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Easter, The Miracle That Conquers

Man himself has performed many miracles. He need not be ashamed of them. God set him apart from the rest of the natural order to perform them. From super-sonic flight to brain surgery, man works out his earthly destiny. But these miracles have done more than change man's physical world. They have served to remind him, as simpler man in simpler times could not be reminded, that there is one miracle beyond his scientific understanding.

With shining eyes, we stand today before that miracle—the resurrection. We share Easter with One, who like other men, knew toil and weariness, loneliness and fellowship, joy and suffering. Before this miracle we are as tiny children. We look upon it as a little child looks upon the finest and greatest work of our own hands; in simple trust because it is great and wonderful and uplifting and good. We cannot comprehend it now in knowledge; that may be allowed us in God's own good time.

We can understand it only in Faith.

Is Faith enough? Is it sufficient to believe? Of course. Because if we believe in Jesus Christ we are transformed by His sacrifice. If we believe in Him, we love Him. And loving Him, we must follow Him.



Jesus Christ — The Way

AS members of the Little Rock Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service and a part of the great group of Methodist women around the world we have come together to think and pray together about our common tasks. The committee on program has chosen well — to point us to "Jesus Christ—the Way." It is very appropriate that we have paused at the beginning of this fifteenth annual meeting for a period of soul-searching quiet time with Him who is the Way, the Way to abundant living and consecrated service. In this period I am sure you have been giving thanks for the progress we have made in these past fifteen years since the organization of the Little Rock Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service, thanks for the many opportunities of service that have been ours, and for those who have led us as we have sought to follow Jesus Christ—the Way.

Your President would like to point out some of the things which indicate our growth as a conference society and yet at the same time bring us great challenge. We want to begin and end this annual meeting with an emphasis on the importance of individual effort and commitment, and a real searching of our hearts to find how great is our own personal dedication to Jesus Christ—the way.

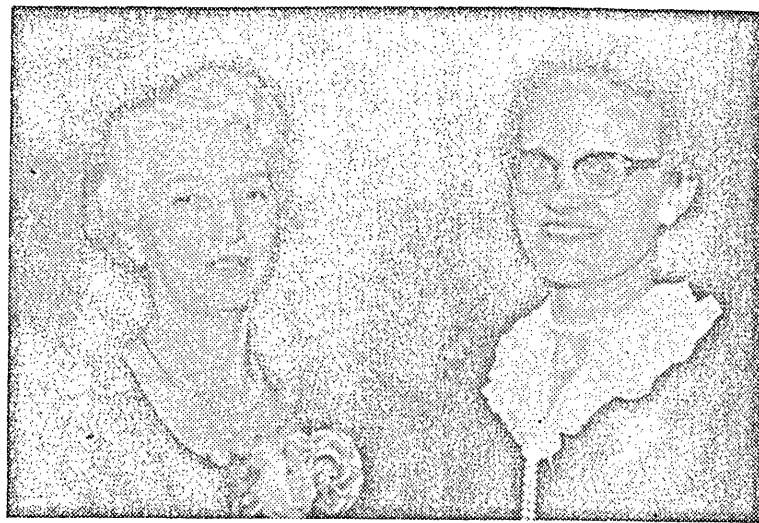
Consider these statistics in terms of the consecrated lives of individual women at the local, district and conference levels, and in terms, too, of the consecrated dollars given that His way might become known. In 1940 we were organized as a Woman's Society of Christian Service with 8,888 members in 187 Societies. Our membership at the end of the third quarter, 1954-55, is 10,663 in 212 Societies, and 1,634 in 67 units of the Wesleyan Service Guilds, making a total of 12,338—or a 38% gain in membership over the fifteen year period.

You can see, though, that the average gain per year would be less than 3%. This indicates that we have made too little progress in reaching our goal as outlined in our purpose, that of enlisting *all the women* of the church in Christian living and service. What is even more disappointing, however, is that in the first three quarters of this year we have gained a net total of 299 members, but we have not yet reached the number we had at the close of last year. In other words we have not recovered from the *purging* you gave your rolls at the beginning of the year. We are still 240 members short of the total reported at the end of last year. We now report 212 Societies as against 221 at the end of last year, even though we have reported new societies each quarter. Our Conference Secretary of Promotion tells me that the irony of this drop of membership comes when it seems we should be reporting an all time high for we have had the best reporting in our history. Every District Society, with the exception of one, established contact with every Society in the District at report time the third quarter. 200 Societies out of 212 reported!

The Little Rock Conference, as you perhaps know, is one of the most rural conferences in Methodism—with slightly over 85% of the churches located either in the open country or in towns with population of 2500 or less. We have been one of the conferences of the South Central Jurisdiction which reports a large number of churches and charges organized. This fact is reflected in various reports of the Jurisdiction Society for often we find ourselves just above the much smaller mission Conferences in various achievements. We have been concerned, of course, that we ranked so low but more than that we have been concerned that we are failing in our outreach when we do not reach all these women in the very small churches with the opportunity and challenge to become part of this organization. You will be hearing on Thursday morning about the splendid work which is being done by the District Presidents and Secretaries of Promotion in their efforts to reach these women. This is missionary work—all on a voluntary basis! We now report 34 unorganized charges and 109 unorganized churches. There are now 71 District members, which is real cause for rejoicing, for these 71 individuals now feel themselves a part of the great fellowship of Methodist women, an organization dedicated to the establishment of a world Christian community.

Our progress in the past fifteen years in sharing our material resources has been much greater than our gain in membership. The pledge of the conference to the Woman's Division that first year was \$21,000 and our pledge this year is \$73,000, an amount three and one half times that of that first pledge. Per capita giving has increased from \$2.69 in 1940, \$4.31 in 1950 to \$6.43 in 1954. All districts, with the exception of one, paid their pledge last year. Your gifts through the Treasure Chests amounted to more than \$4,000, which enabled us to overpay the conference pledge to the Woman's Division by 7%. Our Treasurer tells me that already this year, during the first three quarters we have sent to the Woman's Division \$750 more than we had sent this time last year, with cash for supplies \$347 and Week of Prayer offerings \$321 over this time last year. I believe that at least part of this increase in giving through the Woman's Division has been made possible because we are spending less on ourselves. In the early years we were reporting almost twice as much spent for Christian social relations and local church activities as we sent away. So far this year we have sent \$62,119 to the Woman's Division for all causes and report \$51,075 for Christian social relations and local church activities.

We are proud of this increase in giving and give humble thanks for such progress, but when we consider that our per capita giving through the Woman's Division represents a sum of slightly over 12 cents per week



Mrs. Charles Mead, Omaha, Nebraska, Woman's Division member, and Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, Little Rock, Little Rock Conference President. (Meth. Info. Photo)

per member then we wonder how deep is our concern that His Way may become known throughout the earth.

As we *learn* more about the needs through our study program, our response with a share of our material possessions is usually immediate. There has been a gratifying increase in the number of study classes and in the number participating in these classes. There has been an increase too in church-wide classes. It is gratifying to note here that we have come from no study classes in the Wesleyan Service Guilds in 1951-52 to 66 reported last year with 2,231 enrolled. The enlarged vision of what we can do as individuals and as societies, and the desire to respond to the needs, comes in part from learning about those needs and the issues before us today. This action as a result of study not only expresses itself in increased giving but also in an active interest in community, state, national and international affairs. I shall take time to point out our activity in only two of these areas.

The Conference Secretary of Christian Social Relations attended a United Nations Seminar last fall and has carried the information gained there into church, school, and civic groups. Through her we have cooperated with the conference Board of World Peace in a series of district workshops. Copies of the booklets, *Primer on the United Nations* and *Primer on Technical Assistance* were purchased and presented personally to each District Superintendent by the District Presidents and Secretaries of Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities. The conference society has taken membership in the Arkansas division of the American Association for the United Nations. We believe we must help in getting information about United Nations and what it is doing out to the people. Recently some programs which are paid for by isolationist groups have been added to TV and radio stations in our state. As Christians and as citizens of this great nation we believe in the right of these citizens to hold and express their views on matters of international cooperation. As Christians we believe we must consider what is God's plan for his world and how we can further that plan. If we believe in the Fatherhood of God, we believe in world community, and if we believe in world community we will support the United Nations and make every effort to help it to be the kind of organization that can and will further world community, says Reinhold Niebuhr. We do not hold that the United Nations is perfect but we do believe it is government's best hope for peace. We want our people to have the facts about the accomplishments of that organization, so that when they hear programs about the United Nations they know what is fact and what is propaganda aimed at arousing doubt and suspicion in the minds of the hearers.

Our Conference Society cooperated with the United Church Women of Arkansas in sponsoring a workshop on Arkansas and the Supreme Court Decision on Segregation in the Public Schools. Leaders of both races representing the church, the public schools, the State Department of Education, and parent-teacher groups talked about the problems facing the communities now and in the future as the implementation of this historic decision begins to take place. Our own annual conference meeting in Hot Springs last June stated, "We—affirm that this decision is in keeping with what has been through the years the official position of The Methodist Church as it has understood the spirit and teachings of Jesus," and called on Methodists to take an active part in discussion and plans in their communities to help find ways of implementing the Supreme Court decision. As someone has said, "white and Negro citizens have important business together in the months ahead." We hope that Methodist women of the Little Rock Conference will lead out in efforts to encourage fellow citizens to work together as Christians toward the solution of these problems.

I am sure that our advance in giving, in membership, in study classes, and in active interest in the affairs of our state and nation is due also to the efforts being made to strengthen and deepen the spiritual life. Since we met last year your conference society and Wesleyan Service Guilds have each sponsored prayer retreats. Though the attendance at these was small we note a 50% increase in prayer groups reported. The church-wide emphasis on church attendance, the stewardship and Prayer Life movements of our Church will deepen and strengthen spiritual life throughout our Church. We hope our members will cooperate fully in these movements.

Miss Florence Hooper, writing in the *World Outlook*, said that in the course of a somewhat adventurous life around "this lovely, always exciting earth," she has had many moments of wonders, surprise, and delight, some-

(Continued on page 7)

Four Station Wagons From Area Delivered To Argentina Methodists

Appreciation Expressed By Argentina Leaders



Four station wagons recently shipped from this area to Argentina are shown here immediately on arrival by Argentina Methodist leaders.

Four station wagon type automobiles, three Fords and one Chevrolet, given by Methodists in Arkansas and Louisiana to the Methodist Church in Argentina, have been received by Methodist leaders in Argentina and are now in use, according to communications Bishop Paul E. Martin has received.

The station wagons were contributed by the Little Rock Conference, The Louisiana Conference, the Jonesboro and Forrest City Districts of the North Arkansas Conference, and the First Methodist Church of Arkadelphia. Shipment was made from New Orleans in early January.

A communication from Bishop S. U. Barbieri, president of the Field Committee of the Argentina work, dated January 22, expressed appreciation in behalf of the Field Committee of the Argentina Methodist Church for the gift. Bishop Barbieri added that "the value of this material aid is even greater, knowing of your ceaseless prayers for us and for the work in which we are engaged. And you may rest assured that the knowledge of your interest and encouragement is an ever present source of moral support to many of us who labor daily with tasks and problems which we would not dare face with our own limited resources. Joyful in the knowledge that with God all things are possible, we again express our gratitude for your help, and for the privilege of cooperating together as co-workers in the service of our Lord, helpful that our joint efforts will be bountifully blessed, according to God's promises, to the extension of His church and to His own eternal glory."

Rev. Eduardo Gattinoni, President of the Del Rio Annual Conference, and John A. Hand, Treasurer of the communication dated March 1, stated:

"We have just completed filling in the necessary papers and paying up duties and dues so yesterday we received our transit licenses allowing us to run along the public roads. We are therefore, now in a position to talk matters over with you regarding the four magnificent station wagons received here as a gift from the area under your superintendency.

"... all that was left for us to do was to fall on our knees and thank our Lord for His wonderful help in all our tasks, and at once adding our gratitude also to Him for the generosity of His people in your jurisdiction of Arkansas-Louisiana who have been the 'cheerful givers', contributing towards the work in this country, which is surely unknown to the majority of them, but nevertheless, with a fraternal and Christian spirit they have heard your recommendations to assist us in our evangelization work.

"We have asked four of our Superintendents to write to you di-

rectly from their areas which we anticipate will receive the benefit of your gifts. We trust you will find somebody to translate these letters although he will be unable to interpret the real feeling of ad-

miration and gratitude which has captured all our members for your gesture so full of love and good will towards us.

"In the absence of our Bishop, Dr. Barbieri, and as representatives

of the Board of Missions and Finance in this country, we wish to present our most heartfelt thanks, to you personally as leader and also to your congregations for their most valuable gifts."

Information On Health And Welfare Church Agencies Being Gathered

New York, (NC)—The first nation-wide inventory of the vast health and welfare services of U. S. church agencies got under way recently as queries for information went to all institutions related to Protestant, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox church bodies.

Detailed questions about services, staff, financing and facilities are being asked of thousands of church institutions, including homes for the aged nurseries and adoption centers, hospitals, clinics, maternity homes, temporary shelters for the homeless and residences for newcomers to cities, summer camps and city settlements houses, family welfare agencies, rehabilitation centers and workshops.

Designed to reveal not only the kinds of service given and the number of people helped, but also the nature of the agencies' relation to the church and the community, the study is being made by the Department of Research and Survey of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Results of the far-reaching research project will be published in book form next September.

The study is part of the preparation for the pioneering national Conference on the Churches and Social Welfare, which will be convened in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 1-4, by the National Council's Division of Home Missions and Department of Social Welfare.

First of its kind in American church history, the conference will bring together 2,000 officially-delegated church and welfare leaders to discuss how the churches can give greater leadership and service to help America meet its health and welfare needs.

The full report on church agencies and institutions will not only provide vital information for the conference, but will also serve as the first comprehensive guide to church-related welfare resources, it was predicted by Dr. William J. Villalume conference director and administrative head of the National Council's social welfare department.

He pointed out, "For the first time Protestant and Orthodox leaders will have complete facts in perspective to help them use their resources to the full and plan together to meet the changing needs of our generation."

Deaconesses and workers under the Woman's Division in the Louisi-

ana Conference include Miss Ann Adams, Natchitoches, Miss Rosie Ann Cobb and Miss Leila Robin, Baldwin; Miss Ann Concoules, Houma; Miss Hazel Cooper, Miss Elizabeth Thompson, Shreveport; Miss Fae L. Davis, Miss Carolyn Gresham and Mrs. Pearl Turnbull, New Orleans; Miss Pearye Mae Kelley, Ruston, Rev. Robert Parrott, Lafayette, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burnson, Dulac.

Deaconess and workers under the Woman's Division in the Little Rock Conference include Miss Dorothy Kelley, DeQueen; Mike Willis and Miss Virginia McLish, Little Rock; Miss Polly Lassiter, Arkadelphia; Miss Iris Bell, Imboden; Miss Mary Chaffin, Rector; Mrs. Annie Jones, Nashville.

Deaconess Convocation Scheduled at Nashville

The second quadrennial convocation for deaconesses of the Methodist Church will be held May 3-5 at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn. The theme will be "In Christ All Things Hold Together."

The announcement was made by Miss Mary Lou Barnwell, New York, executive secretary of the Methodist commission on deaconess work. She spoke at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Deaconess Association meeting which was held at Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 1 in conjunction with the fifteenth annual meeting of the jurisdictional WSCS. About 60 deaconesses were present.

Miss Barnwell said more than 400 women church workers are to attend the Nashville convocation.

Bishop Glenn R. Phillips, Denver, Colo., is chairman of the national commission.

Church Women Conducting Family Survey

New York, (NC)—Church women across the country this month are studying their own and other families to find the answers to two basic questions:

How can Christian parents teach their children to be good neighbors and good citizens?

How many Christian parents are accepting their own responsibilities in church and community life?

The survey on "The Responsible Christian Family" is being undertaken in preparation for May Fellowship Day, Friday, May 6. Both the May observance and the study are sponsored by United Church Women, a general department of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., in cooperation with its affiliated state and local women's councils.

Announcing the study project, Mrs. Spann W. Miller, of Atlanta, Ga., said its emphasis was on parents' attitudes and how they influence youngsters.

Among the specific questions the church women will raise about their own attitudes and those of their families, she said, are these:

On family relations: Do we respect the rights of each member of the family as an individual?

On neighborliness: What do we do about people who seem lonely in our own church, or those who spend long hours forgotten in hospitals and institutions?

On community and social issues: What would we do if a family of a different racial group wanted to buy the property next door? How would we react if someone we knew or trusted were accused of Communist learnings?

These questions, and others like them, Mrs. Milner said, "are based on our belief that the Christian family instills in its members concepts that are basic both to democracy and to religion: the worth of the individual and the brotherhood of man."

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

OPEN HOUSE was held at the Wesley Foundation Student Center at Fayetteville on Sunday afternoon, April 3, from 2:00 to 4:30 p. m.

REV. WINSTON H. HUDNALL, pastor of the Temperance Hill Methodist Church, will dedicate the new church building on Sunday afternoon, April 10, at 2:30 p. m.

AN EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, sponsored by the men of the churches of Jonesboro, will be held at Woodland Field on Easter Sunday morning at 5:30.

THE OAKLAWN METHODIST CHURCH, Hot Springs, Dr. Harry R. Weed pastor, received 16 children into full membership on Palm Sunday following a period of instruction.

THE MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE of Russellville is sponsoring a Good Friday service to be held at the Central Presbyterian Church, and an Easter sunrise service to be held in the Tech Stadium.

REV. JAMES ROBERT SCOTT, pastor of the Primrose Methodist Church, will be guest speaker at the Men's Fellowship dinner at the Sheridan Methodist Church, Monday evening, April 11.

MRS. FRANK G. BROOKS, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, president of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, will deliver the commencement address at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn., on June 2, according to announcement.

MRS. RUFUS F. SORRELLS, wife of Rev. Rufus F. Sorrells, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Malvern, underwent surgery, Friday, April 1, at the St. Vincent's Hospital, Little Rock.

DR. ETHAN DODGEN, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Jonesboro, was the speaker at the meeting of the Methodist Men of the Nettleton Methodist Church on Wednesday evening, April 6.

ON THURSDAY evening, April 7, the congregations of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Warren united in a joint observance of the Holy Communion. The service was held at the Presbyterian Church.

REV. G. A. McKELVEY, pastor of the Methodist Church at Earle, was the preacher in evangelistic services at the Midland Heights Methodist Church, Fort Smith, last week. Rev. W. A. Downum is pastor.

REV. ALFRED KNOX, pastor of the Goddard Memorial Methodist Church, Fort Smith, addressed the meeting of Men's Club of the Ozark Methodist Church on Thursday evening, March 24. Rev. Charles McDonald is pastor.

REV. ROBERT STONE, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, will be the preacher at the union sunrise Easter service at the Grizzly Stadium, sponsored by the Fort Smith Ministerial Alliance.

DR. FRED G. ROEBUCK, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Fort Smith, discussed the work of the Methodist Radio and Film Commission on the Fort Smith Ministerial Alliance TV program on Saturday, March 26.

REV. M. E. SCOTT, pastor of Grand Avenue Methodist Church, Hot Springs, did the preaching in a meeting at the Grand Avenue Methodist Church, Fort Smith, the week of March 20-27. The pastor, Rev. Charles Wyatt, writes that the church was greatly revived and thrilled by the messages of Brother Scott.

ROBERT L. LAFEVERS, son of Rev. and Mrs. R. L. F. LaFavers of Clarendon was recently presented with a scholarship award at the annual Phi Lambda Chi banquet at Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway. Dr. Silas Snow, president, of the college, who was the major speaker made the award. Robert is a pre-med student and a junior at the college.

REV. KENNETH L. SPORE, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, is recovering in St. Vincents Hospital, Little Rock, from a recent illness. Dr. Arthur Terry, Pine Bluff District Superintendent, Rev. Mark F. Vaught, Stuttgart, Rev. Ewing T. Wayland, Little Rock, and Rev. Horace M. Grogan have conducted services at First Church, Pine Bluff, during the Rev. Mr. Spore's absence.

THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING of the Gravette Church which was begun in November, 1954, has been completed. The new structure, valued at \$12,000, is a 40 by 60 foot concrete block structure. Sunday School classes are meeting in the new building which contains four classrooms, a nursery, kitchen, two restrooms, and an auditorium which can also be used for recreational purposes. The tile floor of the auditorium has an inlaid shuffleboard pattern. Rev. C. H. Harvison is pastor.

TELEVISION audiences across the nation will view a new film "The Day Before Easter" at various hours and on 400 stations during Holy Week, April 3 to 10. The Easter drama has been filmed by the Broadcasting and Films Commission of the National Council of Churches. It is a 44-minute production, with a professional cast headed by Morris Ankrum, veteran star. The climax of the film is the singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" by the Cathedral Choir of the Hollywood Presbyterian Church. The production was supervised by Dr. S. Franklin Mack and Albert Crews of the National Council.

MISS AI SASAKI, secretary of the Commission on Home and Family Life of the National Christian Council of Japan, announces that a practical course in "Home and Family Problems" and counselling in these topics will be added to the curriculum of the Tokyo Theological Seminary. This is said to be the first such course in theological training in Japan, and will train in counselling in family and in-law relations, marriage, and boy-girl relations. The emancipation of Japanese youth from the centuries-old family restriction of pre-war days has made this type of ministry of basic importance for modern Japan.

MISS FLORENCE WHITESIDE, deaconess emerita of The Methodist Church, Woman's Division, who at present is living in Brownsville, Texas, has been filling in in an emergency as Program Director of the newly set-up Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville. Miss Whiteside states that the Woman's Division is having great difficulty in staffing the house since the young man and his wife who were scheduled to start work last September were unable to go. She would like for her friends in the Little Rock Conference to know where she is and she hopes they will become interested in this pioneer project. Miss Whiteside's address is 4405 Boca Chica, Brownsville.

PATIENTS in many hospitals on Easter morning will find a beautifully colored paper-bound Gospel of John on their breakfast trays. These have been published by the American Bible Society. The demand for these Scriptures, in a special Easter cover, has been so large that the Society has produced this edition for the third year. Many church organizations and individuals use these Gospels in Lenten calling; they are used for unison reading at sunrise services and for other group study. Business men have given them to their employees, customers and friends. But the largest calls have come from hospitals where they are sincerely appreciated.

THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE of the Methodist Church is urging that Methodist women in college and university centers open their homes to entertain some of the many thousands of students from overseas nations who are now in American schools. Eight hundred such students, half of them women, are in this country as Crusade Scholars, their education provided by Methodist Church funds. "They need our love, our time, and our Christian con-

cern for them," says a statement from Mrs. T. Otto Nall of Chicago. She points out that many of these students, "lost in the bigness of our cities", are often invited to speak at church groups but seldom have opportunity to visit and know American homes and homelife.

RELIEF agencies of all religious groups are concerned with the slowness with which American individuals and groups are coming forward with "sponsorships" for the admission of 214,000 refugees from Europe to American communities, homes and industries. Church World Service, the American Protestant agency, reports that it has less than 3,000 "assurances" for the care of refugees (assurances of home, job, and community welcome) for some 100,000 persons looking to it for help. The Jewish resettlement agency, HIAs, has only 2,500 assurances for some 20,000 applicants; and the National Catholics Welfare Conference has only 6,000 assurances for some 50,000 Catholic refugees. All groups point out that while refugees may be admitted up to December 31, 1956, it takes about six months to process each application through a number of government agencies.

DR. RALPH W. SOCKMAN, President, and Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, General Secretary, announced that The Church Peace Union has taken a strong stand in favor of the United States continuing to pay its share of the United Nations Technical Assistance Program. The Union is urging that Congress appropriate 8 million dollars for the United Nations Program for the period of January to June this year. They point out this amount was pledged to the United Nations and was authorized by the Congress in 1954 but has not yet been appropriated. In order that the United Nations might more efficiently plan its program of helping people around the world, The Church Peace Union suggested that an appropriation of 25 million for Technical Assistance be appropriated this spring to cover an 18 month period from June to December of 1956.

The Church Peace Union was founded in 1914 by Andrew Carnegie. Its governing board is made up of distinguished clergymen and laymen who are members of the three major religious groups in this country.

CHINESE EDITION OF METHODIST POSITION ON PEACE ISSUED

The Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church has just issued a Chinese edition of the denomination's position on war and peace as adopted by the 1952 General Conference, according to Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr., of Chicago, executive secretary of the board.

The 16-page folder containing the Chinese translation will be sent to Methodist leaders in Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Taipei, and other centers where the Chinese language is used.

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THE KING OF FREE MEN

At this Palm Sunday season Christendom is hailing Christ as a King. But what does Christ's kingship mean to us who boast of ourselves as free citizens of a free land?

To many persons the thought of Christ as king of their lives seems a limitation of liberty. I knew a man who went to church as a boy, but who has quit going because he says the church was always stressing the don't of religion. To him, Christ seems a stern figure forbidding him to do what he likes. I also remember a woman who asked me how sure I was of heaven and its rewards. She claimed that surely no one would give up all the things that a Christian is supposed to renounce unless he was absolutely certain of a future heavenly compensation. To her, and to many others, Christ and His rule seemed a restriction of their liberty.

Why Welcome Christ?

Yet, here we are at this Palm Sunday season, priding ourselves on our freedom while we talk about Christ the King. Why should we welcome Him as king of our lives? My answer is that Christ is the ruler of free men and the only ruler whose principles keep men free.

First of all, Christ makes men free in body. When Jesus was on earth, He so concerned Himself with the bodies of men that He has been called the Great Physician. How many bodies He helped to free from pain and disease we cannot measure. We know only about certain of His cures and we do not know quite what the diagnosis would be in modern times. But nevertheless, He demonstrated a power of spirit over body, the principle of which is being increasingly explored with ever growing results.

Christ taught that the body is a rare instrument through which the human mind and spirit are to be expressed.

Discipline Needed

The human body has many impulses, many instinctive drives and a capacity for a variety of rich enjoyments. But we do not achieve a satisfying harmony by indulging one impulse after another. The body must be directed toward happiness. This requires discipline. All too few of us

look beyond the restrictions to the rewards. That is why so many think the Christian life is narrow and joyless. Some years ago a woman came up to me as I was bowling, and said, "Oh, I am so glad to see you bowling. You ministers have so few pleasures." However, after she watched me bowl awhile, I'm not sure that she thought I had any pleasure at all!

Don't conclude that Christ takes away our physical pleasures. Rather, He enhances and lengthens them by superb control. He frees us from enslavement to the body and puts the body in its proper place as a servant of our spirit.

Also, Christ serves to keep us free in mind. We Americans and Canadians take pride in our freedom of speech and press, especially when we see the tragic limitations of liberty in other lands. But let us not fool ourselves into thinking that free schools, free platforms and free papers guarantee free minds. Many persons are free somewhat as a stray dog is free. When a dog has no master, he may follow almost any passerby, even a tramp. Likewise some people who boast of their free minds will take up with any passing prejudice, any glib demagogue, any current hysteria.

Truth Shall Make You Free

If we are to keep our minds free from being victimized by false prophets, we must have a master principle by which to test our thinking. Christ gave us such a touchstone principle when He said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Every honest person has to ask himself two questions: "Do I really want the truth?" and "Will I follow the truth when I see it?"

When Jesus stood before Pilate, the Roman governor asked Him, "Art thou a king?" Jesus answered: "To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice." Pilate then asked, "What is truth?" Apparently Jesus did not deign to answer Pilate's last question. Why bother to explain truth to Pilate? He would not have followed it if he had seen it. He was simply a wily politician looking for a way out of a ticklish situation.

When we care only for truth and have the courage to follow it, then we free ourselves from so many foolish fears and futile worries. When we care for our characters more than our reputations, we are not distressed by gossip nor covered by the crowd.

Christ frees us from bad things in order to leave us free for better things.

On A Wide Circuit

W. W. Reid

FIFTH: FREEDOM FROM LIQUOR ADVERTISING

I am quite willing to go along with the medical men and the scientists who tell us that the man who drinks alcoholic beverages is a sick man, and that *alcoholism is a disease*. I have no more desire to send a drunkard to jail than I have to send a debtor there. The hospital—or whatever other place is necessary to cure the sick man—is where he should be.

But I would also say to the doctor and the scientist that their job is more basic than just to cure a victim of alcoholism. When the U. S. Army found the cause of yellow fever in Cuba and Panama, it didn't stop with hospitalizing the victims. It went into the swamps and at a cost of millions of dollars cleansed out the disease-carrying insect. So, with malaria, and tuberculosis, and sleeping sickness, and leprosy, and heart-trouble, and a host of other challenges to human health and well-being: the victims are cared for medically, yes; but the never-ending quest of science is to isolate the cause and destroy it.

We know the cause of alcoholism. We know how to eradicate it. But we seem to think we have made sufficient progress if we substitute the hospital for the jail. The manufacturer of the liquor that produces the disease in a man (and that corrodes all society) has the protection of the government. A share of the disease-blood-money taken by the seller of alcoholic liquors goes to the government as taxes—though the disease, as it works its way through society, costs the American public many times the tax return. What other disease-producing agent is thus protected? And why this one? . . .

The National Grange reported recently that while America's population of young and of old (normal drinkers of milk, "one of the best foods nutritionally") is increasing, the per capita consumption of milk has been decreasing. In New York State, for example, it has declined 17% in ten years. Seven other nations consume more milk per capita than does America. At the same time, the economic ability to purchase "what the

consumer wants" has been mounting in the U. S. A.

Says the Grange, in one of the year's understatements, "It has become increasingly evident that the modern American economy is based to a large degree on *created* human wants, rather than the satisfaction of basic needs and necessities." It is pointed out that dairymen have been busy with production; while the advertising "art" "has helped to fill the human stomach with cake, pop, orange juice and beer until there's practically no room left for milk."

Well, a number of advertising media have done a good job in *creating wants* for alcohol among Americans recently. For nine months of 1954, beer and wine producers paid TV stations \$5,113,018 to create thirst among our families; they paid \$2,499,890 to radio stations. This was a combined increase of almost 50% over the same period the previous year. Add to this the many more millions spent in newspapers, magazines, billboards on all forms of liquor: a grand total of more than \$250,000,000 a year to invade your family and home—and mine. Did it pay? Alcoholic beverage sales totalled almost ten billion dollars in 1953 (\$9,885,000,000 is the Department of Commerce estimate). What chance has milk against the want this advertising creates?

Author Upton Sinclair, roused by the inroads of alcohol among some of the nation's great, is urging churches to renew their fight against this evil. Says he: "To me religion is as religion does, and the combatting of alcoholism is an act of worship."

The combatting of alcoholism is also the professional duty of physician and the scientist—and of the churchman.

The Layman's Column

By
Charles A. Stuck
Lay Leader
North Arkansas Conference



THE PERMANENCE OF THE CRUCIFIXION

The spring sun rose on a mixed-up little world, that Friday centuries ago. It seemed as though the end of this new religious surge was in sight. Many Jews, in Jerusalem for the Pass-

over, were very much disturbed about this Jesus person who had helped so many, but somehow was unable to deliver himself when the going was rough for him. He had been called a "king." A king should be able to call out armed soldiers when he needed them for deliverance. If he was a king why hadn't he done it?

Later in the morning this same Jesus hung on a cross. This type of punishment meant that Roman authorities classed him as the lowest form of criminal. The detail of soldiers assigned to the ugly job had completed their mission and had returned to quarters. The man was dead . . . the job was done . . . the case was closed.

Yes, the crucifixion was permanent. Certainly it was for Pilate. Nineteen centuries have passed and still the bloody hands of that weakling writhe in their grave in an effort to wash off the ageless stain of guilt.

It was permanent to the self-righteous chief priests. These one-time powerful religious leaders never held sway any more over their people. The day they condemned Jesus marked the end of their power of the Jews. Less than fifty years later Jerusalem was destroyed and the Sanhedrin became only a name in history books.

It was permanent for Judas Iscariot . . . bitterly permanent. As long as men read God's Holy Word, Judas' name will be associated with low treachery. Regardless of his last desire to make amends, he went to the wrong people for forgiveness. Crucifixion meant permanent damnation for Judas.

It was permanent for you and me, because it was a step in God's plan of salvation for mankind. The seeming futility of the crucifixion was turned soon to the triumph of the Resurrection which told us all in a manner we cannot misunderstand how Jesus is the true son of God, who came to this earth to show us the Way back to the mansions of glory, which we may inherit if we worship Him in true faith and humility.

JAPAN YOUTH VISIT PHILIPPINES

Last year four young people from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines visited Japan, and as two teams went to the northern and southern areas visiting churches, speaking at Christian schools and work camps. This coming summer the visit will be returned by four Japanese youth who will visit and work among the Christian youth of the Philippines.

METHODIST YOUTH

WORLD FRIENDSHIP GROUP AT MUNHOLLAND



Left to right, seated: Martha Ann Arthur, Elizabeth Hama-lainen, Mary Walker, Joanne Garma.

Left to right, standing: Carol Kinabrew, Willene Graythen, Sandra Johns, Carol Morrisette, Patricia Holloway, Mrs. Charles Smallwood, organizer.

The World Friendship Group of Girls is a special interest group within the Methodist Youth Fellowship to study the work of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, which includes projects in 42 states of the U. S., District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Vieques Island and St. Croix in the V. I., as well as 29 countries around the world.

This group from Munholland Methodist Church, New Orleans is the first group to be organized in the New Orleans District.

Parents, friends of youth, adult workers with youth see the World

Friendship Group as one organization which has a great deal to contribute in helping to meet the needs of youth.

Through participation in missionary activities, youth and their adult leaders find a fresh awareness of peoples in all parts of the world, their sympathies are deepened and their attitudes toward those of all nations, races and cultural groups become more Christian.

The ultimate goal is that these young people will answer the call to full-time Christian service!—Reporter

MYF ORGANIZED AT BREWERS CHAPEL

Perhaps the newest Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Pine Bluff District is at Brewers Chapel. On Sunday, March 20, the Methodist Church met with the youth at Brewer for an organizational meeting. The Lodges Corner youth presented a program using charts and posters to explain the motto, the emblem and the purpose of the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Officers elected were: President, Loretta Inman; Vice-president, Syble Wilson; Secretary, Dale Wilson. The Program Areas were explained, the chairman will be elected later. Mr. and Mrs. Leland Simpson are the adult counselors.

Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Riggin, pastor and wife, of the Bayou Meto Charge, met with the group. The youth from Lodges Corner presenting the program were: Don Riggin, Dean Riggin, Roger Cochran, David Schwartz, Paul Schwartz, Rayanne Heien and Linda Hargrove. Mrs. Raymond Heien is the adult counselor. Everyone enjoyed the snack supper that followed.—Reporter

WITH THE SUB-DISTRICTS Buffalo

The Buffalo Sub-District met on March 21 at Manila. The theme of

the program was "Christian Fellowship." Marcia White read the scripture and led in the song service. A skit on "Planning an MYF Party" was presented. Rev. Raymond Dorman was guest speaker.

Seven churches were represented with a total of 92 present. Caraway won the banner with 735 points.

Games and refreshments were enjoyed.

The next meeting will be held at Caraway on April 18.—Laverna Billings.

Camp Keener

The Camp Keener Sub-District met at the Lakeside Methodist Church in Lake Village on March 28 with 74 members present. Every church in the Sub-District was represented. The Lake Village group presented a program on Lenten emphasis in the form of a panel discussion.

During the business meeting pre-

5,000 CHRISTIAN WORKERS WANTED

to sell Bibles, Testaments, good books, handsome Scripture mottoes, Scripture calendars, greeting cards. Good commission. Send for free catalog and price-list.

George W. Noble, The Christian Co. Dept. D, Pontiac Bldg., Chicago, 5, Ill.

views of the camps to be held were given by directors of the camps. A full slate of new officers was nominated during the council meeting to be presented at the next meeting.

Camp Keener will be the site of the next meeting on April 25 with the Wilmot group as hosts.—Marvin Bradney.

Grace-Curtis Council

The Grace-Curtis Sub-District Council met at the First Methodist Church in Piggot on March 21. Rosemary Janes led the worship service, speaking on "The Cross—What Does it Mean to Me?" Mrs.

L. D. Robinson led in prayer.

The president, Polly Williams, presided over the business meeting.

It was announced that Rev. Harold Eggensperger of Blytheville First Church will be the guest speaker at the meeting in Piggot on April 11. Several of the young people will relate some of their camping experiences. Election of officers will be held.

The May meeting will be at Griffin Memorial Church in Paragould.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting in the church basement.

The next council meeting will be held in June at the First Methodist Church in Paragould.—Roma Blake

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?



What sort of future has Sang Gi, crippled by a bit of shrapnel? What are his chances, begging on the streets of Seoul, with his homemade crutches? He has no home, no parents, no schooling. He has a good and intelligent face, but—?

Is his future any business of mine? Should I be concerned with cripples and the needs and suffering of others? When I have enough to eat should I be worried because others don't, including little children? Should I care, when I was lucky enough to be born in America instead of India, where the majority of people do not get enough to eat and some are actually starving? What is the reason I was not born in Korea, like Sang Gi? There are still 35,000 homeless children in Korea. Why don't I live in a hut made of rubble, old tin cans and half rotten scraps of wood in Southern Italy, Hong Kong or in a crowded Austrian refugee camp? Why don't I happen to be a man with a job in Calcutta, working steady every day for long hours, who sleeps in the streets every night because my job does not pay me enough to share even a single room with a dozen other persons—a room without a stitch of furniture or protection from flies, swarming with bed bugs and without any sanitary arrangements whatever?

I am a Christian. Does that make me my brother's keeper? When my stomach is full must I be concerned about others, whose stomachs are empty? Must I? Am I *compelled* to think about these others? Or is it just, God helping me, that I *want* to think about them and because I have a heart, desire to help them?

No gift is too small to give a child a bit of bread. Or you can have some pitiful, homeless and hungry child brought into a Christian Children's Fund orphanage-school and be given a decent chance in life by "adopting" a child. The cost, \$10.00 a month, is the same in all of the following 28 different countries: Austria, Borneo, Brazil, Burma, Finland, Formosa, France, Free China, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indochina, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Lapland, Lebanon, Macao, Malaya, Mexico, Okinawa, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, United States and Western Germany.

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girl for one year in ☐

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NAME.....

I will pay \$10 a month (\$120 a year). Enclosed is payment for the full year ☐ first month ☐. Please send me the child's name, story, address and picture. I understand that I can correspond with the child. Also, that there is no obligation to continue the adoption.

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DISCOVER REMAINS OF SHRINE DENOUNCED BY AMOS

French archeologist Jean Perrot has discovered at Beersheba in southern Israel the remains of what is believed to be an idolatrous shrine denounced by the prophet Amos (Amos 5:5), it was announced in Jerusalem by the Israeli Department of Antiquities. Diggers working at the site unearthed a large quantity of Iron Age figurines which definitely date the building as of the era of the early Jewish Kingdom, the department said. It added that indications of an even earlier civilization were found under the structure. Prof. Perrot was quoted as saying he is hopeful continued digging may unearth the sanctuary of Abraham, mentioned repeatedly in Genesis, which he believes is at the same site. The French archeologists, who have been directing excavations in the Beersheba area for some time, recently discovered at Safadi traces of what is believed to be a public building dating from about the end of the fourth millennium. The department also reported the discovery at Masada fortress, overlooking the Dead Sea, of ruins of what may be a palace of King Herod. The fortress is near the battlefield where the Jews made their last stand in 70 A. D. against the forces of Titus, who nine years later became the Roman Emperor.

Altar Boy Feted As 'Outstanding Junior Citizen'

An altar boy who hopes to become a Roman Catholic priest is the 1955 "outstanding junior citizen of the United States." William R. McAnulty, 15, of Pittsburgh, received the national Junior Citizenship Award of the Boys' Clubs of America in New York. A plaque presented to young McAnulty cited him as "Boy of the Year" for his initiative, leadership and service to home, school, church, community and boys' clubs. The presentation was made by David W. Armstrong, national director of the Boys' Clubs. McAnulty, who serves as altar boy at Sacred Heart church in Pittsburgh, spent a week in New York as guest of the Boys' Clubs. He called upon Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, who presented him with a book of verse and prayers written by the cardinal and a silver medallion bearing his coat-of-arms. Bill, who is six feet three and weighs 185 pounds, was selected for the national honor from among 400,000 members of more than 400 local boys' clubs. The judging committee included Dr. Earle B. Pleasant, executive director of the Committee on Religion in American Life, and

and Robert B. Pitkin, managing editor of the American Legion Magazine.

Sees Need For Reappraising Missionary Attitudes

Need for reappraising many of the missionary attitudes of past generations was found by Dr. H. L. Turner, New York, president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, after visiting stations around the world. Stopping in St. Paul, Minn., en route from the west to New York where he completed his circuit of the globe, Dr. Turner revealed he will make recommendations for "marked changes" in some aspects of the Alliance's world mission at the denomination's annual delegate council in Philadelphia, May 11-17. "We are going to need a different type of missionary in the future," he said. "That means that even our methods of training and preparing missionary candidates may be revised." Risking being misunderstood by others in the "conservative" theological and missionary tradition, Dr. Turner said the drastic world situation makes the "national church" the vital key to Christian witness and progress in countries unfriendly to the Western world.

Japanese Plan World Council Affiliation

Steps towards affiliation with the World Council of Churches were approved by the National Christian Council of Japan at its annual meeting in Tokyo. Such affiliation probably will be on a consultative basis. The World Council's central committee has invited the partici-

pation of national councils in various countries on this basis. Two of the four constituent members of the National Christian Council already are members of the World Council. They are the United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan) and the Episcopal Church in Japan. The other N. C. C. members are the United Lutheran Church in Japan Baptist Church (Shin Sei Kai). Presiding Bishop Michael Hinsuke Yashiro of the Episcopal Church, N. C. C. vice-president, said the decision to move toward affiliation with the World Council "should be the means of bringing the N. C. C. in line with the faith and order of the ecumenical Church." The meeting adopted a resolution to invite the World Council of Christian Education to hold its 1958 World Sunday School Convention in Japan.

Church Affairs Head Flees East Germany

Walter Freund, head of the Church Affairs Department in East Germany, asked West Berlin officials for political asylum. He told the officials he was unable to reconcile his differences with the Communists over their "youth dedication" program which church leaders have denounced. Mr. Freund's defection is the latest in a series that has shaken the Church Affairs Department. In January, 1953, the department virtually disintegrated as the

result of the flight of leading officials to West Berlin. Johannes Bernhard, head of the department, fled to the western zone of this city to escape imminent arrest by Communist authorities. He was accompanied by one of his senior officials, who was in charge of the section for Evangelical Church affairs. Mr. Bernhard had succeeded Dr. Kurt Gruenbaum in December. Dr. Gruenbaum had been removed and given a "long leave of absence" by the Soviet Zone government.

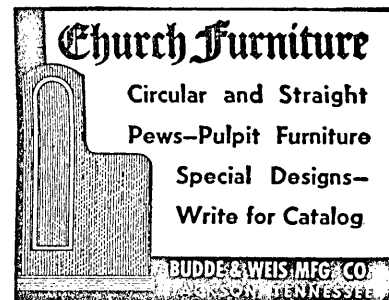
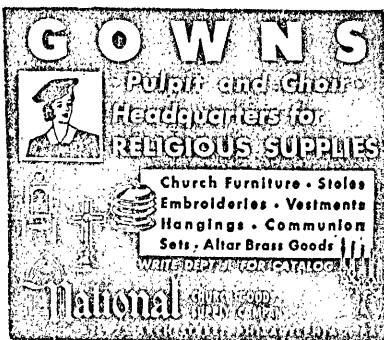
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JESUS CHRIST—THE WAY

(Continued from page 2)

times of fear. She wrote that the one thing that gave her the greatest joy was to find groups of men and women like ourselves who profess to possess even though imperfectly, an indwelling of the Spirit of God. The groups have been made up of many races, colors, social conditions and many backgrounds. Many were ignorant folk and unlearned, some were of the highest social and intellectual attainment. In such groups of followers of the Way Miss Hooper said she had an amazing consciousness of the "Spirit sent from heaven" into the minds, the emotions, and the daily activities of otherwise ordinary individuals.

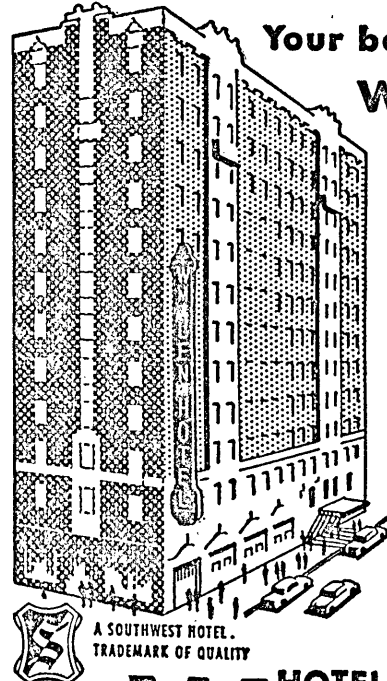
Why are we afraid? Why do we grow impatient? Why do we grow weary? Why is our concern so casual, our devotion so shallow? The Spirit sent from heaven is a daily miracle that can be ours. Whether or not the Spirit dwells in our hearts is the determining factor of our effectiveness. He can and does transform "weak and selfish persons into strong, self-forgetting persons, he gives our fumbling plans a new efficiency, he leads us joyously to devote all our living to loving service divinely directed."

Someone has said that earth's ends are here. Some are called to serve where Christ's way is unknown. That may be in lands afar. But for most of us earth's uttermost parts are here. We are finding that unless in our own neighborhoods we are able to make Christ's way, the Way then no amount of good elsewhere in His name, will be convincing.

We are a part of a great organization, a part of a great Church—with an urgent job to do—and it waits on dedicated individuals like you and me to seek others to share in following the Way, to give sacrificially that others may go in His name to the uttermost parts of the earth, and to live every day according to the Power that dwelleth in us.

APRIL 7, 1955

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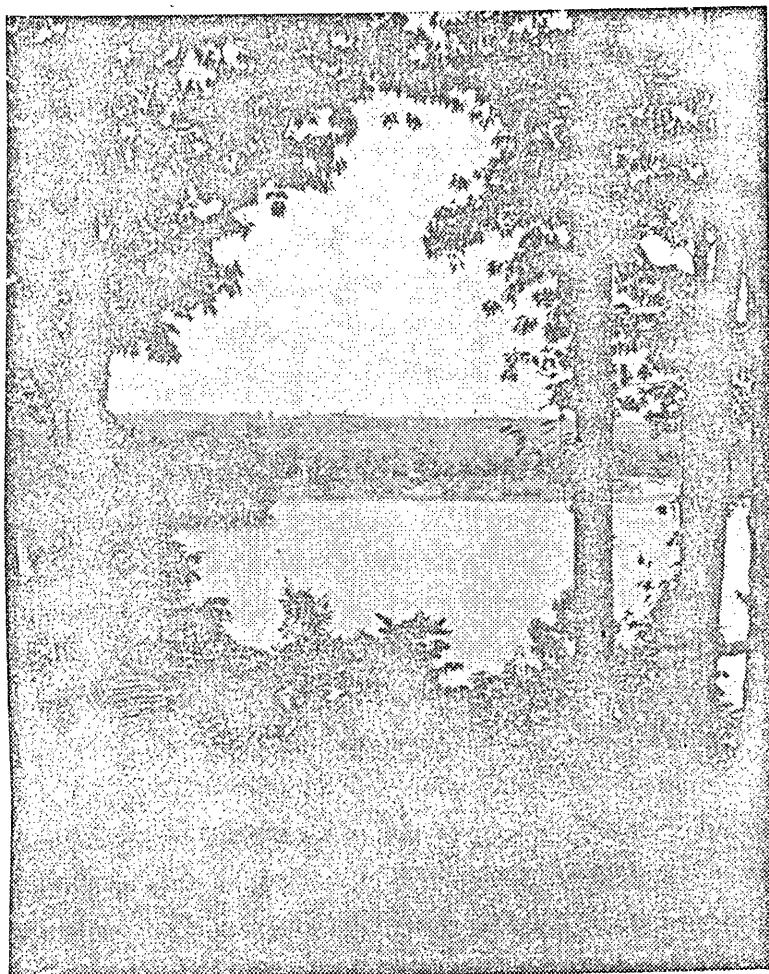
MAIN and MONROE

Entrance on Monroe Street

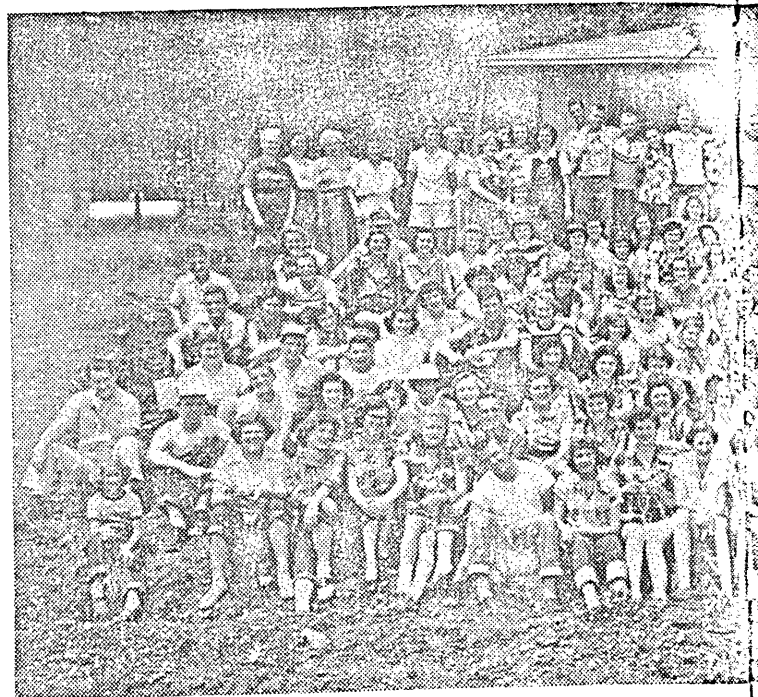
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Little Rock Summer Leadership Ta



Scene at Camp Tanako, Little Rock Conference Camp



Little Rock Conference

At Mt. Sequoyah

Interdenominational Missionary Conference	June 12-19
Woman's Society of Christian Service School of Missions	June 21-28
Jurisdiction Missionary Conference	July 5-8
Jurisdiction Leadership School	July 11-22
Young Adult Leaders Workshop	July 28-August 1
Jurisdiction MYF Workshop	August 4-11



DR. M. LEO RIPPY, Director of Adult Work, General Board of Education, Board Representative at Conference Adult Fellowship.



MISS WILLIE FRANCIS COLEMAN, Resource Person for Workshop for Adult Workers, North Mississippi Conference Director of Youth Work.



ROBERT NASH, El Dorado, Little Rock Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship President.

SENIOR CAMPS

Conference Camp	Director, Rev. Howard Cox
Senior Camp I	Director, Rev. Robert B. Moore, Jr.
Senior Camp II	Rev. Woodrow Smith, Director
Older Youth Camp	Mrs. Edward McLean, Director
Fellowship Team Laboratory	Mrs. Edward McLean, Director
Small Church Camp (ages 12-17)	Rev. Virgil Bell, Director
Monticello District Senior Camp	Rev. Everett Vinson, Director

INTERMEDIATE CAMPS

Little Rock District	Miss Mary Sue Shepherd, Director
Arkadelphia District	Rev. Robert O. Beck, Director
Pine Bluff District	Rev. Kenneth L. Spore, Director
Monticello District	Rev. John P. Miles, Director
Camden District	Rev. Charles Ashcraft, Director
Hope District	Rev. Woodrow Smith, Director

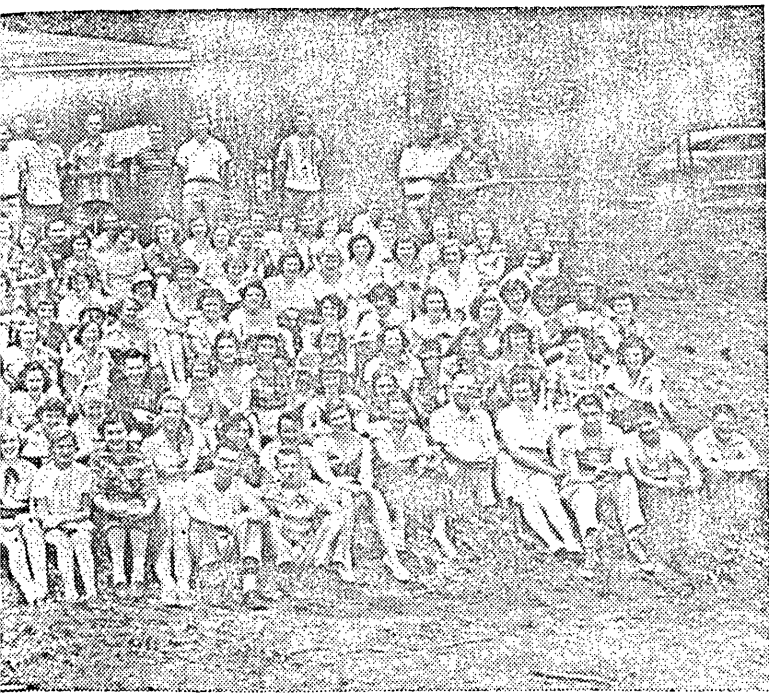
JUNIOR CAMPS

Monticello District I	Rev. James R. Sewell, Director
Monticello District II	Rev. James R. Sewell, Director

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Workshop for Adult Workers with Youth	Mrs. Edward McLean, Director
Family Life Counseling Clinic	Rev. Roy E. Fawcett, Director
Conference W. S. C. S. School of Missions	Mrs. Earl Cotton, Dean
Adult Fellowship	Rev. George G. Meyer, Director
Children's Workers Camp	Rev. George G. Meyer, Director
Young Adult Camp	Mrs. W. F. Bates, Director
Monticello District Ministers Retreat	

Conference Training Program, 1955



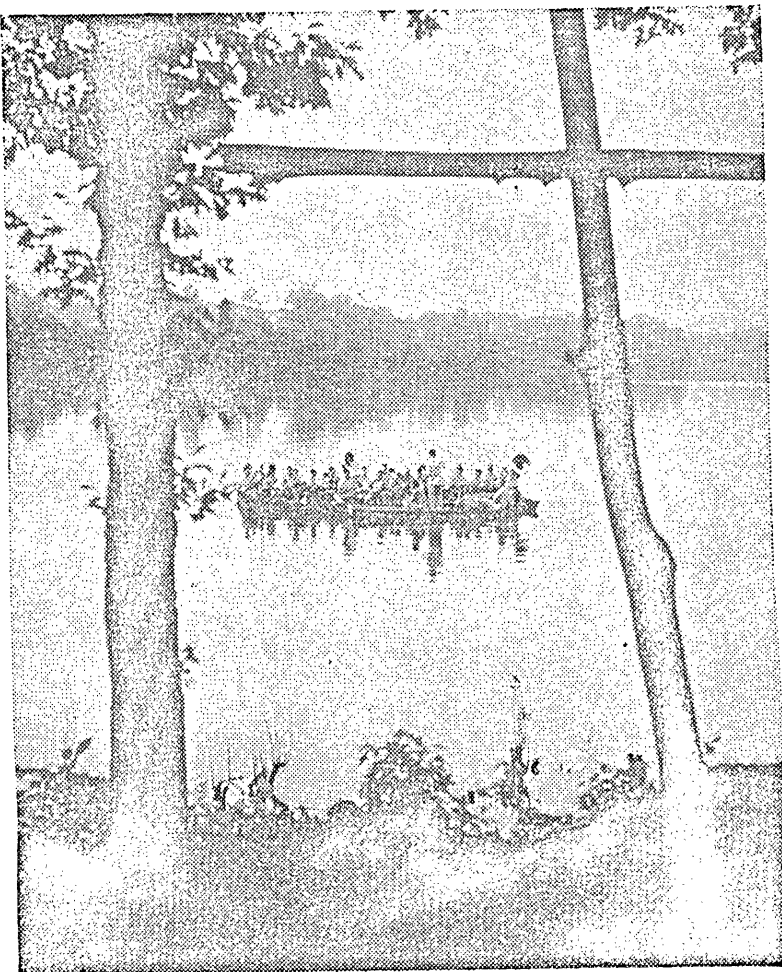
Summer Activities

Camp Tanako May 30-June 3
Camp Tanako June 13-17
Camp Tanako June 20-24
Camp Tanako July 16-17
Camp Aldersgate July 25-29
Camp Tanako August 8-11
Camp Keener August 15-19

Camp Aldersgate June 20-25
Camp Tanako June 27-July 1
Camp Tanako July 11-15
Camp Keener July 11-15
Camp Tanako July 18-22
Camp Tanako August 1-5

Camp Keener June 20-24
Camp Keener June 27-July 1

Camp Tanako June 24-26
Camp Tanako July 5-7
Camp Aldersgate July 11-15
Camp Tanako July 22-24
Camp Tanako July 25-27
Camp Tanako August 19-21
Camp Keener August 22-24



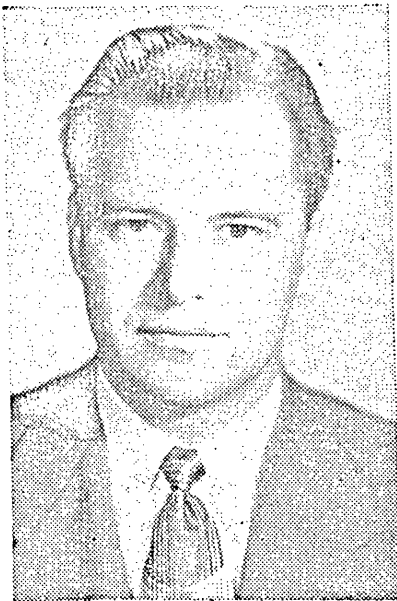
Scene at Camp Tanako, Little Rock Conference Camp

Other State and Church-Wide Meetings

National Town and Country Conference, Bloomington, Indiana July 22-25
Nat'l Council Church School Convocation, Cleveland, Ohio July 27-31
Nat'l Convocation of Methodist Youth, Lafayette, Indiana August 22-26
Arkansas Patsors' School, Hendrix College, Conway, September 5-9
Nat'l Conference on Christian Education, Cincinnati, Ohio November 8-13
Write the director for further information regarding these activities.



REV. HOWARD COX, Shorewood Hills, Conference Camp Director.



REV. R. B. MOORE, JR., Portland, Director Senior Camp 1.



REV. WOODROW SMITH, Mineral Springs, Director Senior Camp 2.



THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINEBURNE, Editor



THE EASTER BULBS

HERE were plenty of glad things to do on Easter morning, but Joyce didn't forget the Easter bulbs. She ran quickly to see the bright blossoms. "Look, mother, a pink tulip came open during the night," said Joyce happily. "Now we have four bulbs in bloom."

Mother and she had planted six bulbs, three tulips and three hyacinths. But one hyacinth had forgotten to bud and one tulip wasn't quite ready yet. Joyce was delighted with the four that were blooming.

Mother and Joyce had planted the bulbs weeks ago in small pots filled with soft, rich earth. They had been round, tight little brown things then that looked something like onions.

But when the pots were set away in the cool basement the little brown bulbs had begun to grow roots. Then, a short time before Easter, mother and Joyce had carried them upstairs and placed them on a sunny window sill.

"Our bulbs need the bright sunshine now," mother had said.

Little sprigs of green had quickly shot up in the pots. From day to day Joyce had watched each one grow into a pretty plant and then grow a bud.

"My, but watching bulbs grow is such fun, mother," Joyce said.

She had been more eager about the blossoms than anything. As the sunshine called out the bright colors, Joyce grew more and more pleased. That was why she didn't forget the bulbs on Easter morning.

She ran out in the garden, too, to see the first snowdrops.

"Even if Easter is early we have plenty of flowers, and everything is beginning to grow," said Joyce as she came back. "I saw a robin too."

"It's spring, Joyce," smiled daddy. He had come to look at the bulbs on the window-sill, and Joyce showed him how nicely they had grown.

"Daddy, you wouldn't think you'd get such lovely blossoms from hard little brown bulbs, would you?" said Joyce. "It's the same way with the seeds we plant. They're so tiny; and yet such fine, big plants come from them."

"Yes, Joyce, that's the way it is in spring," answered daddy. "God gives us sleeping live things packed in seeds and bulbs and

sends His sunshine and rain to help them start growing."

"That's why I love the spring and Eastertime, daddy," cried Joyce. "God shows us in such special ways how He does things. Don't you think so?"

"Yes, Joyce, I do. It helps us love and trust Him," agreed daddy.

Now mother called that it was time to make ready for church school. Soon she and daddy and Joyce smilingly started down the street together.

Joyce was carrying two of the lovely Easter plants with her. One was the pink tulip that had just unfolded. That was for her sick friend Gertrude. The other was a pure-white hyacinth for the primary room at church school.—Story World.

EASTER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The children of Czechoslovakia have one of the most beautiful Easter customs in the world.

On the Saturday just before Easter Sunday Peace is proclaimed in a very solemn ceremony in the government building at Prague.

Then all the people on radios and in newspapers are asked to turn their thoughts away from quarrels and bad feelings and instead think and do good and kindly things.

On Easter Monday the children of Czechoslovakia dress in costumes they wore in the Easter-Peace Festival for children which was on Palm Sunday, and send messages of good wishes to children of other countries.

Now if all people everywhere this respect I wonder just what would happen. Well, people everywhere would be thinking kindly of others and it would grow and grow and perhaps then nobody would ever think about quarreling, have bad feelings or think of wars. What a wonderful world we would have

YOUR GARDEN

When spring comes everybody begins to plan for a garden. Every child should have his own garden, too. However, you cannot have flowers in your garden if you do not plant seeds.

There is a song that is sung in some Sunday Schools that says:
He dug his garden, and sowed the seeds,
He kept it watered and pulled the weeds.

And when it blossomed with flowers gay

He gave his mother the first bouquet.

There is a song that is sung in some Sunday Schools that says:

That is not only a nice song, but it tells us how carefully a garden must be tended if we hope to pick any flowers. You do not want a big one, but do have a small one that you can plant and take care of all by yourself.

Some people have what they call "a friendship garden," and that would be fun to start this year, and then have it grow a little bigger each year.

Instead of planting seeds ask Mother to buy a plant, some Johnny-jump-ups, iris or chrysanthemums, and have a little friend do the same, only don't buy the same flower he did. Next year give him a piece of your plant and ask him for a piece of his, and now you will have two flowers in your garden. You may like to ask several friends to do this, and after a few years you will be taking about Mary's forget-me-nots, Larry's lilies-of-the-valley, Mrs. Harbison's grape hyacinths, Nancy's poppy, and Mr. Preston's pussy-willow, and they will all be growing in your garden. It is fun not only for you but for everybody else who starts one with you.—The United Church Observer

then!

Perhaps some of us could do it ourselves in a very small way and it might grow, too. — The United Church Observer.

APRIL

April is a lovely month. Some of us may want to say that it is the loveliest month of the year. The ice has gone. As it melted it joined rivers and streams in a mad rush to the open sea. The snow has gone. All winter it covered fields and gardens with a soft warm blanket. Now it has melted and we can see the bare brown earth. The sun's warm rays can easily awaken the sleeping flowers. Soon they will be pushing their way through the soil, and we know that before too long we shall see flowers appearing in the fields and in our gardens.

And the frogs! Everybody just waits for the song of the frogs in April. Once the frogs begin their cherry peeping, we feel spring has really arrived.

Then, too, many of our singing birds are with us again after spending the winter in the warm, sunny south. Even if we haven't seen bluebirds, robins or goldfinches, we have perhaps heard their song, and if we don't know their song then I'm sure we are searching the trees, wires and housetops in the hopes that we shall see our friends before April leaves us.

And what about our trees and bushes? They are all ready to burst into leaf or bloom. Some of the flowering shrubs will be glooming this month.

Just think! In this month—April—we have no ice or snow to amount to much, but we do have rain and sunshine, running streams, flowers, peeping frogs, budding trees, and singing birds.

April is truly a wonderful month after all. Don't you think it is?—The United Church Observer, Canada.

JUST FOR FUN

I like to introduce famous works of art to my pupils. I had a picture of the Mona Lisa in my hands and was telling a 3rd grade class all about it. I said it was one of the most famous paintings in the world, that it was worth thousands of dollars and that it had once been stolen.

One little boy waved his hand. Pleased by his interest, I called on him.

"How did you get it?" he asked. —Capper's Wkly.

* * *

The minister was lecturing to a class about keeping their minds as clean as their bodies. To emphasize the point, he held up a bar of soap.

"Oh, oh," said one little listener, "here comes the commercial." — Louisville Courier-Jnl Mag.

* * *

Religion class. Theme: the end of the world. The pastor discussed it in detail: "Thunder will roll, lightning will jerk, flames will shoot out of the earth, the dead will rise up—"

The children listened expectantly. Finally one asked the big question: "Pastor, will . . . will we get out of school?" — Revue, Munich (Quote translation).

THE LAND OF JUST PRETEND

By Donovan Marshall

After prayers I go to bed,
Snowy pillow at my head.
Nor am I afraid at all
Of the shadows on the wall;
For I am a soldier brave
And my bed a snowy cave.
Or perhaps a jolly tar,
Then my compass is a star.
When at last too tired to roam
I will steer again toward home.
Mother, dear, will come to peep
And will find me fast asleep.

—The Presbyterian.



EASTERTIME

Sing for joy, it's Easter,
Happy day of Spring.
Lilies white lift up their heads,
Chimes in churches ring.

What a time for gladness,
Children all may say
"Welcome, happy morning"
On this Easter day.—A. E. W.

NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE NOTES

By Ira A. Brumley

Piggott School—Another Best

The Piggott Area School, held March 28-30, was the best school, at least from some viewpoints, ever held in Clay County in the Methodist training program. There were one hundred and eleven enrolled in the school with 90 course cards issued. The following courses were offered:

The Life of Jesus, Dr. Meredith Eller.

The Work of the Local Church, Rev. J. Albert Gatlin.

Jesus' Teaching Concerning Women, Miss Mildred Osment.

How to Improve the Church School, Ira A. Brumley.

March Best Training Month

The month of March has proved to be the outstanding training month we hoped it would be. More than one thousand people have been enrolled in training schools during the month of March with about 800 course cards issued during the month.

This year is proving to be a better year in training work in the North Arkansas Conference than any former year in the history of our training program. We are now as far along in the training program as we were at the end of last conference year, with two more months to go. The week of April 17-22 will have more than fifteen schools.

We believe that with these great groups of people meeting together to discuss the work of Christian education and related subjects we are to have a growing leadership.

The Nursery Home Program

One of the weak spots in our conference program of Christian education is in the field of Nursery Home program. Too few of our churches are doing a good job in this work. The Nursery Home program offers the local church a real opportunity to serve the parents of these young children and thus prepare these parents to do the better work of Christian training. If your church does not have a Nursery Home Visitor, will you not select such a person at once and get this program under way. This is one way in which the conference program of Christian training can be improved. If you need a copy of leaflet No. 101-B, The Nursery Home Visitor at Work, please write us and we will send you a copy.

Adult Home Program

There are more people in this country past 65 years of age than ever before. Many of these cannot be in the Sunday school session of the church school, but should be members of the Adult Home Department. There are other adults under 65, who for one reason or another cannot attend the Sunday school session of the church school. These would also be in the Adult Home Department.

What is your church school doing about this program? Too few of our church schools have an Adult Home program.

If you need guidance materials for developing this program please write us.

Summer Activities

It is not too early to be making

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHOOL AT CALICO ROCK

Dr. C. M. Reves and Mrs. J. H. Monday have just finished a Leadership Training school at Calico Rock. Dr. Reves taught the course on "Christian Stewardship" with an enrollment of 18, of whom nine received credit. Mrs. Monday had an enrollment of 18 and ten received credit.

Mrs. Monday had special session in which various problems of teaching were taken up and discussed in detail. She presented ideas which would help in the Vacation Church School. The W. S. C. S. served refreshments each night at the ten-minute-break period.—Reporter

TWENTY-EIGHT HAVE PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Twenty-eight boys and girls of the Methodist Church of Lewisville have perfect Sunday School attendance records of from one to seven years.

They are: Jerry Saylor, Jan Colten, Mike Allen, Robert Morris, Karen Allen, Deborah Bray, Sandra Plafcan, Frank B. Coleman, Cathey Coleman, Robbie Gene Triplett, Rema Harris, John Beatty, Rebecca Jane Griffin, and Rebecca Barton, one year; Kay Baker, Susan Nash and Barry Baker, two years; Ann McDonald, three years; Sidney Bray, Buck Baker, Jr., Ben Baker, four years; Betty Goza, Bobby Goza, Billy Goza and Martha Gene Garrett, Louise Ann Nash, five years; Marilyn Bray, six years; Noel Nash, Jr., seven years.

Jack McClendon is Church School superintendent and Mrs. J. D. Garrett, Jr., is superintendent of the Children's Division.—Louise Baker

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL INSTITUTE AT SMACKOVER

The Camden District Vacation Church School Institute, under supervision of Mrs. W. F. Bates, of Little Rock, and Dr. Connor Morehead, was conducted at Smackover from 10:00 to 3:00 on Wednesday, March 23rd. There were more than 150 pastors, local church representatives, and visitors in attendance for the day. School Girl lunch was served in Fellowship Hall of the church at 12:15, by the women of the host church, who also served coffee and cold drinks.

Wednesday was also the closing day of a Church Workers' Training School at Smackover. Rev. Roland E. Darrow, Rev. C. Ray Hozendorf, and Mrs. W. F. Bates were the instructors of the Adult, Youth, and Children's Workers respectively. John L. Tucker acted as Dean and Paul Brock of the local church was chairman of the Board of Managers of the school. Workers from the Norphlet and Louann charges also

plans to have your church represented in the various summer programs. There will be special programs on district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church-wide basis. Send your letters to these programs: Your district camps, conference adult programs, leadership programs at Mt. Sequoyah, Rural Life Conference, Youth Convocation, and International Sunday School Convention, offer many opportunities to give training and inspiration to your workers.

Plan to have one or more persons in many of these summer programs.

Woman's Society of Christian Service

JURISDICTION PRAYER VIGIL

The Prayer Vigil to be observed at the Jurisdiction meeting at Ft. Worth will be from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Tuesday, April 12, in the Prayer Room at the First Methodist Church. All secretaries of Spiritual Life Cultivation and all members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service are asked to give special attention, urging everyone to observe this with the delegates at home, or at church.

The Theme of the Convocation is "Methodism Advances Through the Local Church", and the theme of the vigil is "Go out into the darkness and put your hands into the hands of God."

Especially will the institutions and workers named in the Prayer Calendar for April 11, 12, 13 and 14 be lifted up in prayer during the twelve hour vigil. All these have been contacted by personal letter, and each one will be looking to the South Central Jurisdiction to join with her in prayer on those days especially. They, too, will be in prayer for the group, thus a great bond of prayer will encircle the globe, releasing spiritual forces to be used of God as we put our hands into His hand.—Mrs. H. E. Pearce, North Arkansas Conference; Mrs. Curtis Williams, Little Rock Conference

DISTRICT MEETINGS Camden

District meeting of the Camden District Wesleyan Service Guild was held at the First Methodist Church, Bradley, on the afternoon of March 6.

Following a prelude of organ music played by Mrs. Frank Cochran of Bradley, the meeting opened with the singing of the hymn, Oh, Worship the King. Mrs. L. G. Middlebrook, president of the Bradley Guild, gave a very warm welcome to the visiting guilds.

Rev. J. D. Montgomery, pastor of the Bradley church, gave an inspiring talk on Light.

Mrs. Madison Allen of Bradley, accompanied by Mrs. Cochran at the organ, sang My God and I.

Mrs. Gordon Morgan of Vantrease Church, El Dorado, District Guild secretary, presided at the business meeting that followed.

Count of the guilds present was taken and it was found that 31 members representing 5 guilds were present.

Mrs. Virginia Smith from First

attended. Fifty-six were enrolled in the classes and 33 certificates were awarded at the close of the school. Audio Visual Films were shown at intermission periods each night. The Training School opened on Monday night with a Fellowship Dinner with some 100 members of the local church present.—John L. Tucker, Pastor

NORTH ARKANSAS REGISTRATION

Delegates to the North Arkansas Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service which will meet April 26, 27 and 28, will be the following: All Conference and District Officers; The President or her Alternate, and one other delegate from each local society in the conference.

Registration fee of \$3.00 should be sent to Mrs. Ben Jernigan, 1167 E. College, Batesville, by April 10.—Mrs. Bessie Andrew

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Atkins Woman's Society recently studied India, Pakistan and Ceylon in sessions which were held in the homes of the members with good attendance of fifteen members enrolled, of whom nine did not miss a session.

At the last session a share-a-dish luncheon was served to twelve members and five guests. The program for this meeting featured the lives of Sarah Chakko and Dr. Jaya Luke, the Annual Report and Miss Theresa Hoover's report of her visit to the work in India. A cash offering was sent to Vallore Hospital. The Atkins Society has had three JR's this year.—Reporter

The W. S. C. S. and Young Adults of the Doyline Methodist Church sponsored a church night supper March 16. The program was a film-strip, "The Family On Trial."

The W. S. C. S. of the Eros Methodist Church recently raised \$182.00 to be used for repairs and improvements on the parsonage. Other organizations contributed. The group also purchased an electric coffee urn for the Church, sponsored the planting of 24 trees on the parsonage lawn, and is preparing to present an Easter Cantata entitled "The Prince of Life."

Church, El Dorado, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the names of Mrs. Gordon Morgan and Miss Eunice Cannon of Magnolia for re-election to their present offices, district secretary and associate secretary respectively, and they were duly elected.

Mrs. Morgan then gave a brief resume of the work of the district for the last year which included a meeting at Smackover in June with 27 members present, a coaching conference at El Dorado First Church on Sept. 19 with 48 members present, a seminar at Vantrease church on Oct. 3, with 40 present, a district meeting at Stamps on Jan. 16 with 46 present. She also announced the organization of a new guild at Strong.

Mrs. M. E. Scott, conference secretary of missionary education of W. S. C. S. gave a talk on missionary education.

A social hour ended the meeting.—Ruth Womble

Conway

Mrs. Walter Riddick of Morrilton was hostess to the Executive Board of Conway District W. S. C. S. in an afternoon session on March 23.

Mrs. James Upton of Conway, president of the District, was in charge, and the meeting was in the nature of an informal conference, with reports from the officers present and plans for closing the year's work. The final district meeting of the year will be held at Washington Ave. Church in N. L. R., with the date tentatively set for May 6—to be confirmed after Conference.

Present, in addition to Mrs. Riddick (Sec'y of Student Work) and Mrs. Upton, were Mrs. James Berry and Miss Ethel Millar of Conway, Mrs. Doyle Baker of Pottsville, Mrs. L. C. McCracken of Russellville, Mrs. Rife Hughey of Atkins, Mrs. John Page of Dover, and Mrs. Chas. Massey of Morrilton.

Preceding the session, the hostess served a delightful dessert plate, with coffee.

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

SPECIAL ANNUAL EASTER SERVICE, HOT SPRINGS

On Sunday, April 10, at 5:45 a. m., Hot Springs for the 21st consecutive time will present its annual Easter Sunrise Service of prayer and song from the summit of Hot Springs Mountain.

This inspiring program of worship through the years has been under the directorship of Elizabeth Bowe Sims, who trains and rehearses the Hot Springs Choral Club in regular practice sessions. This year a recently organized group of junior choristers will augment the senior choir.

"O Joyous Easter Morning" will be sung by the white robed chorus, as they file down a mountain path to assemble around a huge rugged cross.

Two favorite Easter numbers, "Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today" and "My Faith Looks Up To Thee", will be the congregational hymns.

The music will be interspersed by scriptural readings. Jon Karber will be narrator.

"Hosanna!", played by Richard G. Morris, Jr., organist, will close the service.

This event is sponsored by the National Park Service and the senior Chamber of Commerce and attracts thousands of early morning worshippers and music lovers.

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it.—Prof. Halford E. Luccock, in Beecher Lectures at Yale University.

"HENDRIX DAY" AT FIRST CHURCH, NORTH LITTLE ROCK

Representatives of the Hendrix College faculty, administration, and student body were present when First Methodist Church, North Little Rock, observed "Hendrix Day" on Sunday, March 27. Dr. Matt L. Ellis spoke at the morning hour in a service conducted by Dr. C. M. Reves, Dr. James S. Upton, and Reverend J. William Watson, pastor.

During the afternoon Dr. Upton and five members of a Hendrix Fellowship team led a workshop period for members of the senior youth council and their adult advisors. The program area of Christian Outreach was given special attention.

Special guests for the Fellowship Supper were members of the Hendrix College Chapel Choir, who presented a concert of religious classics at the evening service. Among those attending this service of worship through music were several visitors from other churches in the city.

The purpose of Hendrix Day was to bring the various contributions of Hendrix religious activities into the focus of members of First Church.

All that is necessary for the triumph of sin is for good men to do nothing.—Rev. Frank B. Knouse, Christian Advocate.

WOMEN OF LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE IN ANNUAL SESSION

On Tuesday of last week, March 29, the Woman's Society of Christian Service met at Winfield Methodist Church in Little Rock for its 15th Annual Session. Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, conference president, presided. The theme for the conference was "Jesus Christ the Way." More than five hundred delegates and visitors were in attendance in the three-day session.

In addition to the President's message on the opening day of the conference, the following special speakers addressed the meeting: Mrs. Charles W. Mead of Omaha, Nebraska, member of Executive Committee of Woman's Division of Christian Service, subject, "Interpreting the Way Abroad;" Miss Sara Kishi Ram, crusade scholar from India, subject, "Why Missions?"; Miss Mary McSwain, missionary in Brazil, subject, "His Way in Brazil;" Mr. Laird Archer, Fayetteville, thirty years in official and private missions in Near East, subject, "The Challenge of a World in Turmoil;" Miss Paul Andress, missionary to Paraguay, subject, "Ecumenical Mileposts in Argentina."

Many conference and district leaders also had a place on the program.

The Annual Meeting was concluded Thursday at noon with a luncheon at the Winfield Methodist Church.

A pledge of \$75,000 was made by the six districts of the Conference to the Woman's Division of the Methodist Church for missionary work during the coming year. This is an increase of \$2,000 over last year's pledge.

In the closing business session Thursday morning, the group voted to erect a guest cottage at Camp Tanako, a Methodist Camp near Malvern, and dedicate it to the life service volunteers from the Little Rock Conference. The building will cost about \$5,000.

They also voted to support a move

for a Methodist headquarters building in Little Rock.

The W. S. C. S. will cooperate with the Board of Evangelism of the Conference in organizing prayer institutes in each district during the coming year. Mrs. Curtis Williams, Carlisle, will be the representative of the group in this project.

A resolution was adopted to oppose the bill now before the U. S. Congress to cut financial aid from the United States to the technical assistance program of the United Nations.

Mrs. J. F. McKinnon, Harpers Chapel, and Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, Conference president, were named to represent the group at the National Rural Life Conference in Bloomington, Ind., next summer.

Mrs. E. G. Kaetzell, Searcy, president of the North Arkansas Conference W. S. C. S., installed the following officers who were elected yesterday: Mrs. M. E. Scott, El Dorado, vice president; Mrs. Charles Primm, Smackover, secretary of missionary personnel; Mrs. L. B. Tooley, Hope, secretary of student work; Mrs. J. L. Verhoeff, Little Rock, treasurer; Mrs. Roy Paschal, Little Rock, secretary of supplies; Mrs. Glenn Martel, Magnolia, secretary of missionary education and service; Mrs. N. H. Brown, Jr., Little Rock, secretary of literature and publications; and Mrs. Eugene Fohrell, Sparkman, secretary of children's work.

Life memberships given for outstanding work in the organization went to: Miss Mary McSwain, Conference missionary to Brazil; Mrs. Herbert Stephens, Blevins; Mrs. E. F. Jensen, Stuttgart; Mrs. C. I. Parsons, Texarkana; Mrs. Primm; and Mrs. Scott. Mrs. L. W. Ederington was commended for her work and a plaque will be placed at Camp Tanako in her honor.

The Winfield W. S. C. S. presented life memberships to Mrs. C. C. Arnold, Mrs. J. A. Adams, and Mrs. C. E. Hays, all of Little Rock.

YOUNG PEOPLE GIVE PASTOR'S SON TV SET



Left to right: Mrs. W. G. Conner, standing, Jay Jee, Mary Louise, Rev. W. G. Conner, Pastor.

Jay Jee Conner, son of Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Conner, pastor and wife of the Bethel-Cato charge, Conway District, was pleasantly surprised recently when the people of the two churches on the charge presented him with a 21 inch Crosley Super V television set.

Jay Jee had polio in the fall of 1952 and spends most of his time in his wheel chair. He spends quite a bit of his time at home alone while

his father and mother are about their pastoral duties.

The young people of Bethel sponsored the plans for the gift. They had a pie supper in the fellowship room and furnished entertainment for the occasion. They also sold hamburgers and coffee.

Letters were sent to the membership of the churches. Everyone was very gracious in helping to make the gift possible.—Mrs. W. G. Conner

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, BENTON, BEGINS REVIVAL

The First Methodist Church of Benton is conducting an evangelistic campaign which began Monday evening and will continue through Easter Sunday.

Service will be held each evening at the church beginning at 7:00 p.m. The pastor, Rev. H. O. Bolin, will deliver the messages at the evening services. Henry Finkbeiner will lead the singing and Mrs. Victor Ledbetter will be at the organ. Special consideration to the needs of the young people of the church will be given at these services.

The themes for all messages will be taken from the teachings of Christ and events that took place during Passion Week. Each service will be an anniversary service and will coincide with something Christ did or said or something that happened to Him on the days of Passion Week.

A special service is planned for Thursday evening at which time the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be studied and the Sacra-

5TH SUNDAY MEETING ENJOYED AT SEDGWICK

The church membership of the Bono Charge had a very enjoyable time at Sedgwick in a special meeting on the 5th Sunday of January. These meetings were begun on the Bono Charge about two years ago and have been a very enjoyable part of our church program since.

Every fifth Sunday we meet at a different church on the charge. We have a special speaker from outside the circuit representing some of the general interests of the church.

The speaker for the January meeting was Dr. Lafayette Harris from Philander Smith College in Little Rock. Dr. Harris brought with him a quartet of boys from the school. He brought a very wonderful, and helpful message. It was a blessing to our charge to have him and the singers from the college with us. — Howard Vance.

ment administered. The choir will furnish special music for the service.

Saw

A Well

Loaded Man



By
Rev. R. A. Teeter

who looked very much like you—and me. But you say, “I don’t drink”. Neither do I, nor did this man. Who said anything about drinking? Sure, “well loaded” is a slang term for being drunk, but some wag or drunk must have perverted it to that: It is a good Bible term and means being well supplied with the good things of life. That’s why I said he looked like us. This fellow, Jake, didn’t know how “well loaded” he was. And that increases his likeness to us.

Scarcely any of us realize how well off we are. Jake was making a good wage but he went on strike for more, and lost. King Ahab had a whole kingdom and more wives than he needed (maybe that was his trouble), but he wanted Naboth’s vineyard. On the advice of Jezebel he killed Naboth to get it—and lost everything. Judas had his share of the common fund but he wanted more silver to jingle—say about \$30—and he sold himself to get it. He lost everything. And we could go on down the line from Aesop’s fable of the dog and the two bones to Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito and list the fools who were well supplied with good things and didn’t know it. They all lost. The list reaches around the world and across all times.

But here and there a fellow pops up who realized what a good thing he had of life. Such a man was David the psalmist. He said: “Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits.” The major shortage today is in a lack of appreciation like this. We are told that we need to expand our economy and maybe we do, but we ought to expand the grace of gratitude to God along with it. Psalm 8:19 is a good daily slogan for a prosperous people.

“NEWSPAPER EVANGELISM” SCORES IN JAPAN

One of the most unique and successful Christian missionary activities in all Japan is the “Newspaper and Correspondence Evangelism” carried on from the City of Fukuoka by representatives of several mission boards and Japanese churches. Beginning with “advertisements” in the local newspapers,

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR BERGMAN METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Paul E. Martin delivered the message at the Bergman Methodist Church Sunday afternoon February 20th at the laying of the cornerstone ceremonies of the new church.

We was assisted by the Rev. E. G. Kaetzell, superintendent of the Searcy district. The Rev. Alvin Gibbs pastor of the church, and Rev. Herchalle Couchman, pastor of the Harrison Methodist Church.

The Bergman church has a membership of about 60 members. The building is a cement block structure located on highway 7 near the overpass at Bergman.

Construction of the new building started in September of 1954 and was completed at an estimated cost of \$8,000 dollars. The two-story structure has facilities for Sunday School in three basement rooms, a kitchen and dining hall and recreation room.

The attendance at the church when the construction started was in the twenties and thirties. Since the building project has been underway and now completed the attendance has climbed to the 75 and 80 mark.

The board of trustees include, C. D. Foster, Jr., J. J. Fitzgerald, V. E. Cook. The building committee includes A. C. Rushing, Mrs. Lois Archer, Paul Sowell, C. D. Foster and J. J. Fitzgerald.—Alvin Gibbs, pastor



Left to right: Rev. E. G. Kaetzell, District Superintendent, Bishop Martin, Rev. Alvin Gibbs, pastor.

the service now goes out also via the radio and other audio-visual channels.

Offers are made — in newspaper paid space, via radio, etc. — for people to write in to the evangelistic center for Scriptures, Christian literature, and answers to their personal and religious problems. They are also invited to pay 200 yen (\$6) per annum to borrow books from the center’s library. Today, there are more than 500 paying inquirers. In addition, more than 100 have been baptized or are under instruction preparing for baptism.

Cooperating in this Christian correspondence evangelism are: the United Church in Japan the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Methodist Board of Missions, the United Lutheran Board of Missions, the Presbyterian (U. S. A.) Board of Foreign Missions, and the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.

Nat’l Council Head Commends President’s Example

New York, (NC) — Dr. Eugene Carson Blake declared today that all men of faith should be glad

when the Chief Executive of the nation gives the whole people an example by his regular attendance at the church of his choice.

Dr. Blake, as president of the National Council of Churches and stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., issued a statement today following criticism by Senator Neely of West Virginia of President Eisenhower.

The text of Dr. Blake’s statement follows:

“As a nation we recognize the importance of religion in our heritage and inscribe on our coinage and stamps the affirmation of faith ‘In God We Trust.’

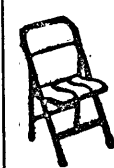
“When the Chief Executive of the nation gives the whole people an example by his regular attendance at the church of his choice, all men of faith should be glad. The officials of his own church and of all churches are, I am sure, thankful for the manifest sincerity of the President’s Christian faith.

“Many adults are making decisions every day to join churches. To question the motives or challenge the sincerity of the President or of anyone else who makes such a decision is presumptuous. Such

matters are the concerns of the conscience of the individual and the discipline of the church.”

Graham Opens Scottish Crusade To Packed Hall

More than 15,000 persons packed Kelvin Hall, Scotland’s biggest auditorium, for the opening of evangelist Billy Graham’s six-week Scottish Crusade. Another 3,500 heard and watched him over a closed-circuit TV in a nearby building. Many thousands more gathered in 450 churches and meeting houses all over Scotland and England to hear his address over a telephone relay hookup that authorities of the British Post Office said was the largest such private circuit it had ever connected.



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LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE TREASURER’S REPORT

(Continued from page 15)

RECAPITULATION—June 11, 1954 through March 11, 1955

District	Amt. Receipt	District Supt.	Bishops Fund	Conf. Claim.	M.S.P.	M.S.C.	W. S. & Conf. Ben.	Korea	General & Jurisd.	Adv.	C. S. Day	M. Y. F.	Area Fund
ARKADELPHIA	\$ 38,737.05	5,809.75	1,289.32	7,635.63	158.90	1,097.95	13,564.20	2,084.53	843.22	470.08	731.50	435.64	90.00
CAMDEN	66,466.74	7,491.77	1,781.15	10,863.05	356.20	1,500.95	19,585.02	5,900.29	1,185.50	1,542.76	832.25	723.75	152.00
HOPE	41,639.69	5,650.85	1,120.07	6,293.25	266.95	961.04	13,900.91	2,807.35	878.00	2,629.21	593.00	388.08	75.68
LITTLE ROCK	86,214.29	9,499.01	2,333.62	14,693.37	458.00	2,260.79	30,796.97	6,028.93	1,578.68	3,008.50	773.25	780.02	188.00
MONTICELLO	45,018.03	6,400.38	1,434.52	9,205.38	371.00	1,361.52	15,668.63	2,264.06	824.56	968.75	548.85	337.36	85.67
PINE BLUFF	48,154.49	6,693.75	1,494.50	9,052.90	418.00	1,413.50	16,237.42	2,695.62	886.73	1,109.23	742.78	549.51	149.25
	\$326,230.39	41,545.51	9,453.18	57,743.58	2,029.05	8,595.75	109,753.15	21,780.78	6,196.60	9,728.53	4,221.63	3,214.36	740.60

District	R. M. End.	Camp Fund	1000 Club	Meth. Info.	Inter. Co-Op	Nov. Spec.	Wk. Ded.	Race Rel.	W. W. Com.	Wesley Fd.	Student Day	Station Wagon	Radio T. V.	Misc. Dist. &
ARKADELPHIA	\$ 15.00	1,020.00	204.00	204.00	1,095.70	293.21	358.25	722.17	3.00	15.00	511.00	205.00	84.00	
CAMDEN	225.00	50.00	1,390.00	253.00	368.25	3,578.89	2,201.69	549.17	1,261.98	3,886.84	234.01	500.00	37.72	
HOPE	25.00	610.00	176.54	252.23	717.00	1,096.36	413.00	969.87	40.00	500.00	336.30	39.00		
LITTLE ROCK	420.94	2,955.00	334.87	478.40	1,774.99	1,626.45	1,481.58	1,851.12	73.11	641.64	386.75	1,790.26		
MONTICELLO	3.50	103.75	837.50	199.90	285.63	1,081.50	873.10	394.08	880.09	500.00	380.80	7.50		
PINE BLUFF	266.00	1,160.00	217.05	283.08	678.80	1,154.09	144.13	1,360.65	23.50	500.00	324.00	600.00		
	228.50	880.69	7,972.50	1,385.36	1,667.59	8,926.88	8,144.94	3,340.21	7,045.88	3,889.84	385.62	3,152.64	1,670.57	

FOR JUNE 11, 1954 THROUGH MARCH 11, 1955

ARKANSAS METHODIST

Charge and Church	Dist. Supt.	Bishops Fund	Conf. Claim.	M.S.P.	M.S.C.	W. S. & Conf. Ben.	Bishops Ap. for Korea	G. & J.
Chambersville	21.50	4.00	25.50	2.00	4.00	23.00	14.30	1.00
Stoney Point	3.00	.50	3.50	.25	.50	3.00	3.50	.25
Temperance Hill	50.00	10.00	60.00	3.75	10.00	53.75	7.20	2.50
Thornton	93.00	13.00	108.00	9.00	18.00	75.00	25.00	3.75
TILLAR-WINCHESTER								
Newton Chapel	35.00	10.00	47.50	5.00	10.00	65.00	152.00	6.00
Selma	16.50	3.50	25.00		3.00	17.50		1.50
Tillar	90.00	18.00	135.00		18.00	150.00		20.00
Winchester	35.25	6.75	49.50		7.50	75.00		4.50
WARREN	450.00	90.00	675.00	10.00	90.00	1575.00	205.18	72.00
WARREN CIRCUIT								
Good Hope	20.25	3.75	17.75			26.00		1.50
Wagon	15.00	3.00	13.50			22.50		1.50
Wheeler Springs	12.75	2.25	12.00			22.25		1.50
WATSON-KELSO								
Kelso	50.00	10.00	65.00	5.00	10.00	115.00	23.19	8.00
Watson	120.00	24.00	156.00			150.00	48.75	
WILMAR CIRCUIT								
Wilmar	40.00	8.00	32.00		8.00	70.00		6.00
WILMOT								
Millers Chapel	15.00	3.00	13.50		3.00	25.00	11.25	2.50
Wilmot	150.00	30.00	195.00	15.00	30.00	250.00	68.37	15.00
TOTAL	\$6400.38	1434.52	9205.33	371.00	1361.52	15668.63	2264.06	824.56
ADVANCE: Monticello District	\$300.00					\$300.00		
\$75.00, Arkansas City	\$18.75					\$125.00		
McGehee	\$150.00							
Total						\$968.75		
1000 CLUB: Monticello District	\$705.00					\$125.00		
Arkansas City	\$7.50							
CHURCH SCHOOL DAY: Crossett	\$60.00					\$3.00		
Extra	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Mt. Tabor	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Waller's Chapel	\$8.00					\$3.00		
Dermott	\$35.00					\$3.00		
Green Hill	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Lacey	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Valley	\$1.50					\$3.00		
Dumas	\$40.00					\$3.00		
Fordeyce	\$50.00					\$3.00		
Hamburg	\$40.00					\$3.00		
Faustina	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Hampton	\$9.00					\$3.00		
Harrell	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Hermitage	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Ingalls	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Jersey	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Lake Village	\$26.10					\$3.00		
Martins Chapel	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Arkansas City	\$6.00					\$3.00		
Monticello	\$65.00					\$3.00		
Montrose	\$10.00					\$3.00		
Portland	\$15.00					\$3.00		
Cornerville	\$3.75					\$3.00		
Mt. Home	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Chambersville	\$2.00					\$3.00		
Temperance	\$5.25					\$3.00		
Newton Chapel	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Selma	\$1.50					\$3.00		
Winchester	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Warren	\$75.00					\$3.00		
Good Hope	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Wagon	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Wheeler Springs	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Kelso	\$4.00					\$3.00		
Watson	\$12.00					\$3.00		
Wilmar	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Millers Chapel	\$4.00					\$3.00		
TOTAL						\$548.85		
METHODIST YOUTH FUND: Crossett	\$140.00					\$36.64		
Dumas	\$36.64					\$36.64		
Hamburg	\$35.00					\$35.00		
Lake Village	\$5.00					\$5.00		
Martins Chapel	\$18.75					\$20.50		
McGehee	\$20.50					\$32.00		
Parkdale	\$32.00					\$32.00		
Portland	\$5.00					\$32.00		
Warren	\$34.47					\$32.00		
Wilmar	\$10.00					\$32.00		
TOTAL						\$337.36		
AREA FUND: Crossett	\$99.00					\$3.00		
Extra	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Mt. Tabor	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Waller's Chapel	\$7.50					\$3.00		
Dermott	\$56.25					\$3.00		
Green Hill	\$4.00					\$3.00		
Lacey	\$4.00					\$3.00		
Valley	\$1.50					\$3.00		
Dumas	\$40.00					\$3.00		
Fordeyce	\$50.00					\$3.00		
Hamburg	\$40.00					\$3.00		
Faustina	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Hampton	\$9.00					\$3.00		
Harrell	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Hermitage	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Ingalls	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Jersey	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Lake Village	\$26.10					\$3.00		
Martins Chapel	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Arkansas City	\$6.00					\$3.00		
Monticello	\$65.00					\$3.00		
Montrose	\$10.00					\$3.00		
Portland	\$15.00					\$3.00		
Cornerville	\$3.75					\$3.00		
Mt. Home	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Chambersville	\$2.00					\$3.00		
Temperance	\$5.25					\$3.00		
Newton Chapel	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Selma	\$1.50					\$3.00		
Winchester	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Warren	\$75.00					\$3.00		
Good Hope	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Wagon	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Wheeler Springs	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Kelso	\$4.00					\$3.00		
Watson	\$12.00					\$3.00		
Wilmar	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Millers Chapel	\$4.00					\$3.00		
TOTAL						\$952.00		
CAMP: Crossett	\$100.00					\$3.75		
Arkansas City	\$3.75					\$3.75		
TOTAL						\$103.75		
NOVEMBER SPECIAL: Crossett	\$125.00					\$5.00		
Extra	\$5.00					\$5.00		
Mt. Tabor	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Waller's Chapel	\$8.00					\$3.00		
Dermott	\$75.00					\$3.00		
Green Hill	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Lacey	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Valley	\$1.50					\$3.00		
Dumas	\$75.00					\$3.00		
Fordeyce	\$50.00					\$3.00		
Hamburg	\$40.00					\$3.00		
Faustina	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Hampton	\$9.00					\$3.00		
Harrell	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Hermitage	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Ingalls	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Jersey	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Lake Village	\$26.10					\$3.00		
Martins Chapel	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Arkansas City	\$6.00					\$3.00		
Monticello	\$65.00					\$3.00		
Montrose	\$10.00					\$3.00		
Portland	\$15.00					\$3.00		
Cornerville	\$3.75					\$3.00		
Mt. Home	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Chambersville	\$2.00					\$3.00		
Temperance	\$5.25					\$3.00		
Newton Chapel	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Selma	\$1.50					\$3.00		
Winchester	\$3.00					\$3.00		
Warren	\$75.00					\$3.00		
Good Hope	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Wagon	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Wheeler Springs	\$2.25					\$3.00		
Kelso	\$4.00					\$3.00		
Watson	\$12.00					\$3.00		
Wilmar	\$5.00					\$3.00		
Millers Chapel	\$4.00					\$3.00		
TOTAL						\$1,031.50		
WEEK OF DEDICATION: Crossett	\$77.42					\$28.50		
Crossett Circuit	\$28.50					\$28.50		
Dermott	\$50.61					\$28.50		
Lacey	\$16.00					\$28.50		
Green Hill	\$28.03					\$28.50		
Fountain Hill	\$11.00					\$28.50		
Hickory Grove	\$13.00					\$28.50		
Pine Hill	\$9.00					\$28.50		
Zion	\$9.00					\$28.50		
Hamburg	\$119.00					\$28.50		
Faustina	\$10.00					\$28.50		
Hampton	\$20.00					\$28.50		
Harrell	\$28.60					\$28.50		
Hermitage	\$10.00					\$28.50		
Ingalls	\$4.00					\$28.50		
Jersey	\$6.00					\$28.50		
Lake Village	\$13.35					\$28.50		
Martins Chapel	\$3.75					\$28.50		
Arkansas City	\$11.25					\$28.50		
McGehee	\$57.65					\$28.50		
Monticello	\$40.00					\$28.50		
Montrose	\$23.55					\$28.50		
Portland	\$11.00					\$28.50		
Cornerville	\$6.00					\$28.50		
Chambersville	\$5.00					\$28.50		
Temperance	\$12.06					\$28.50		
Newton Chapel	\$12.00					\$28.50		
Selma	\$4.38					\$28.50		
Tillar	\$20.60					\$28.50		
Winchester	\$7.02					\$28.50		
Warren	\$115.95					\$28.50		
Kelso	\$9.80					\$28.50		
TOTAL						\$373.10		
RACE RELATION: Crossett Circuit	\$20.00					\$25.00		
Dermott	\$25.00					\$25.00		
Dumas	\$27.10					\$25.00		
Eudora	\$16.53					\$25.00		
Fordeyce	\$64.00					\$25.00		
Hamburg	\$10.00					\$25.00		
Martins Chapel	\$3.00					\$25.00		
McGehee	\$50.00					\$25.00		
Arkansas City	\$3.75					\$25.00		
Monticello	\$25.00					\$25.00		
Montrose	\$15.25					\$25.00		
Parkdale	\$20.25					\$25.00		
Mt. Home	\$3.35					\$25.00		
Star City	\$16.56					\$25.00		
Temperance Hill	\$3.00					\$25.00		
Thornton	\$5.29					\$25.00		
Newton Chapel	\$9.50					\$25.		

The Sunday School Lesson

REV. H. O. BOLIN

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



LESSON FOR APRIL 17, 1955

OBLIGATIONS OF LEADERS

READ THE ENTIRE LESSON FROM YOUR BIBLE:
2 Chronicles 10:6-17.

MEMORY SELECTION: If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him. (James 1:5)

We are beginning a new series of lessons today consisting of eleven sessions. UNIT VI: "GOD IN THE LIFE OF A NATION". The aim of the unit is "To come to a keener realization of God's part in the life of a nation through study of some of the highlights in the history of the Southern Kingdom and its rulers." According to the *Adult Student* the aim of this particular lesson is "To help adults be alert and combat tyrannical tendencies in national life."

During the next ten weeks we will be studying the history of Judah as set forth in 2 Chronicles. The length of this unit bespeaks something of its importance.

Lesson Background

We are studying the history of the Israelites. It will be remembered that they were led from Egyptian bondage by Moses and Joshua. They finally landed in Palestine and under the leadership of Joshua, conquered it. At first they were ruled by judges in a rather loose federation, and later the twelve tribes were united into a nation under their first king, Saul. Saul was followed by David who proved to be the most popular king the nation ever had. He extended the boundaries of the nation. David was followed by his son, Solomon, under whose leadership the nation reached its period of greatest glory. Solomon built a magnificent kingdom but in so doing spent a lot of money and greatly burdened the nation with taxes. He also had forced labor camps, something similar to those that Russia now has.

At the head of these labor groups Solomon had a young man by the name of Jeroboam. Jeroboam realized that Solomon was mistreating the people. He attempted to take their part and became their champion. Solomon detected the fact that this young man was trying to stir up a rebellion and drove him from the country. He fled to Egypt, but not before the Prophet Ahijah had told him that at the death of Solomon he would become king of the ten northern tribes. When he learned of the death of Solomon he returned to lead the northern tribes.

When Solomon passed away his son Rehoboam followed him on the throne. There was no question about his being king of the two original tribes that had followed his grandfather David—Judah and Benjamin, but his kingship over the other ten tribes had to be verified by them. For this purpose an assembly was called at Shechem. These ten tribes led by Jeroboam, who had at this time returned from Egypt, demanded that some changes be made before they accepted Rehoboam as king. They demanded that their tax burdens be lightened and

that they no longer be compelled to work in forced labor camps.

A Look At The Scriptures

At this point the printed portion of our lesson begins. The first two verses (2 Chronicles 10: 6-8) tells of the young king asking advice of the older men who had served as counselors of his father. He told them of the demands that were being made by the leaders of the ten tribes and asked their advice as to what to do about them. They went on to say to him, "If you will be kind to this people and please them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever." This was very good advice. These men knew how the people felt about the burdens that Solomon had laid on them. They knew that the time was ripe for a change and that if the change did not come these people would rebel. They realized that it took much patience and great restraint on the part of the people to put up with Solomon until he died. After all Solomon was not the great king that some people make him out to be. It is true he made a big showing, but in doing so he bankrupted his nation. Israel could not stand even one Solomon. He had the idea along this line that one of our rulers had in the not too distant past. He thought that nations could be made great and kept that way by taxing and spending and spending. Like the majority of the citizens of our nation, the writer fell for that philosophy and helped by his vote to keep this gentleman in power as long as he lived. The only comment he has to make now is that if our foresights were as good as our hindsight we would be better off both as individuals and as a nation.

To make a long story short, Rehoboam rejected the advice of these older men. The reason why he did this was it did not suit him. He really did not want someone to tell him what to do; he wanted someone to second his motion; to verify his own opinions along this line. These older men refused to do it and he dismissed them and called in the "Yes-boys".

The next three verses of our lesson (2 Chronicles 10: 9-11) tells of the advice of these younger men. It will be noted that these young men had grown up with the king in the lap of luxury there in the court. After all, however, these younger men should have had better sense. They were full grown men. They had grown up with Rehoboam, and he was forty-one years old when he began to reign. They went on to advise the king to say to the people, "My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. And, whereas my father laid upon you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father chastised

you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." The term "scorpions" simply designates whips that were enterlaced with stripes of lead and steel. They were very cruel instruments of punishment. There is but little doubt that had the king taken the advice of the older men all would have been well. Even Jeroboam the leader of the ten tribes seems to have been ready to go along as a loyal subject if Rehoboam had have made these concessions. But his harsh answer closed the door to further negotiations.

Our last passage (2 Chronicles 10:15-17) tells of the final results of the assembly. The people of the ten tribes were greatly displeased with the answer of the king. We are told that they said to him, "What portion have we in David? we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Each of you to your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So the ten tribes went away and Rehoboam ruled over only the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

One thing we need to note as we make this study and that is the fact that prior to the division of the kingdom the whole nation was called Israel, and after that division only the northern portion was called Israel and the southern kingdom was known as Judah.

As usual our memory selection (James 1:5) is in keeping with the lesson: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him."

Surely, the rulers of the various nations of the world should take advantage of this opportunity. No man is sufficient within himself to guide the affairs of a nation. He needs the wisdom that comes only from God. Solomon began his reign by seeking this wisdom, but later he was led astray by his many heathen wives. He even went to the extent of building houses of worship for them and permitted the worship of heathen deities right in Jerusalem. He did not stop even with that. In his old age he was greatly shaken in his faith in the true God. He passed out of this life with a shadow over his career that all the magnificence of his kingdom and the glory of his power cannot erase. He can never stand, even in the eyes of his own people, by the side of his father, David. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, went wrong, but he did so in trying to follow in his footsteps. It was a case of like father; like son.

The Lesson Applied

As we attempt to apply this lesson to our modern national and world situation we must keep definitely in mind both the general theme of the unit—"GOD IN THE LIFE OF A NATION", and the subject of our lesson today—"OBLIGATIONS OF LEADERS". We are using only as illustrative matter the history of Judah. Patrick Henry once said, "I know of no way of judging the future, except by the past." If certain trends were noted in a nation in the long ago which led to its division and finally to its complete destruction, and it can be shown that those trends are prevalent today, it is time to stop and take careful stock of the situation.

Israel began its existence as a people under God; a theocracy at least to the extent that God's will was intelligently revealed and faithfully obeyed. It was ruled by the Lord through such leaders as Moses, Joshua, judges and prophets. It

finally came to be a monarchy and certain trends set in which continued with it until its final dissolution.

In many respects our nation had a beginning that was similar to that of Israel. Our forebearers were under spiritual bondage in certain nations of the world; they were not permitted to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience. Many of the early settlers came here seeking this privilege. In the American Revolution we threw off the yoke of Great Britain, which was attempting to force taxation upon us without representation.

Realizing, by experience, the danger of placing too much power in the hands of centralized government our founding father wrote a Constitution, which if faithfully followed would prevent this from ever taking place in our nation. Under this regime the people of this country have built the greatest nation the sun ever shone on. Do we have any assurance that this nation will always exist? It will if succeeding generations continue to follow in the footsteps of their forebears. We are told in God's Word that "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Our nation has been exalted by righteousness. If it is ever destroyed it will be by sin.

There are certain trends in our nation today which were prevalent in many nations of the past, including Judah, and which led to their final destruction. For example, prior to the destruction of both Judah and Israel there was a great deal of church loyalty, but not much real religion. We have a trend like that in our nation now. One of the greatest religious thinkers and writers of our day, Dr. VanDusen, has called attention to the fact that there is a great movement back to the churches while at the same time there is a continued lowering of moral standards. Our juvenile delinquency is still on the increase. If you were to take the money and support of church members away from our immoral institutions, such as the liquor traffic and gambling, most of them would go out of business. If church members would be faithful to vote and consistently refuse to vote for politicians who would not stand on the right side of moral issues that come up in the legislature, they would rid the nation of corrupt politics in one generation. Churchianity is not going to save any individual or any nation; what is needed is true Christianity. We need church loyalty all right, but if we are to succeed, it must also be loyalty to Christ and his way of life.

Another present-day trend is the trend toward materialism. Materialism has always been humanity's greatest danger point. Every age is more or less materialistic, but our age seems to have gone further than any other at this point. This is a world-wide trend. There is a great temptation everywhere to place material things ahead of spiritual values. We criticize Russia for this evil. Her leaders openly declare that there is no such thing as a personal God who is interested in human being and will hear and answer their prayers. They also insist that the only real values in life are material values. Judah did not come out openly and make such declaration, but she practiced them nonetheless. Even the glory of the nation under Solomon was a materialistic, despotic glory. Our own nation needs to be careful at this very point.

ARKANSAS METHODIST