

THE WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

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No. 4

Simmons University Will Enter Debt Paying Drive

As a result of a conference held last Saturday between Dr. L. R. Scarborough, director of the Conquest Campaign, Mr. Carr Collins, of the budget control committee and President J. D. Sandefer and the trustees of Simmons University, definite arrangements were made for Simmons University to participate in the debt paying campaign this year.

Simmons' participation in the campaign was made possible by the action of the Baptist Convention at Wichita Falls in repealing the resolution passed at the Mineral Wells Convention to the effect that no institution whose trustees were not approved by the convention should participate in the campaign.

As a result of Simmons' participation in the 75 Million Campaign an indebtedness of approximately \$150,000 was left on the Board of Trustees of the institution. After the pledges had been made on the 75 Million Campaign, the heads of the various institutions were instructed to make plans for their expenditures on a basis of fifty per cent of the amount which they were to receive from the campaign. Had the entire \$75,000,000 been collected, Simmons would have received \$37,500,000. In accordance with instructions the trustees launched their program on a basis of \$250,000, and as the institution received only about \$140,000, an indebtedness of \$110,000 was made. The Simmons charter does not permit of an indebtedness being made against the institution and the above was assumed and carried by the trustees.

That the policy pursued by Simmons throughout its history has met fully the approval of its constituency, is attested by the fact that during the past she has grown a plant valued at \$1,250,000, with an endowment of approximately \$500,000; and during all this time the only indebtedness of any consequence has been that left on the institution by the 75 Million campaign.

Simmons is to participate in the debt paying campaign on a percentage basis, as will all the other institutions in the State. In the agreement with the Board representatives Saturday it was understood that in the campaign to pay the debts on our institutions, designations would be allowed and that all monies designated to the various institutions would be sent to these institutions up to the amount of the indebtedness of the said institutions. Simmons enters the campaign this year with the privilege of withdrawing at the end of that period if she so desires.

The local appeal was thus utilized in the campaign last year and many of the institutions raised thousands of dollars locally to apply on their indebtedness. In designating gifts, however, it is understood that the designation must be made at the time the pledge is made.

The Budget For Cooperative Program Steadily Gaining

Let Us Press the Canvass Diligently Now

F. S. Groner

The writer has been about over the state a great deal in the past three weeks attending various conferences and preaching in various churches and in every instance the thing uppermost at all these several services was the budget for the local church work and the Cooperative Program for 1928. It is gratifying to observe the growing and deepening interest in our budget program. There is a solid sentiment back of it and a genuine enthusiasm among those who are promoting it on their various fields. Everywhere I have been and at every place from which I have heard of one village church which the budget is being subscribed with a zest and a readiness surpassing that of other years. The reports from many of our country churches and small village churches are very encouraging. I was present in a deacons meeting of one village church where heretofore had been a half time church and has been receiving help from our Board, but it has now gone to full time, and has gone off of the Board voluntarily and has increased its budget to our denomination work by \$10 per month. I refer to the church at which Brother Maurice M. Hall is pastor. Also a letter lies before me from the educational director of the Columbus Avenue Church, Waco. The canvass for the budget of that church has been completed and their goal of \$25,000 has been oversubscribed by \$1200.

The reports from numerous other churches are to this same general effect. They practically all show an upward trend. In many associations workers conferences have been held and itineraries planned for the association for the purpose of completing the subscription to the Cooperative Program before we get into the Conquest Campaign. This is notably true of Union Association which is gallantly led by their missionary, Brother Thomas W. White; of Tierra Blanca Association of which Brother L. F. Parker is missionary, and of the Burleson-Lee Association with Missionary W. W. Burr leading, and in many cases over the state.

The canvass for the budget for our regular work should be completed as speedily as possible. The district rallies for the Conquest Campaign will begin about January 24th, and by then means we ought to complete the budget for our cooperative work before that date.

The year just closed showed an improvement over the previous year in the monthly remittances from our budget churches and the new year begins with even a more marked improvement. For example, our receipts for November and December of the present State Convention year are \$16,039.05 more than for the corresponding months of the previous year. The receipts for November and December 1926 were \$63,200.50, and for November and December just past are \$79,239.55. Certainly this is a most gratifying gain and augurs well for the new year. For November and December we averaged practically \$40,000 per month. Now if we will add \$10,000 per month to this figure we would receive in regular monthly remittances the \$60,000 objective for our Cooperative Program for the current year. We have started well so far. During the first seven days of January we received slightly more than \$15,000, and by faithful and

steady effort on the part of all our pastors and missionaries and all other cooperating workers we really ought to attain a regular monthly average of \$50,000. It will take work to do this, faithful, sustained, and diligent effort, but the goal is well worth the effort.

There is no reason why we should not within a year or so have a steady monthly income for our Cooperative Program of \$100,000. Let this be our aim and may we work and pray and strive to this noble and worthy end. The writer has a growing hopefulness and a deepening confidence for the success of our work for 1928. It is gratifying to observe the growing and deepening interest in our budget program. There is a solid sentiment back of it and a genuine enthusiasm among those who are promoting it on their various fields. Everywhere I have been and at every place from which I have heard of one village church which the budget is being subscribed with a zest and a readiness surpassing that of other years. The reports from many of our country churches and small village churches are very encouraging. I was present in a deacons meeting of one village church where heretofore had been a half time church and has been receiving help from our Board, but it has now gone to full time, and has gone off of the Board voluntarily and has increased its budget to our denomination work by \$10 per month. I refer to the church at which Brother Maurice M. Hall is pastor. Also a letter lies before me from the educational director of the Columbus Avenue Church, Waco. The canvass for the budget of that church has been completed and their goal of \$25,000 has been oversubscribed by \$1200.

LET THE CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONS MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE

F. S. Groner

The requests from churches and associations for help on the salaries of missionaries and missionary pastors were almost universally reduced to a minimum amount and in numerous cases were declined outright at our recent Board meeting. The necessity for this we all regret but we have addressed ourselves to the serious undertaking of living within our income and paying off our denominational debts just as soon as possible. The purpose of this brief note is to urge upon the churches served by these missionary pastors, and upon the associations served by these faithful and capable associational missionaries, to make up the amount that they failed to receive from our Board and thus make it possible for these workers to continue on their present fields without their salaries having to be reduced to the point of actual privation. We are hopeful that in every instance where requests were denied, or the amount asked for reduced, or the other happened in practically every instance—the fields on which this pastor or missionary serves will act promptly and make up this balance.

The writer has already attended some associational meetings and church conferences where this was in spirit and gratifying. None of these faithful men should have to suffer. A little more liberality on the part of the churches over the state can provide for this reduction and continue to carry on our work unabated and unimpeded. There are no more faithful or deserving men in all the kingdom than our associational missionaries and missionary pastors, and may this year the brethren on the fields served by these true hearted and godly men, to give this business their prompt and faithful attention and save our workers from embarrassment and unnecessary handicaps because of the lack of adequate support. Please do this now, brethren. Please act promptly.

The First Baptist Church, Colorado, has asked Evangelist W. C. Ashford to supply for the church for three months, and he has accepted the invitation and is now on the field. During his stay at Colorado, Brother Ashford plans to hold some meetings with churches near Colorado.

MIDLAND CHURCH GIVES CAR OF CALVES TO ORPHANS HOME

A car load of baby beef, valued at \$1,250 and a cash offering of \$159.90 was the contribution of the First Baptist Church of Midland to Buckner Orphans Home. There were thirty-six calves in the car sent to Dallas and these were conservatively valued at \$35.00 per head. According to Hal F. Buckner, this is the first time in the history of the home that a car load of calves have been donated at one time. Pastor George F. Brown and the generous westerners making up the Midland church are to be congratulated in making this generous Christmas offering to our orphan children at Dallas.

PROCEEDS OF SONG WILL SUPPORT MISSIONARIES IN BRAZILIAN MISSION

A new Texas song, "My Texas," the words and music of which were written by Mrs. O. T. Anderson of Olney, is being offered for sale, all of the proceeds of which will go to fund for sending Dr. and Mrs. B. Y. Bagby back to Brazil as missionaries.

This song has been accepted by many well known musicians being worthy of consideration as a state song.

The Y. W. A. of the First Baptist Church, Olney, has taken the responsibility of advertising and selling the song. The song will sell at the regular price of forty cents, all the proceeds of which will go to the missionary fund for the Bagbys. All orders for the song should be sent to the Y. W. A., First Baptist Church, Olney, Texas.

Mrs. Anderson, composer of the song is the wife of O. T. Anderson of Olney, trustee of Simmons University.

TULIA CHURCH WILL SUPPORT A MISSIONARY

On Sunday morning, December 11, our church voted to adopt for a period of two years one of the 150 foreign missionaries now in this country because of lack of funds in the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond.

After selecting the missionary we expect to have him or her come to our church and lead us in a School of Missions dealing with the country to which this missionary is to return. We shall then pay his travel expense to the field of labor and take care of the customary salary for two years. This action of our church is not intended to cripple our responsibility to the Co-operative Program, but is in addition to our combined budget for 1928, which budget has already been approved by our church. It will be regrettable if any one interprets this information in the light of boastfulness; it is sent for publication in the hope that many other churches will be induced to do likewise.

Yours very truly,

Alonso C. Huff, Pastor.

A MESSAGE TO CHURCHES AND PREACHERS

The wilderness of South Dakota is far worse now, religiously speaking than the wilderness of Judea was in John's day. John was only a voice crying in the wilderness, repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, but here in the wilderness of South Dakota, you hear no such a voice or message.

Not long ago I heard a college president, after taking this passage for his text, say "he did not know it meant." (I wanted to ask him to sit down and quit, but my courage failed me.) Yes, they have churches, but church membership counts for less and means less than in any place I ever saw. A voice could any more be expected when two thirds of the preachers preach everything but the gospel of Jesus Christ. They read nearly every new book that comes out, but they do not read the Bible, and know but little about it, judging from the way they preach.

We need a revival of Bible reading and Bible preaching everywhere more than we need anything else, and churches will have more Holy Spirit power and church membership will be nearer what it was in apostolic times.

This is my Christmas message to all churches and preachers. Read and "preach the word."—Frank M. Wells, The Evangelist, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

P. S.—Twenty degrees below zero is pretty cold for Southern blood.

SECOND SEMESTER OPENING "SOUTHWESTER"

Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, announces Monday, January 23, as the date of its second semester opening. Annually many new students enter at this time as all work completed in the second half is credited regularly toward the various degrees. The enrollment for the first half of the year has approximated 500 students in residence and 600 in correspondence.

Evangelist John W. Newsum is in a good revival meeting this week with Pastor Joe Ford and Trinity Baptist Church, Abilene. The meeting is in its second week and there have been a number of professions and additions to the church. Brother Newsum will leave the latter part of the week for Oklahoma City where he will conduct a meeting with the British church of that place.

Statement From The Education Commission

At the recent session of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, in Wichita Falls, an Education Commission was appointed, in response to this recommendation from the Budget Control Committee: "It is our conviction that there should be made a careful study of our correlated school system, to determine if there should be any steps taken looking to the possible consolidation and relocation of some of our schools. Therefore, we recommend that the Committee on Committees nominate for the approval of this Convention, a Commission of eighteen persons to consider any matter relating to our entire school system. This Committee should organize and begin its work as soon as possible after the adjournment of this Convention; and when its report is ready, the Convention Board should be authorized, if this Commission should recommend, to call a special session of the Convention, to meet in some centrally located city, to consider its report. We suggest that authority be given for the special session of the Convention, because time is an important element in the working out of any of the recommendations that such Commission may make."

In response to the instructions of the Convention, the Commission has had two sessions, the first on December 13, and the other on December 27. Both meetings were long continued and were earnestly deliberative and prayerful. At the close of the second day's session of the Commission, the undersigned members would send a brief statement to our Texas Baptist brotherhood.

First of all, we would earnestly beseech our brethren and sisters through Texas to pray for us, that the Commission may be surely and wholly guided of God, in all its deliberations and conclusions. The task committed to us is so difficult and delicate and far-reaching, both for today and for the long tomorrow, that we must not, dare not rely merely upon our poor, short-sighted, human wisdom. We would fervently and unceasingly pray, and ask our beloved Baptist Family throughout all Texas to join us in the prayer that we all may now and henceforth wisely realize that "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

In a second word, the members of the Commission would give full assurance to the brotherhood that no hasty conclusions should be or will be reached by them, concerning the very responsible task committed to them. Our task imperatively calls for patient and prolonged deliberation, of which fact we are made increasingly and acutely conscious. We would seek information and help from every possible source. Today, we have been favored with the presence of the Presidents to our several Texas Baptist schools, who have advised us most helpfully, out of their long and important experience with our several institutions. These noble leaders have graciously proffered us their unstinted help, in every way possible. Their unselfish spirit in the whole matter is praiseworthy beyond words, and gives us fresh courage and hope for our difficult task, and for the future of our educational work.

The word is added that the Commission has gone far enough to

know that months will be necessary for the survey of our educational situation, both for the present and the future, before any recommendations can be made to the brotherhood. Meantime, let our people everywhere know that any and all rumors touching the discontinuance or consolidation or relocation of any of our institutions are altogether unauthorized and untimely.

In a third word, the undersigned members of the Commission would make their most earnest appeal to our entire Texas Baptist Family, to go unitedly and wholeheartedly forward with their nobly begun work of clearing all our institutions of debt. Whatever may be the final recommendations made by the Commission concerning our educational institutions and policies, certainly the payment of every cent of indebtedness against every one of these institutions will be included. We are happy in the conviction that the spirit of Texas Baptists is represented by this statement which was unanimously and earnestly approved by the recent Wichita Falls Convention.

"Those who were present at the session when this Commission (the Conquest Campaign Commission) was appointed a year ago, can never forget the holy impressions and resolute purposes of that memorable hour. With one mind and one heart, that Convention solemnly committed itself to the high task of clearing all of its causes from debt, year by year, in the years just ahead, at the same time seeking to care worthily for the maintenance and the ongoing of all its regular, co-operative work. In that same spirit your Commission would today make report to this Convention, most earnestly avowing its conviction, both collectively and individually, that, whatever the burdens, the difficulties, the toils and the trials involved in this debt-paying campaign, Texas Baptists are steadfastly and resolutely going right on, please God, as rapidly as possible, until not one cent of indebtedness is left on any enterprise fostered by this Convention."

Signed by the Education Commission, Dallas, December 27:

H. L. KOKERNOT, San Antonio.
EARL B. SMYTH, Mart.
GEO. W. TRUETT, Dallas.
L. R. SCARBOROUGH, Fort Worth.
C. P. COLLINS, Dallas.
M. T. ANDREWS, Texarkana.
J. H. PACE, Beaumont.
T. V. NEAL, El Paso.
G. L. YATES, Amarillo.
CULLEN F. THOMAS, Dallas.
PAT M. NEFF, Waco.
FORREST SMITH, Fort Worth.
E. F. LYON, Vernon.
J. F. ETTER, Sherman.
F. M. MCCONNELL, San Antonio.
M. M. WOLF, proxy for
A. D. FOREMAN, Houston.

Wolfe Makes Statement Concerning His Relation to Denominational Work

Dallas, Texas, January 7th, 1928.
In view of the widespread and conflicting reports concerning my contributions and position in the matter of Baptist denominational affairs in Texas, I am making this statement in the interest of the truth.
During the year 1919 Southern Baptists waged a campaign to raise seventy-five million dollars to promote certain denominational objects. When the pledges were taken, I did not accept the printed form used in the campaign, but instead wrote my own pledge across the face of the pledge card with pen and ink, my pledge reading as follows:
"I hereby promise to pay through my Church to various objects promoting the cause of Jesus Christ payable from time to time during the next five years the sum of one hundred thousand dollars."

Having in mind that all contributions made for the cause of Christ my books show that my contribution for religious causes coming under would be a credit on my pledge, and the pledge reached the sum of about thirty-five thousand dollars during the five year period, of which twenty thousand dollars went to specific objects of the seventy-five million campaign. In the midst of this five year period, I was literally swamped with financial misfortunes, and lost every dollar that I had, and for that reason, I have not been able to pay the balance of my pledge.

Fully determined to continue my well-known and established policy of refusing to enter into any sort of religious controversy, I am justified in saying that I have no sympathy whatever with any fight that has been made on the organization and institutional side of Texas Baptists.
While I have not agreed altogether with the denominational policy of recent years, be it known, once for all, that I stand without stint for every enterprise fostered by my beloved Baptist denomination, whether Educational, Missionary, or benevolent.

Signed,
M. H. Wolfe.

Dr. Truett's Statement

Concerning the foregoing statement, I desire to say that many good men who made generous pledges to the seventy-five million campaign, like Brother Wolfe, have been unable to pay their pledges in full, because of unexpected, financial reverses. Certainly this fact is in no sense an occasion for reproach, but rather for understanding sympathy, at the hands of all right thinking men.

As to Brother Wolfe, I would say that the pastor, the deacons, and our whole Church family have fully appreciated the limitations that have hindered the payment in full of his generous pledge, and have thoroughly understood how gladly he would have paid the whole pledge, ere this, if he could have done so.

And all of us recall, with profound gratitude, the noble example he has set through the long years, in giving which example has been a challenging inspiration, not only in his own Church, of which he has been an outstanding and faithful member for

Shall We Stand Looking on While Modernists Capture Institutions of Learning

There is a small group of Modernists working through the ketigious education Association, who are exercising a large influence in the religious world today. I fear that our people do not know just how far reaching their influence is. They are working in many directions towards many organizations and are capturing the strategic positions in the educational world. One of their most important lines of activities is their effort to capture our higher institutions of learning, and especially our state universities.

Many of the state universities bear the marks of Christian influence, as evidenced by the fact that the seal of the University of Kansas is a burning bush, and that of Indiana is an open Bible. Well would it be for the promotion of the general welfare, if these Christian influences could continue. But many things are working to take away all trace of the past.

In as much as religion can not be taught in state schools, the question arises how to reach the study body with religious instruction. Several different approaches have been made to the question in modern times. In some cases, what is known as a student secretary, working under the direction of the local church and working among the students, has been employed. Again, what is known as university pastors, have been employed by the denomination or local church, representing the interests of the particular denomination among the students. Yet another plan is this: Schools of religion so called, have been organized in which instruction is given in Bible courses for which credit is given towards graduation in the particular institution.

The bold step of Modernists in which they have undertaken to capture our state universities was first taken in 1924 when the University of Michigan was chosen as the initial field of operation. Since that time Schools of Religion have been organized in connection with several universities. Last year one was organized in connection with the State University of Oklahoma, and just a few weeks ago, one was started in connection with the University of Iowa. These schools are directed by a self appointed Board of Trustees, and courses of study are mapped out and regulations adopted for their operation.

That these schools are being promoted with great vigor and determination is shown by the fact that the one in connection with the University of Michigan has already an endowment of \$500,000 and \$75,000 have been secured for the maintenance of the school for three years. The one in connection with the University of Oklahoma has considerable money behind it, and the Associated Press a few days ago told us that the one in connection with the University of Iowa was made possible by an initial gift of \$35,000 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

What shall be the attitude of Baptists towards this movement? Shall we sit by and do nothing? This is

to surrender the field. Shall we be content to use student secretaries who aim only to enlist the students in local church attendance of religious services? This is good, but it does not go far enough. Shall we have university pastors who work under the local pastor and are really assistant pastors? It seems to the writer that we stop short of our duty when we follow this method.

In our own state we have an arrangement by which courses in Bible are given in the University Baptist church house, off the University grounds, for which credit towards graduation is given by the University. It seems to me that this is the wisest arrangement of any that has been employed so far. Some brethren object and say that this is unifying church and state. But I do not so see it. What objection can be found to an arrangement like this which fosters our own denominational interests among our students? Shall we leave the entire field to the Modernists by failing to provide Bible instruction for our own students?

Associated Press reports sent out from Iowa City a few days ago tell us that the school of religion there is being conducted by a Jew, a Catholic and a Protestant. It ought to be evident to every one that such an arrangement will not take care of the religion interests of Baptist students. I think that when men undertake to teach religion, just as they teach anything else, just for intellectual accomplishments, they are in a bad business. It is contended by some that the Bible ought to be studied as literature; but I think it should be studied as a DIVINE REVELATION FROM GOD. WHAT WE NEED IS NOT SCHOOLS OF RELIGION, BUT WE NEED TO TEACH CHRISTIANITY. THERE IS ENTIRELY TOO MUCH BEING SAID ABOUT RELIGION AND TOO LITTLE ABOUT CHRISTIANITY.

Shall we let Modernists capture our great centers of learning and corrupt the springs of knowledge, or shall we aggressively meet the issue and offset the bad teaching with the good. To me, it is a serious situation confronting us. Our traditional principle of separation of church and state ought not to lead us to fail in protecting our own students in the higher institutions of learning.

Waco, Texas.
Pastor B. M. Jackson, a former West Texas Pastor, now pastor of the First Baptist Church, Mangum, Okla., sends us the following encouraging words from that section: "Santa was very good to me Christmas. A good Methodist Steward gave me a suit of clothes and my church gave me a \$250.00 Atwater Kent electric radio. Yesterday was a very good day with us. The Sunday school was most normal—450, with 150 in training; had seven additions, one conversion and one addition by baptism. We hope to run our average in Sunday school up to 700 by Spring. In a few days we will be in our new educational building which has a capacity for 700 more."

THE WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

SAM MALONE

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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LET US FACE THE SITUATION

Perhaps there has not been a time in the past two centuries when there has been so much turmoil and unrest in the religious world as exists today. The fight seems to be centering around the question of modernism vs. fundamentalism. Both of these terms are hard to define. There are almost as many brands of modernist and fundamentalists as there are human beings who hold these divergent views.

Modernism is as old as the New Testament. Paul had to combat it in his day. Modernism as we know it today in America had its birth in the German rationalistic schools of the present century. It has made alarming inroads on the denominational institutions of learning in America. Great educational institutions that a few years ago were considered orthodox, are now hot beds of destructive criticism. They are bold to deny the Bible as the Word of God and to accept their views but to sweep aside the old time heart-felt, Holy Ghost religion of our forefathers. Modernism is not only strongly entrenched in many of our great denominational institutions, but it is becoming strongly entrenched in the state institutions of our country. For our people who believe the Bible and love the old time gospel of redemption through the shed blood of the Son of God to ignore this terrible menace is but to commit religious suicide.

On the other hand fundamentalism is showing a tendency to swing to the other extreme. Fundamentalism in its over-zealous anxiety to combat modernism would wreck our denominational organizations, close our denominational schools, recall our missionaries and make impotent our ability to carry on a constructive program of world evangelization. The extreme fundamentalists would in other words, wreck our whole denominational machinery without offering something better to take its place.

In between these two extreme points of view are hundreds of thousands of loyal, God-fearing people who believe the Word of God and every great truth and doctrine that it contains, who are anxious to go on with a world-wide program of carrying out the great commission to Jesus Christ. They would agree with the extreme fundamentalist that the menace of modernism is a real danger, but they would not agree with his method of fighting it; they would likewise agree with the fundamentalist that the tendency is too much toward centralization and institutionalism but they would not put the brand of disloyalty, suspicion and distrust on all the great host of leaders of our various causes who have been chosen to bear the brunt of the battle.

What we need now is a ministry that is unafraid to face the issues of the day, preach boldly against sin in every form, be true to the Word of God and face the task of correcting the wrong tendencies that have developed in our denominational organizations. Surely it will not be necessary to wreck our whole program in order to do this.

As we see it there are three dangers that we face at the present time: The first is the menace of modernism and liberalism. We cannot afford to ignore this, for it is striking at the very vitals of orthodox Christianity.

Another danger is the extreme element as led by the big 'F' Fundamentalists. We can admire their zeal for the doctrines of the faith, but we cannot endorse their extreme methods of meeting the issues.

The other danger is the ultra denominationalist, who in his zeal to carry on, fails to see the danger of the tendency toward centralization. This group of brethren are inclined to be for the denomination right or wrong, and they are quick to brand as Bolshevik the conservative element who desire to remain with our great denominational organization, and yet save it from destructive tendencies.

The hope of the situation lies in the hands of these middle-of-the-road brethren. As the battle lines are drawn more deadly they may be forced to align themselves with the extreme fundamentalists in order to save the situation. The better way, we think, is to go about the task of saving the situation and at the same time stay with the good old ship that has carried us safely and gloriously thus far.

BUSY YEAR AHEAD

The year 1928 promises to be an interesting one for this thrilling year of ours. With the bank robbing industry hitting on all four, murder flourishing on every hand and election year staring us right square in the face there promises to be something doing almost every minute. The presidential election this year promises to be of unusual interest. It is generally conceded by authorities who are supposed to be in a position to know that Al Smith will be nominated by the Democrats. This event alone will furnish thrills aplenty for several months on a stretch. This will give several hundred thousand Democrats in Texas and the South a fine opportunity to vote the Republican ticket for their first time. There is no question but that Mr. Smith is strong with certain elements in the east and north, but when the smoke of the battle has cleared away it will be found that his antagonism to the eighteenth amendment and his Catholicism will not be tolerated by the people of the south. It is true he has the privilege of being a Catholic if he so desires; it is likewise true that he has the privilege of being a pronounced "wet" and an enemy to the Volstead Act, but it is also true that the dear voting public has the privilege of voting against a man with these views, if it so desires.

CALLAHAN ASSOCIATION

We had a good workers conference at Crawford, a month ago. The conference which was to meet at Putnam did not materialize, due to the unusually cold weather.

A. A. Carter of Cottonwood preached at Bell Plain on a recent Sunday. We understand that Oplin and Denton have called Brother Frank Maddox of Abilene.

We understand that Brother J. H. Hunt has resigned at Cross Plains. We do not know what his plans are for the future. (The newspaper at Cross Plains states that the Cross Plains Church has re-considered its action in accepting Brother Hunt's resignation and that he is to remain with the church.—Ed.)

Brother M. S. Groom of Dallas was with Pastor Joe R. Mayes, Baird and Pastor J. E. Black, Putnam, on a recent Sunday.

Pastor Joe R. Mayes of Baird is at Gap, Okla., in a revival meeting. Brother Mayes is one of the preachers selected by the Home Mission Board evangelistic department to hold simultaneous meetings in Oklahoma during the month of January.

The Hogg evangelistic party is in a big tent meeting at Baird which is to run through the balance of January. On this account the 5th Sunday meeting which was to have been held with the Baird church will be held with the Eula Church, beginning on Friday night before the Fifth Sunday.

NO MAN HATH HIRED US

A new thought and a new lesson has been discovered by the writer in reading the parable of the laborers as recorded by Matthew 20:1-16. The new application is in the seventh verse where the idlers, or unemployed laborers, gave as a reason for not being busy, "because no man hath hired us."

The purpose of this article is not to give an exegesis of the text nor to

and willing to work than are now employed. The reason for their not working is they are waiting for some man to hire them.

The householder said: "Do not wait for some man to hire you; go to work, even though no stipulated contract has been made, and I will treat you right. Whatever is right I will pay you." It would seem that those who had a job paid little or no attention to the volunteer workers who came, but then they had objections.

The thought we wish to call special attention to is a condition which exists at this time relative to our own denominational activities, the needs of the field and our unemployed workers. It does not take an expert to see the needs are great. Workers are needed everywhere. But there are many, far too many, idle preachers. The pity of it is a very large number of these unemployed preachers are ministers of ability, physically strong, and have had splendid training. These men are informed about world conditions and the need for laborers in the vineyard. They are also willing to work; yes, they want to work. But again the question arises, "Why are they not busy?"

The one reply comes back, "Because no man hath hired us."

Now the question comes up again, "What should these men do?" One will say, "Let them go to work of their own accord." But they reply that will be impossible until the thinking of the people has been modified. And especially must the attitude of the employed, or those who have been hired, be changed toward this army of willing but unemployed laborers before they can have an opportunity to work.

If an unemployed minister visits a church that happens to be pastorless, unless by special request of a committee, he is to be treated as an intruder. If he announces his willingness to work he is classed as a place hunter. If he attempts to hold an evangelistic meeting some one sends out the word that "No man hath hired him," and again he is called "a free lance."

Now in face of these facts what are these men to do? Before trying to answer this last question, let it be understood that the writer is not complaining at any one. Nor is he fighting anybody, or criticizing any Association or Convention. He believes in our organized work, and supports it. He believes in our schools and hospitals, and missions clear out to the ends of the earth. Our institutions must be saved to the denomination at any cost. If we should lose them all today we would have to build others like them tomorrow. And he is for the Baptist program in toto. Also let it be fully understood that the writer believes in a paid ministry and a stipulated salary for the minister. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." The thing he is trying to do is to point out a difficulty with which many good true ministers are confronted, and if possible help find a way out of it. He believes this matter should be taken seriously by every Baptist, and their best wisdom should be used to capitalize on our man power for Christ's world conquest, and every willing worker should be given a place and be kept busy. Some other denominations lead us in this important matter.

A few suggestions may not be out of place. Let us remember it is not a crime to be unemployed. Neither is it a crime to not be employed. "We be brethren." It is both scriptural and commendable to want employment. Read I. Tim. 3:1. "If a man desire the office of a pastor, he desireth a good work." Paul recognized the wish of the heart to be an evidence of the pastoral call.

We should also keep in mind the fact that the vineyard belongs to the Lord, and He has commanded all to go. Every willing-hearted worker should get busy for God, even if "No man hath hired him." And those who have already been hired should count it joy that volunteers are engaging in the work. Surely they should not complain. Churches also should be more considerate of this group of willing servants, while those ministers who are employed should be sympathetic and helpful to their less fortunate brethren.

There is enough lost power among the Baptist ministers of Texas to move the whole State heavenward, if only these men could be put to work. Their talents are God given, and should not be hid away in a napkin just "because No Man Hath Hired Us."—1327 North Beckley Ave. Dallas, Texas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

703 Slaughter Bldg.
G. S. Hopkins, Secretary

Work the Mine

Every year's a hidden mine. Stoutly up and work it!
What though anxious toil is thine?
Never think to shirk it
Half the mine, as I am told, Harbors dust and ashes;
Half the mine is precious gold—
Ah, how bright it flashes!—Wells.

These words by the poet, expresses the feelings of my heart at this the beginning of another year. With the poet's permission, I would like to change the first line to read, "Every Sunday school is a hidden mine."

Not until we earnestly and prayerfully work it, do we have a vision of the power and wealth to a church of a great efficient Sunday school. Not until we dig and find and begin to train and polish the many diamonds in the rough, will we have an efficient and soul-winning teaching force. Not until we go down into every corner of the Sunday school mine, working every detail of the greatest organization on earth, will we come up victorious and make our claim that we have conquered the mine and reached the only goal worthwhile the Sunday School Standard of Excellence.

My best wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year goes to every pastor, Sunday school superintendent, officers, teachers and pupils. May the Sunday school superintendents of our great state realize that their leadership means much to the local church and to the onrushing of the work this department is trying to do in Texas. Let us work and not shirk the opportunities that the Sunday school offers. It is a work that I love and

that is dear to my heart. I could not be indifferent towards it, if I would. My prayer is that this soul-winning, enlightening, character-building Sunday school work may so grip the hearts of our Sunday school superintendents, that they will be satisfied with nothing but the very best for their respective schools. Let this department help you in any way possible!

Our Goal For 1928
Help Us Reach Them
Standard Sunday Schools 225
Daily Vacation Schools 60
Standard Departments 50
Advanced Standard Schools 5
Teacher Training Awards 25,000

WHAT BENEFITS A PASTOR CAN OBTAIN FROM ATTENDING SOUTH-WIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

By Dr. C. E. Matthews, Pastor Travis Avenue, Ft. Worth, Texas

It was my good fortune and privilege to attend the South-wide Sunday School Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, last January. Undoubtedly, this was one of the greatest meetings of its kind ever held in the South. This is true both from the standpoint of attendance and benefit derived by all who attended. I will give a few of the benefits the pastor receives from this Conference:

First is inspiration. There is no debating the fact that inspiration for our church work is a necessity. To attend this Conference is like taking an old rundown battery to a battery station and having it recharged. A

pastor will get so enthused as he catches the new ideas for his own work and is made to know "that it can be done" by the speakers, that he can't wait to get back home to put them all into effect.

The next important benefit is to get acquainted with the most modern Sunday school methods in the cheapest and quickest way possible. Modern Sunday school methods are discussed and taught to the last letter. All it costs to learn them is one's expenses to the meeting. These methods, or rather the manner of giving them out is boiled down so that in three days time one can obtain help for every phase of his church work.

Then, the last benefit I would mention is the reliability of information obtained. The people who appear on the programs are the best in the line to be obtained anywhere. The methods offered are practical. They have been tried and proven by those who appear on the program. In the round table discussions, every one is allowed to ask questions or offer suggestions from "how we do it in our church." This enables the pastor to get suggestions and ideas that will fit in the big city church or the little struggling rural church. Try it and see!

FIRST ANNUAL SOUTHWIDE S.S. CONFERENCE

The First Annual Southwide Sunday School Conference held last January at Memphis, Tennessee, was a marvelous success, if we are to judge by the expressions emanating from those that were present. Apparently

all were praising our matchless secretary, Dr. I. J. Van Ness, and his able leaders associated with him, for the wonderful constructive and inspirational program rendered. We could see written upon their faces the grim determination to go home and overcome all obstacles in the way of better Sunday school work.

The call today is for leaders, leaders that know how to lead. In the financial realm, the leaders that know how to lead are drawing fabulous salaries. The same might be said with reference to the political affairs. What we are saying is that no person can hope to lead, regardless of the realm, unless they have been with preparation for such a task. Some one has aptly said, "Constant learning is the price of leadership" and "Cease to learn, cease to lead." Anytime our Christian leaders reach that state of satisfaction with present attainments, it will not be difficult to find plenty who hold a different state of mind. As I see it, our coming Southwide Conference to be held at Greenville, South Carolina, January 17-20, 1928, should be hailed with joy throughout our Southland.

The Elementary Division
Miss Lilian S. Forbes and her associates will direct the work in this division. Any local worker who aspires to have a better department or teacher who longs to teach God's Word more effectively, cannot afford to miss this wonderful opportunity for preparation.

Administration Department
We could wish that every pastor, educational director, and Sunday

school superintendent could be in this conference. This work will be taken care of by the imitable Arthur Flake and his capable associates, H. E. Ingraham and J. N. Barnette. It is the desire of these leaders to touch every vital problem that relates to the Administration work.

Intermediate Division
This department is directed by Miss Mary Virginia Lee, and ably assisted by Miss Mary Alice Bibb. They have planned a most delightful and helpful program, which will be composed of addresses, conferences and demonstrations. Do you love these intermediates? Do you have a worthy vision of the finished product? Come and talk your problems over with these capable, consecrated and dependable leaders.

Young People's-Adult Division
If our Sunday schools are to make rapid strides in securing members, we must place a greater emphasis on these two departments. It is to these departments that we must secure our trained officers and teachers.

I don't know of a school in this state but could be doubled in one year's time if we had a sufficient number of the right kind of officers and teachers. Again, the pupils of these ages need God's Word and the influence of the Christian people in their own lives. We need them for this influence as well as their financial support.

The assistance rendered each of these departments by outside help is the best obtainable. They are those that have made a success in their field of endeavor.

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Jefferson D. Sandefer, LL. D., President

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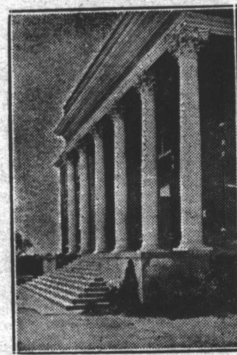
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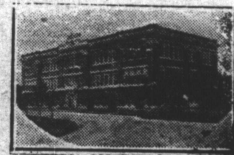
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Mrs. E. B. Atwood, Editor.

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WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEETS WITH SOUTH SIDE CHURCH, ABILENE

The quarterly meeting of the Women's Auxiliary to the Sweetwater Association was held at the South Side Baptist Church, Abilene, January 6, 1928, with Mrs. R. M. White, the president in the chair.

After singing, "Nearer to Thee," and prayer by Mrs. Geo. Paxton, Mrs. E. J. Roach read Psalms 115 as a devotional and made an inspiring talk on "God Our Helper."

Mrs. White, the president made a splendid talk on "Stewardship."

The following committee chairmen made reports: Mrs. Drill Daniels, Mission Study; Mrs. S. E. Geer, Stewardship; Mrs. J. D. Sandefer, Librarian; Mrs. O. H. Cooper, Historian; Mrs. W. F. Joiner, Benevolence, and Mrs. C. T. Whaley, Young Peoples.

Mrs. Geo. Paxton, Corresponding Secretary, read her report showing \$7487.23 given by the women of this society last quarter; \$1087.53 by the Young Peoples organizations of four churches, making a grand total of \$8,574.76.

Mrs. Gentry read the treasurer's report.

Mrs. Pitts, Taylor County Organizer, made a good report.

Brother Owen, Missionary for the Sweetwater Association was present and offered his services to the Auxiliary.

Brother Powell of University Church, Abilene, Conquest Campaign leader for district 5 and Brother Whaley, First Church, Sweetwater, Conquest Campaign organizer for this association, made stirring speeches on the Conquest Campaign.

The Auxiliary voted to cooperate with all the leaders of district 5 and every member present pledged to do her utmost for the campaign.

At noon a delicious lunch was served in the dining room of the church and coffee was served by the ladies of the South Side Church.

The afternoon session was opened by singing our "Ruby Anniversary Song."

The following recommendations from the Executive Board were adopted.

1. That a free-will offering be taken at every quarterly meeting for the Mission Study library of the Auxiliary.

2. That the funds sent in for the baby bed for West Texas Baptist Sanitarium be given to the children's ward of the sanitarium.

3. That the Auxiliary buy a set of books for the advanced course in the Mission Study.

4. That the Auxiliary buy a map of Taylor county for the Taylor County Organizer and a map of Nolan county for the Nolan County Organizer.

Mrs. C. M. Caldwell asked that she be allowed to buy the books for the Advanced course in Mission study and donate them to the Auxiliary. Mrs. Caldwell was given a rising vote of thanks.

Mrs. J. D. Sandefer asked to be allowed to buy the two maps and donate them to the Auxiliary. She also was given a rising vote of thanks.

A splendid program under the direction of Mmes. J. P. Stinson and J. E. Burnam was rendered.

Devotional II Tim. 2:15 was read by Miss Haynes, a senior in Simmons Miss Lois Underwood of Simmons talked on "Some Benefits of the Loan Fund."

Mrs. J. E. Burnam gave a sketch of the Breedlove Memorial Loan Fund. Mrs. Burnam said that the Fund is now \$14,227.56, it has helped 827 girls and not any of the interest has been lost so far.

Mrs. E. B. Atwood, district president talked on the Ruby Anniversary.

A playlet, "What Shall We Say to Our Father," given by the L. O. V. E. class of the First Baptist Sunday School was enjoyed by all.

After a free will offering of \$10 for the library fund and a vote of thanks to the ladies of the South Side Church, the meeting was dismissed by prayer by Mrs. Atwood.

The eighty-three members, representing nine Missionary Societies declared this to be one of the best quarterly meetings.

Mrs. J. F. Clark, Secretary.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

On January 12 the Executive Board of the W. M. U. of Abilene District will hold its semi-annual meeting at Simmons University. The session, which will open at 10 a. m., will be held in the auditorium of the Caldwell Fine Arts Building.

Members are expected to attend from the eight associations comprising the district: Big Spring, Fisher, Jones, Haskell, Lamesa, Mitchell, Scurry, Stonewall and Sweetwater.

Mrs. J. E. Leigh, corresponding secretary of the W. M. U. of Texas, will be present and will address the body.

In connection with the board meeting, Miss Lillias Penick, district young peoples' leader, will hold a conference of young peoples' leaders beginning Thursday evening, at which time an interesting program will be rendered, including an address by Mrs. Leigh to the college Y. W. A. the visitors and members of local young peoples' organizations.

The conference will continue in session during Friday.

It is hoped that these meetings will be most helpful toward a better understanding of our plan of work for the year and will arouse a greater enthusiasm in performing the pressing tasks before us as Baptists.

IT'S YOU!

"If you want to work in the kind of a church
 Like the kind of a church you like,
 You needn't slip your clothes in a grip
 And start on a long, long hike."

You need not run to a far away church;
 With your mind and feelings all ajar;
 Just yield your will to His grace and power, and
 Enjoy true fellowship where you are.

"You'll only find what you left behind,
 For there's nothing that's really new;
 It's a knock at yourself, when you knock your church
 It isn't your church—it's YOU."

Real churches aren't made by folks afraid,
 Nor by those who refuse to be led;
 "When every one works, and nobody shirks,
 You can raise a church from the dead."

But church fellowship, the kind you like,
 If you have the Master's view,
 You can find in the church where now you live;
 It isn't your church—it's YOU.

It isn't your church or your pastor, friend,
 That's obstructing your clearer view;
 But the secret sin deep down in your heart,
 That's really hurting YOU.

If you'll yield your will, and your grouch let go;
 Enthroning your Savior anew,
 The church you've sought thru the long, long years,
 Will suddenly rise to view.

Surrender your selfishness, love of self,
 And follow His footsteps true, then
 You'll find the kind of a church you like;
 It isn't your church—it's YOU.

When you've died to self, your vision free;
 The church which long you've wished to see,
 You'll find in the church where now you be; and
 It's just the church for YOU and ME.

So when you have made your surrender true,
 You'll influence others the same to do;
 And your church will be what you really like:
 Without your taking a long, long hike.
 For it isn't your church—it's YOU.

With apologies by G. E. Kennedy.

YOUNG WOMEN WANTED

The West Texas Baptist Sanitarium needs young ladies to become nurses. An opportunity for women of Christian character to enter training in a most interesting vocation. Students with high school education between ages of 18 to 30 accepted. Write or call the Director of Nursing—Lovelie Thompson, R. N., Director of Nursing.

The Y. W. A. of the Abilene and adjoining districts are planning on a Y. W. A. but at Leanders this summer, in which any Y. W. A. girl may stay for any or all of the Encampment. A chaperon will be present during the entire period.

To erect this, each Y. W. A. is to furnish \$10, and each W. M. S. is being asked for \$5. Miss Anna Lee King of Midland is the first to report their \$10 already in hand.

This but is a great thing for the girls and all are doing their utmost to make it a reality.

LETTER FROM BIG SPRING

Big Spring, Texas
 Dec. 22, 1927

The West Texas Baptist: Enclose you will find a paper which I was requested to send for publication, by the district meeting of the the Draw B.Y.P.U., on Sunday, Dec. B.Y.P.U., which met with the Pan-cember 18.

Yours truly,
 Beulah May Crow.

HAVE I FOUND MY PROPER PLACE?

How many of us have ever really given a thought to "Have I Found My Proper Place?" Every one of us should and when we do we naturally ask ourselves again, "How may I find my proper place, or the place God intended that I should fill?"

The first step in the solving of this problem would be giving our lives to Christ. A young Christian should begin immediately a preparation for service, for the next command after follow is "go," and only by obeying His commands may we find our proper place.

Now God doesn't appear to us all in a wonderful vision like Isaac's nor is our calling as spectacular or often as definite to us, as was Paul's. God doesn't always give to us so large a mission. On the other hand let us realize that unexpected opportunities come our way often. Let us, however, adopt a motto of "Rowing, Not Drifting," and not wait for opportunity but make them. Let us also remember that the same opportunity doesn't usually knock more than once.

We should like to be like the five wise virgins, our lamps should be trimmed and filled in readiness. Let us not despise little deeds of service or small beginnings. "But live in our house by the side of the road, and be a friend to man."

We are not all intended for preachers, teachers, or missionaries. Some of our places are as merchants, lawyers, doctors, and just plain farmers

but where ever we have our daily work if we keep God as the first thing in our lives, we are filling our places as He would wish. A short poem I found illustrates better what I mean and can't say:

I was longing for a mission—
 Fancy made it something grand,
 Something that would win the praises
 Of the world on every hand.
 So I squandered time in waiting
 For the chance that never came
 Quite forgot to think of others
 In my longing after fame.

But one day I had a vision
 Of the needy ones nearby—
 Of the hearts that starve with hunger
 Till they faint and fall and die,
 Starve for little deeds of kindness
 Or a word of hope and cheer
 And the smiles that cost so little
 But can make it heaven here

Then it was I found my mission
 Knew what work God meant for me
 And I cried—"Forgive my blindness
 Now at last thank God I see."
 In the joy of helping others
 God's good time I waste no more.
 Since my life has found its mission
 Waiting at the very door.

CHINESE STORY OF CREATION

By Rev. H. G. C. Hallock,
 Shanghai, China

Recently I was in a room where a Bible class, for our Shanghai defenders, was being held. Some statements made as to the first two chapters of Genesis and the creation of the world and the origin of man almost made my hair stand on end. How they did try to explain away the clear teachings of the Word of God! The thought came into my mind that the Chinese teachings could "go there one better" in several respects, and I might like to know what the Chinese say about the creation.

The male and female principles, "yang" and "yin," gave birth to Pan-Ku; the first man, how none knows. Faith must accept that. He had two horns and was a short stubby fellow; but endowed with the ability to grow. He proceeded to grow. He grew six feet every day and as he lived 18,000 years, you can see how big he got. He, in some way, got possession of an ax and with that he managed to "kai-pih tien di," hew out the universe. This was occurring out of nothing or at least out of chaos. He was eighteen thousand years doing the work, and in order to complete it all he had to die. His head is said to have become "the mountains, his breath the winds and clouds, his voice the thunder, his limbs the four quarters of the earth, his blood the rivers, his flesh the soil, his beard the constellations, his skin and hair the herbs and trees; his teeth, bones and marrow became the metals, rocks and precious stones, his sweat the rain" and (most suggestive of all to evolutionists) "the insects creeping over his body became human beings!" I hope we are proud of our ancestry! Chinese speak of three kinds of insects that delight a man's "fellowship," the "crawlers, the jumpers, and the smellers." I asked a Chinese to which race he belonged. He said he did not know but that the "for-

men. If one is the very best of all he can go to the thirty-third heaven and be worshipped as god. If one be very bad he'll go down to the eighteenth hell.

Even in 18,000 years the work of creation was not completed; but a cavity was left through which many fell to the bottom. After a long time a woman, Nu-Ku, was born and she took stone and blocked up the hole and so finished the work of creation. They say, though the body of Pan-Ku died, his soul lives and will live forever. Just after the beginning of the Chinese Republic the "philosophers" said that a revelation had come from heaven saying that the king of the gods has asked Pan-Ku to build a new heaven for him—the thirty-fourth. This was done and the king of gods with his retinue moved into this. How this revelation came is not told.

These are some of the teachings of Chinese doctors. They teach the children in the schools and insist on the little ones taking all in without a doubt. We teach, not these myths, but the dear old infallible Bible, God's own letter, to our little Brownies and they take it in and it transforms their lives and wins their souls, saving them through faith in the blood of the Lamb slain for all believers. Pray for them—Home and Foreign Field.

AN ODD INCIDENT

R. T. Hanks

Many of your readers never heard the following curious incident which is said to have occurred in the life of Rev. J. B. Kimbrough, for many years an able minister of the gospel in Texas. He came to Texas from East Tennessee, when the following

incident is said to have occurred.

On his way home, on horseback, one Monday, he met two highway-men, who held him up.

He said: "Gentlemen, I will have to get down in order to get out the money."

On getting down, he pulled out two piles of money, and instead of handing them to the robbers, he laid them in separate piles, seven dollars in one pile and a hundred, or so dollars in the other on the ground and said:

"Now gentlemen, that pile of seven dollars is my money, you can take that. But this other pile is the Lord's money. I am agent for Mossy Creek College, God's institution, and I got that money yesterday for Him, and I dare you to touch it."

One of the robbers asked: "What will He do, if we take it?"

Kimbrough said: "I do not know, but you touch it and we will see."

The robbers said: "Well, as you have so little money of your own, and as we do not want the Lord's money, we'll let you off," and started to ride off.

Kimbrough said: "Hold on a minute. I never meet a congregation, without taking a collection; give me

a dollar apiece."

They handed him two dollars, and rode off!

For those of us who knew Dr. Kimbrough, the story is credible.

NURSES WANTED

The West Texas Baptist Sanitarium offers young women an opportunity to become nurses. Next class started at once. Admission requirements are High School education, 18 to 30 years, Christian character, and serious ideal of nursing. Course of three years with expenses paid. Students subject to State Registration on completion of term. See for further information Miss Lovelle Thompson, R. N., Director of Nurses, West Texas Baptist Sanitarium.

Rev. M. F. Richardson of Eliaaville has accepted the call of the South Bend Church for half time. The Eliaaville and South Bend churches are only a few miles apart and they offer a fine field for service. These churches are in the Throckmorton-Yung Association.

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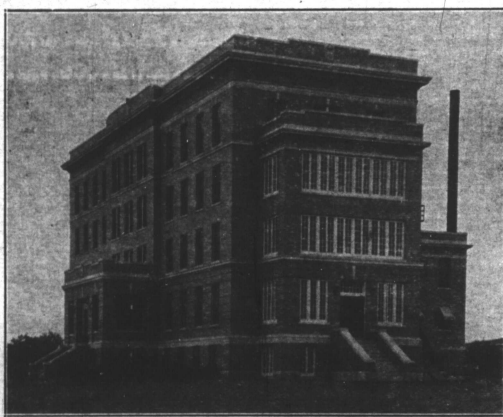
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L. A. SANDERS,
 Superintendent

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Rev. C. D. Owens, Missionary
1502 Ambler Ave., Abilene, Texas

Our Workers Council which met with Merkle church last week was in some respects the best one we have attended since coming in this section of the state. Notwithstanding the extreme cold weather, the attendance was good. All subjects on program were ably discussed, and a spirit of fellowship and unity prevailed throughout the session.

The good church at Merkle knows how to entertain the saints. Next meeting will be with University church, February 6, 1928.

The Executive Board of our Association decided in their meeting at Merkle last week that it would be wise to discontinue the publication of our Association Messenger and use the columns of the West Texas Baptist in presenting our work to churches of the Association.

This good paper is now being offered at fifty cents per annum. Surely every Baptist in the Association can have the paper at this low rate and will subscribe for it at once. We owe it to ourselves and the cause of Christ to keep informed concerning all our work. This paper was given a hearty endorsement by our Board. Send subscription to either the editor or the missionary.

The W. M. U. of our Association met in their quarterly meeting with Southside church last Friday. The attendance and spirit of the meeting was great. Reports from every department of their work was very fine. Seem to be far better than reports given in the past.

These good women unanimously endorsed the Conquest Campaign and planned to assist in putting it over. You can count on them doing their part.

The W. M. U. of District Number 5, including eight Associations will have an Executive meeting in the Fine Arts Building of Simmons University Thursday and Friday of this week. It is highly important that every Union of our Association be represented in that meeting.

Rev. Charles A. Powell has accepted a position as general organizer for District Number 5 in our Conquest Campaign. Our Executive Board and W. M. U. of the Association by vote pledged him their cooperation and support in this work.

Rev. Charles T. Whaley has accepted a position as organizer of our Association and he is calling a meeting of all pastors and workers of our churches next Thursday at 2 p. m. in a room which will be provided for the meeting at Simmons University. Do not fail to be with us in that important meeting.

You will notice a program for our Association B. Y. P. U. and Sunday School meeting to convene with the Merkle church, on the fifth Sunday of this month. We trust that every Sunday school and Union will be represented in this meeting. Begin to plan now to be with us.

The missionary was with Pastor Tankersley and his good church at View Saturday and Sunday evenings. The pastor has led this church in erecting one of the most beautiful buildings to be found in the rural district of our Association. It will be completed and paid for within a few days. Plans are being made for a great dedication service in the near future. We found a good fellowship and fine spirit in this church. They love and honor their pastor. Look for big things from this church.

We had the pleasure of being with Pastor Sibley and his church at Tye last Sunday morning. This is another good church. They have adopted the Association Budget and are falling in line with all our work. Every department of their work is in a healthful condition. They have one of the best B. Y. P. U.'s in the Association. They expect to win the Association banner in our meeting at Merkle on the fifth Sunday of this month. They may do it.

Mt. Pleasant Church adopted the Association Budget last Sunday and began it with a good offering. Just like Pastor Parden to lead his church in doing a good thing. We are to be with him next Sunday at Elmdale. That church will do the same thing. You will hear from them concerning the great things of the kingdom.

Dr. Fry presented the matter of the Ministerial Loan Fund to the Simmons Ministerial Council Friday evening. He suggested that if the ministerial students would raise \$1000 he would raise \$1000. About \$800 was subscribed in that meeting and a committee was appointed to confer with other members of the Council with reference to raising balance of amount proposed.

This is a worthy cause and should be supported by every Baptist throughout this section of the state. Help make it possible for these men of God to prepare for the work to which God has called them.

Indications are now that the Winter term enrollment at Simmons University will be larger than the Fall enrollment.

COMMENDS SANITARIUM

Mr. L. A. Sanders, Supt.,
West Texas Baptist Sanitarium,
Abilene, Texas.

Dear Friends:

On November 26, 1927 my wife entered the institution of which you are superintendent and remained there as a patient until December 12, 1927. And for the splendid care and efficient service given her during these anxious days we wish to express our gratitude, not only to God, but to you and your efficient co-workers. From the first until the last day she had every need supplied, and the very best of care. To the skillful surgeon; Dr. Glenn, and his assistant, and you; who gave the anesthetic, the attendants; Dr. Brittain, our home doctor, and every one who through the days and nights of anxious watching in grave attended unto her wants, we are profoundly grateful. We are proud of our hospital and the splendid service it is rendering to suffering humanity. It is doing its part of carrying out the great commission which Jesus gave His followers.

Yours in gratitude,
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Buchanan and family.

SWEETWATER S. S. AND B.Y.P.U. ASSOCIATION

Meeting with the Merkle Baptist Church, Sunday, January 29, 1928.
9:45-11:00: Observation of the only Advanced Standard Sunday School in Texas.

11:00-12:00: Sermon.
Noon Hour.
2:00-2:30: Music and Devotion: Clarence Tremain.
2:30-2:50: Training School Institute: Zolzie Steakley.
2:50-3:10: Round Table.
3:10-3:20: Special Music: Ewell Bone.

3:20-3:40: The organized class and its possibilities: S. J. Rhodes.
3:40-3:55: Round Table.
3:55-4:10: Young People Active in Kingdom Work: Rev. S. W. Baggett.

Business.
The church sending the largest representation in proportion to the membership reported to the Association as listed in the minutes will be presented with a banner for the first quarter of 1928.

PRESIDENT SANDEFER RECEIVES LETTER FROM CHINESE MISSIONARY

Shanghai, China,
December 6, 1927
220 Route Ferguson

Dear Dr. Sandefer:
I have for some days planned writing you a "Christmas Greetings" letter but let the time go by until it is now too late to reach you in time.

I just wanted to assure you of my abiding interest in my Alma Mater, and my affectionate remembrance of you and all that you meant to me in those days I spent in Simmons College. It is a great satisfaction to me to hear of the constant steady growth of the school in size and usefulness. I could wish that I might secure more direct news. I am writing the secretary of the Alumni Association, sending dues, and asking to be kept on their mailing list. I have received no notification or literature of any kind for months—even years!

We have lived in Shanghai for a year and a half. The China Baptist Publication Society has transferred headquarters to this great city, and my husband as manager must be located here. There have been stirring, terrible times in China these three years, discouraging in the extreme to all who are longing for her redemption. We do not yet see any hope for better days in the near future. The "Nationalist Revolution" is an empty slogan. There may be patriots, there are we know, but they are not the ones who are shouting so loud now. Some of them are deceivers. That is the sorrowful conclusion most of us have drawn here from the present situation. More and more of us are being forced from the field by forced inactivity and hopelessness of any change. We, my husband and I, still feel our place of service is here, but my husband finds not one-

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fourth the opportunity he once had. We now have three children. Christ-time six years. Harris three, and baby Lois eleven months. They are lovely, strong little ones, and I find my time completely taken in caring for them, and my preparation for the task wholly inadequate. I often think of the definition you once gave our Philosophy of Education Class of the "educated person," and measuring myself, by it I feel I must be almost in a "savage state." I certainly do not react properly to the situations they my children create.

The occasion, perhaps, that forced me down to really writing this letter I had planned for so long, was a humiliating experience I had the other day, in respect to my college. There is in Shanghai a branch organization of the "American Association of University Women." I had been urged to join for some time, but failed to send my name in through private channels to be passed on as to eligibility. So when the meeting was announced for a certain day, I attended, and at the same time had my name presented for membership.

The committee examined my card and sent for me.

"Mrs. Chambers, what is the name of your school?"

"Simmons University now, Simmons College when I attended, located at Abilene, Texas."

Another search, then, apologetically: "We are very sorry, but your school doesn't seem to be 'On the List.'"

So there I "was" and "am"! Practically every woman I know belongs to this club and I can't be because my school in America has not joined. Further conversation, in which I tried to explain that had I not been so sure that Simmons was a first class school and so rated in my state and I thought, in my country, I should have investigated.

Brought this from one of the committee: "It doesn't at all mean that your school isn't a perfectly good, standard school. It just means they haven't asked for membership and we have no rating, or at least it may mean that."

Now I do not know just what steps are necessary to take in order to get that recognition, but I do think Simmons ought to take them. All the in standing than Simmons are on this list. It may be, the work of the Alumni—but anyway, whoever should do it, I'm sure you can start the ball rolling—and tell them to please notify Shanghai as soon as possible. It's absolutely my first experience in being "black-balled" and I don't like it for myself or my school!

Best wishes for the New Year! Give my love to Mrs. Sandefer and to Simmons.

Yours sincerely,
Christine C. Chambers.

The Walnut Street Baptist Church will begin a meeting Sunday with the Pastor, Scott W. Hickey doing the preaching. Brother Hickey has resigned as pastor of this church, effective February 13. During the two years that he has been pastor of the church the membership has increased from 150 to over 450 and the pastor has conducted the three revivals, one of which lasted for six months. Brother Hickey plans to do evangelistic work during the summer.

RAMBLING REMARKS
P. D. O'Brien
We suppose it would be useless waste of words to remark that the weather has been cold.

We rambled down about Cisco and Eastland, our old home section, a few days last week. This is the first time we have been there in several months, and we were favorably impressed by the progress that is being made. It caused us special joy to note the Baptist progress there. We did not get to see the inside of the new First Baptist church building at Cisco, but it is a marvel of beauty on the outside. My heart literally leaped with joy when my eyes rested upon its majestic walls, and imposing columns. Few people

know with what perseverance, prayer sacrifice and tireless labor this great building has been completed. We all rejoice with Pastor A. C. Miller and his folks in this accomplishment. The work in East Cisco is making steady progress under the wise leadership of Pastor L. W. Lawrence. Brother W. J. Nelson has resigned at Eastland to take up the work at Taylor. The Cisco Association will greatly miss Brother and Mrs. Nelson. It was our privilege to visit a great number of our old friends in Eastland county. Also we got an intimate view, and interview, with the famous Cisco bank robbers. However the other

boys went out and brought them to the jail first. This made it much more convenient for us.

Pastor Ball and his folks at Rule have wiped out the entire debt on their fine church building, and will dedicate it soon. They have done marvelous things during the time Brother Ball has been there. Their Sunday school will soon be recognized as Standard by the Sunday school department. Their B. Y. P. U.'s are making steady progress, as are all other departments of the church life. The pastors, with Missionary J. C. Parks, are conducting missionary ral-

lies over the entire association during this week and next. Dr. E. G. Townsend, dean of Baylor college, is to be with our church here at Monday for a series of Bible lectures beginning this week, and we hope to have him with us in some of these rallies.

We had a very interesting ordination service here in our church on last Sunday, in which Brother Joe Burton, a student in Simmons University, was set apart to the full work of the ministry. The presbytery was composed of the following brethren: J. C. Parks, Claud Stovall, I. N. Alvis,

Curry and myself. Brother R. G. M. Eiland, the oldest preacher in this section, preached the ordination sermon. Brother Burton made a splendid candidate, answering all questions clearly and forcefully, and to the entire satisfaction of the presbytery and church. We feel that he has a very bright future, and the church here is very proud of him. He filled the pulpit at the evening hour, and his message was well received by a large congregation. Some of the brethren who had been invited to sit on the council, were hindered on account of the extreme cold.

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