the place of bread, and a serpent in the place of a fish. The Lord then draws this conclusion: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him?" Christ contended that the assurance that prayers will be answered rest squarely on the character of God—God is a loving heavenly Father; he will see to it that his children have that which is best for them.

The next passage (James 5:13-16) deals with the matter of praying for the sick. James gives some specific instructions along this line. If one was sick he was to call in the elders. These were the elders first of the synagogue and later of the Church. (It will be remembered that the organization of the early Church was patterned pretty largely after that of the synagogue.) These elders were to anoint the sick person with oil and then pray for him. This was before the day of modern medical science. Back at that time oil was universally used as medicine. It will be remembered that the good Samaritan poured oil and wine into the wounds of the wounded Jew whom he found by the roadside. In other words, James was telling these people to use both medicine and prayer as a means of healing the sick. He did that at a time when their medicine was very poor help in healing the sick. Since that time great strides have been made in the field of medical science. We can rest assured that if James were here and was writing his letter today, he would certainly emphasize the matter of using medicine along with prayers.

Some years ago one of the world's greatest doctors declared that all healing is divine. He went on to say that no medicine could heal a disease. It can stop the ravages of a disease, and if the disease is caused by germs it can kill the germs, but it cannot heal the patient. The patient is not well just because the ravages of the disease have been stopped and the germs that caused it are killed; he is ready, however, to get well. That is where nature comes in and rebuilds the human system. This doctor declared that this operation of nature is simply God's method of working and that in the final analysis all healing is divine.

There are times, however, when prayer without the use of medicine can work wonders. More and more the great doctors and other scientists are learning that mind has power over matter. Many diseases—such for example as ulcerated stomach and certain forms of heart-trouble—are caused by worry. This is true with other diseases that are sometimes brought on by frustration, guilt-complexes, etc. People can be sick in mind and soul as well as body, and many times the disease starts first in the mind and soul and then moves on to the body. Prayer is the best remedy on earth for people who are sick in mind and soul. In fact, there is no medicine that will cure ailments of this nature. Prayer brings one into fellowship with God and this in turn will enable him to live a well-rounded life of calm assurance. All of this makes for health both in mind and body.