

SOUTHWEST TEXAS BAPTIST

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A View of Church Membership

By Geo. W. Coltrin

Perhaps the weakest place in our denominational life is in our local churches and consists largely in lack of morale.

Wherein our 75-Million Campaign failed, it failed at the foundation. The superstructure of plan and purpose and organization was certainly ample and ingenious; the causes embraced were eminently worthy; and the shortcomings are to be located with individual Baptists and churches. It is not wise nor right to shift the responsibility, or to make scape-goats of our leaders. When church membership shall mean to our people what it ought to mean to them, then, and not until then, may we hope to approximate the full discharge of our kingdom obligations or the full measure of our blessings in service.

Church membership should mean more. Paul says, "We are workers together with God." This is the association of kingdom forces under divine leadership and enjoying the blessedness of the divine presence and power. It is a picture worth framing and hanging in our hearts: preacher, people and God. A wonderful trio, and a blessed unity! This ideal makes a local church a great institution, just what it should be. Paul was great because he was saved by, worshipped, and served a great Christ, and had Him with him; and a church may be great, and under God should be great, because it has the same great Christ.

The reflex influence of a Spirit-filled church upon the outside world cannot fail to be effective for good, and in large measure. This interpretation of Christ through a church membership standing and working unitedly, earnestly, and lovingly for the things of Jesus and His kingdom will be strong for the glory of His name and the realization of God's ends in us.

Riviera Is Ready

"All things are ready; come to the feast." That is a good scriptural invitation just now, for Riviera Beach is ready for the Baptists of the Southwest to come.

The editor viewed the landscape over on Tuesday of this week and pronounced it very good. The tabernacle adds greatly to appearances and will also add to comfort. It is seventy by eighty feet, is well built and arranged. It will be well lighted also.

The class pavilions are in their new positions and will be much to the liking of the people. They are so grouped about the big central tabernacle that it will be easy for the young people to go from services to classes and from classes to services.

The bath houses are down under the bluff, just a short space from the water's edge. They are provided with fresh water shower baths.

The cafe, is being reconditioned and made serviceable. It already looks appetizing.

The Buena Vista Hotel is ready for its guests and has reduced its weekly rates for the Encampment period. It serves most excellent meals.

It is reported that motor boats will be at the disposal of the adventurous who want to sail the main and fish in the choice inlets of the bay.

All things are ready; come.

A Campaign of Good-Will

Secretary J. F. Love made the most significant speech made at the recent Southern Convention. It was in connection with his report of the Foreign Mission Board, and upon the general subject, "How We Got In, And The Way Out." We hope to reproduce an abstract of that address elsewhere in this issue.

It was the conclusion of his address, and the last point under, "The Way Out." He said, "A Campaign of Good-Will." The climactic point in the way out, according to Secretary Love, is a campaign of good-will. We said, Amen! then, and repeat it most fervently now.

There has been a lot of disturbance in all our Baptist ranks. It is probably of fourfold origin, or rather result of four things. First, it is a backwash of the world war. It has been characteristic of every realm of human life since the war. Politics has felt it keenly. Social customs have felt it. Industry has felt it. Communities have felt it. Religion could not escape the disturbance that has been so general.

Second, it has been a reaction against the intensity of the 75-Million Campaign. The merging of all interests into an impersonal budget where every cause lost its identity and consequently its appeal was bound to produce reactions of unpleasant and disturbing character. And along with the merging of all interests went the sometimes intemperate talk of the brethren in their zeal for the cause, in which stinging phrases were used, and a seeming spirit of autocracy upon the part of denominational leaders employed. We say "seeming," because we do not believe it was conscious on the part of any of them. Our brethren with great responsibilities upon them deserve a lot of sympathy from their co-operating brethren, because they realize that failure is one of the things the brethren do not readily forgive in a leader. They have seen the tragic need of fields, have wrestled with problems that tested all their ingenuity and grace. It is small wonder that their earnestness should put a seeming tone of command in their speech. We ought to look from the point of view of the leaders while we are inspecting their work with such microscopic thoroughness.

Third, the doctrinal aspect of the disturbance has been rather large. We think three things are true: Some of our school men are mild modernists, evolutionists; they seek to make adroit statements that will be consistent with the popular view and yet keep themselves in fellowship with the world of scholarship. It is a hard proposition just now to make satisfying statements. The brotherhood insists on negative as well as positive statements. Secondly, we believe that some of our brethren are over-pugnacious and refuse to accede to some doctrinal statements because of the advocacy of critics of those things; we suspect such brethren feel like it would be undignified to accede to anything proposed by an outstanding critic. Thirdly, there are persons who trouble the doctrinal waters for the sake of the attention they may attract to themselves; they are not any

more interested in sound doctrine than the average Baptist, but they are keen on utilizing popular tides to set themselves forward.

And lastly, accent has been put at the wrong place in our denominational program, as Dr. Love stated. The accent has been on education instead of missions. Nothing can be substituted for missions. Jesus started His disciples forth on world conquest with missions as the bond. It must so remain unto the end.

But now to the real theme, A Campaign of Good-will. As things wrong or unwise are righted, the campaign of good-will needs to be put on by every Baptist from the centers to the outer edges.

We hope that the resolution passed at the Executive Board meeting last week that called on all the brethren to repel attacks of critics on the denominational work will not cause the brethren to turn loose a stream of invective against critics and criticism. It is our sincere judgment that such a procedure would only embitter the people and cause them to divide. We saw a bad example of that sort of thing in the West Texas Baptist, where a controversy is waged between a denominational leader and a pastor. We think they both had better hush and improve their spirit before appearing in newspaper columns.

Always the other brother has his view-point and holds his opinion because of some reason that appears adequate to him. It is the brotherly thing to try to see that view-point, and be charitable toward it. This present controversy is by no means as one-sided as some brethren of both sides imagine. It is not unimportant, but it is not all-important. Fellowship and service are more vital to church and kingdom and personal well-being. The cultivation of charity is ever important and all-important now.

Then there is a solvent of human difficulties that has always worked, and that is prayer. Prayer for each other, even for him who holds contrary views, will be much more effective than sharp words of argument or repartee. Logic can silence a man, but it may put a ferment in his heart that will make him eternally on enemy. We preach a lot about prayer, and now is a god time to demonstrate its effectiveness in soothing troubled waters.

We think the spirit of the Baptist Standard exemplary during these years of disturbance. Editor Routh has consistently sought to say the true things and timely things, and refrain from saying things that no doubt he often felt like saying. He has spoken with commendable frankness on matters of common discussion. His attitude of fairness to all sides of controverted questions has been very gratifying. On several occasions we have heard of dissatisfaction with his broad attitude and of threats to penalize him for such attitude. Nothing could be more fatal to Baptist peace than for such an illogical purpose to be carried out. Untrammelled, we believe the editor of the Baptist Standard can be the most fruitful agent of denominational accord in Texas.

"A Campaign of good-will" is Secretary

Buckner Orphans Home In Need

By Hal F. Buckner

I am sure that the friends of Buckner Orphans Home in Southwest Texas want to know when Buckner Orphans Home is in need. It is in need, and we must have some financial relief immediately or our record of no debt and no interest account will be broken. We have in our current expense fund only \$437.00, and the last of the month is upon us. Before you read these lines approximately \$15,000.00 in bills will have to be paid, and they approximately \$15,000.00 for each succeeding month on until the Convention. Our receipts are very low. We are getting from one-fourth on down to one-fifth of the necessary funds with which to carry on. We know of nothing better, under the circumstances, than to be perfectly frank with the people and let them know that the wolf is actually at the door.

Make all checks payable to, and address all communications to Buckner Orphan's Home.

INTERNATIONAL OPTIMISTS

Over at Houston they are having a convention of Optimists. That ought to be a good place to go. We move that some of our Baptist pessimists who can't see anything good in our present Baptist situation or leaders be delegated to go with the hope that they may be converted to a more healthy outlook upon life. If this editor believed things were as rotten as some of the brethren act like they think, and that the leaders were as untrustworthy as those brethren appear to believe, we would pawn our winter suit and go in the hope of getting some of the bile out of our constitution. This editor believes in our leaders and in our institutions and in our Baptist cause, lock, stock and barrel. He does not believe everything the dear brethren say nor in the justice and wisdom of all our policies, but until he can feel some wings sprouting on his shoulder blades, he is not going to fall out with our leaders and our denomination because of small differences of opinion, nor quit co-operating. We will have our say or die, but will always try to say it in a good humour and be willing to grant that our brethren that differ are honest and love the cause just as we do, and have, on the whole, just about as much sense.

Secretary Love's plea. Not a temporary cessation of hostilities, but a campaign that continues until accord comes again to our brethren. Secretary Love set forth foreign missions as one of the instruments for waging this campaign of good will. Truly foreign missions put to the front and the whole appeal of world evangelization set forth again will have a magic effect in allaying suspicion and hushing criticism and cementing the brotherhood into an indissoluble unit. Back to the main thing, seeking the lost, in home land and foreign, everywhere, would be a good slogan to adopt as individuals, churches, associations, conventions.

Let's all enlist in the campaign of good-will and stay enlisted until the war is over and the world is won for Christ.

The Southwest Texas Baptist

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Men and Movements

—Rev. Theo. Gayer of Pineville, La., is holding a revival meeting at Carizo Springs. Big crowds and fine interest are reported.

—Word comes that Evangelist R. G. Baucom and Pastor M. E. Weaver are getting a good start in the revival at First Church, Corpus Christi.

—First Church, San Antonio, is making plans for the erection of a hundred thousand dollar Sunday school building as soon as they get into their new church building.

—Drouth has been broken in many places. Laredo is rejoicing over a two-inch rain Sunday that put the section in the pink of condition. We congratulate them upon their good fortune.

—Pastor J. M. Reynolds of Nixon preached the baccalaureate sermon for the high school of his town on May 31. A class of seventeen fine young people was graduated.

—Pastor I. E. Gates of First church, San Antonio, has been in great demand as a Commencement preacher and speaker this year. He delivered the sermon for A. & C. College last Sunday.

—Texas Baptists are planning twenty-three summer assemblies this year. We are especially interested in this end of the world in Riviera Beach, Alto Frio, Paisano Pass, and Palacios. Riviera Beach first, June 9 to 19.

—Recently the Skidmore Baptists spent a Sunday with the Oden Baptists in a service and sat down and ate a delicious basket dinner together at noon. That was a fine way to cultivate Christian fellowship. Pastor J. L. King serves these two good churches.

—An observant brother who has been one of the sturdiest builders of Texas Baptist strength, writes, "I like the Baptist, and especially its independent denominational editorials. Keep it up; we are losing our old-time democracy."

—Falfurrias Facts published Pastor C. A. Hornburg's commencement sermon that was delivered at the recent closing exercises. It is a very readable discussion. The theme was, "The Transforming Power of High and Worthy Ideals."

—Three Rivers church has been blessed in a meeting conducted by Rev. W. S. Gibbs, missionary of the Blanco Baptist Association. Brother Gibbs preached with the unction of the Spirit, and his ministry is being blessed in this associational field.

—The Blanco Association held no Fifth Sunday Meeting in May, owing to the nearness of the Riviera Encampment, and partly to the fact that the Mathis church, where it was to have been held, was in a protracted meeting.

—Baptists schools do grow! Here is Baylor's technical schools, at Dallas, graduating 132. That includes the colleges of medicine, dentistry, and phar-

macy. The class of a dozen is no longer seen in state or denominational schools. Instead they are numbered by the hundreds.

—Gambrell Association had a very enthusiastic Fifth Sunday meeting at Charco. Evangelist Sid Williams who is helping Pastor Johnson in a meeting at Runge attended the meeting. Brother Sid showed the same old-time evangelistic fire.

—Mission, of the Valley, gets the credit for the first bale of cotton for this season, the bale having been gathered and ginned on last Saturday and sold at Houston on Monday, June 1. Southwest Texas gets ahead on most things.

—Howard Payne College conferred a degree of L. L. D. on President Brown of San Marcos Academy on last Wednesday, May 27th, when Dr. Brown delivered the Baccalaureate address. It was a worthy honor, worthily bestowed. President Brown has made a notable success at San Marcos.

—Mexican missionary work in Gambrell Association is progressing splendidly. A new chapel for their work is being completed at Runge which when completed will cost \$3,000.00. The missionary to the Mexicans baptized forty-six during May. There is a good expenditure of state missions money.

—The London Church, in Nueces county, had a profitable meeting last week in which Pastor W. H. Ingle did the preaching and Layman Frank London led the singing. Dr. J. L. Gross dropped in and helped in four fine services and ingratiated himself very much with the brethren there. Several baptisms are reported.

—Gutzon Borglum, famous sculptor who began the Stone Mountain Memorial near Atlanta, Ga., and was recently deposed from his position through litigation, is now making San Antonio his home and is negotiating with a Texas historical organization for a memorial in Southwest Texas honoring the pioneers of this section.

—Reports of the meeting that Rev. J. J. Kellam held with Pastor Judd B. Helt at Robstown indicate that fine success crowned the efforts of the brethren. More than thirty, we hear, have been added to the church, and a fine spirit put into all the work. Kellam and Helt make a fine team for the best sort of work.

—The Mathis church is, pastorless just now, and is in a meeting in which Rev. C. R. Luther, Durango, Colo., is doing the preaching in a most satisfactory way. Mr. Barrett of Ft. Worth is leading in the music, and is very helpful. The meeting will close the last of this week. Brother Luther will preach at Three-Rivers Sunday.

—Read the announcement of the Buena Vista Hotel of Riviera Beach. It has splendid rooms, all cool and comfortable, serves excellent meals, and has prices the most reasonable we have heard of, \$10 a week where two room together, and \$12 a week where one person takes a room. Meals and all furnishings are included.

—A visit on Tuesday to Riviera Beach reveals that things are in fine shape for the Encampment to begin next Tuesday, the 9th. The big tabernacle is seventy by eighty feet, is well built, comfortable, attractive in appearance, a great asset to the Encampment. A number of cottages have been built, and every necessary improvement has been added.

—Here is where the Rev. Henry S.

Ford, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church of Highland Park, Detroit, Mich., married a couple in an airplane three thousand feet above the earth. Don't confuse this Baptist preacher with Hank Ford of flivver fame. It does not often happen that a Baptist preacher is such a high flyer; his place of residence and his name probably account for the phenomenal situation.

—The Corpus Christi Association B. Y. P. U. met at Driscoll on last Sunday afternoon for the regular fifth Sunday meeting. President Walker presided and a good program was carried out. On account of the rain the attendance was cut seriously, but those who came had a fine spirit and entered into the work with alacrity. London Church sent the largest delegation. London Baptists never fail any good thing.

—The San Angelo chief of police has been sued for an aggregate of \$27,000.00 for false imprisonment and for beating up his prisoners. We know nothing of the merits of the case at San Angelo, but we are forever against any officer treating prisoners brutally. Such an officer ought to be sued for the full liability of his bondsman and then criminally prosecuted. He ought to taste some of his own medicine.

—Evangelist Sid Williams of San Antonio is holding a revival meeting at Runge, in Karnes county. Sid Williams was a successful evangelist when the editor was a small boy, just beginning to notice things in this life. Brother Sid continues still. He has been a great builder of Baptist numbers in Texas, and has always stood four-square for all the work of the Baptists. Multiplied thousands will be able to say when they get to heaven that Sid led them to seek the Lord. We are for him.

—Pastor W. W. Lee of Calvary Church, San Antonio, spoke last Sunday morning in his pulpit on, "Southern Baptists and Evolution." He set forth the action of the recent Southern Convention in adopting a creedal statement, and dealt particularly with the attitude of the Southern Baptists toward evolution. It is such sane and carefully delivered utterances that will make the world understand the Baptist attitude on this much-discussed subject.

—Twenty-eight have been added to the church at Ricardo under the preaching of Missionary J. P. King for the past two weeks. On Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock twenty were baptized at the home of Brother W. J. Glazner. Pastor Airhart was ill much of the time during the meeting, and before its close was called to Yoakum to attend the bedside of his aged mother who is not expected to live. All hearts go out very sympathetically to our beloved Brother Airhart in his hour of anxiety and possible sorrow.

—Former Vice President Thomas R. Marshall died June 1 at his home in Washington, D. C. The former Vice-President sat propped up in a chair reading a favorite portion of the Bible when the end came. It was the editor's privilege to be in the galleries of the senate when Vice President Marshall put the final vote on American participation in the League of Nations. Mr. Marshall was a brilliant man, energetic, out-spoken, often wrong in his attitudes, but one could not help but admire the vigorous stand of the man for the things he believed right.

—Nineteen states are now giving credit for work done in the Bible by

public school students. If one thinks no good is coming of the evolution agitation he is mistaken, for it is popularizing the Bible and making men re-study the whole question of origins. For more than half a century people swallowed the evolution hypothesis just because they were afraid not to believe it lest they be denominated presumptuous or ignorant. Williams Jennings Bryan has nerved a lot of men to take a stand for the old Book and accept its plain statement of the divine origin of the universe by direct creation, man thrown in.

—The colored Baptists, in session in a B. Y. P. U. and Sunday school congress, at Houston, the other day settled out matter—maybe—and that was Ma's pardoning proclivities. Our colored Baptist friends say Ma is right in having mercy on convicts and liberating them. We are just like them, except we think she is just exactly wrong. It is unfair for a jury to listen to the evidence in a case and after considering it duly and giving a prison term to an offender to have a governor to act as supreme court and turn the offender loose. In our judgement it is a rare thing that any offender ought to be pardoned.

—The Baptist Church of McAllen has called Rev. Hulen R. Carroll as Supply Pastor for an indefinite time. He will maintain his relations with Carroll College and the Trustees of said college will continue to pay a part of his salary. He will look after local matters for the college.

—Dr. J. B. Leavell of First Church Houston, is in a tent meeting with Pastor A. F. Beddoe, Baptist Temple, San Antonio. It starts off in high gear and promises much good. Great crowds are reported to be attending.

—Rev. T. C. Long, pastor, and Missionary J. S. Henderson, are in a revival meeting at Los Angeles Heights, San Antonio. Mr. B. H. King is directing the music. The meeting starts off well.

—There are always explanations offered for every phenomenon that occurs. For example, last week the fish died in great numbers in the San Antonio river near its confluence with the Guadalupe. It was an inexplicable thing, but immediately somebody arose with the explanation that the world is speedily coming to an end, and this fatality among fishes is the sign of it. We too believe that the end of the world draws nigh—nearer all the time—but we can hardly believe that dead fish in the San Antonio river is the Father's token to us of that great cataclysm. We would sooner believe that it is San Antonio's wickedness that has washed down the river with such fatality to the finny tribe.

—It has taken about seven months to market the grape fruit of the Valley this closing season. The first car rolled October 23 and the last May 12. The average peach crop movement occupies six weeks. Thirty-two cars in one week was the largest grape fruit shipment during the last season. Other commodities of the Valley have been notable this season. Here are some of them: White potatoes, 1071 cars; string beans, 134 cars; cabbage, 3,826 cars; tomatoes, 68 cars; cantaloupes, 22 cars, and still moving. This does not take into account the express shipments, which amount to trainloads every day during the busiest part of the season. Truly great is the Valley. It is one of the most attractive Baptist opportunities in the world to-day. It is not dead easy, however, and there is no need of adventurers and peripatetics.

An Anomalous Situation

There is some dynamite in the present education situation in the matter of campaigns for money to build and endow. So many of the schools are out making appeals to the churches that confusion is arising and fear is felt that friction may arise that will be hurtful to fellowship and to the welfare of the whole educational situation.

For example, here is a pastor whose church is in a triangle with three Baptist schools, all three of which claim the church as their legitimate territory. The pastor threw up his hands in helplessness, saying, "What in the world am I to do? If I ask any one of the three that has made appeal to come, the other two will be offended."

Every thoughtful person sympathizes with the schools in their growing pains, and in the struggle of the painstaking management to make books balance and provide for the necessities of their schools. It is truly tragical for schools to have to turn students away for lack of room and equipment to care for them. It is short-sighted policy to turn them away, though that is the best the school people can do when their limits of capacity have been reached. We repeat, we sympathize with our schools and schoolmen.

But unless there is some defining of territory and recognition of that defined territory on the part of canvassers, friction and misunderstanding and hurt is bound to occur. It seems to us that school heads could easily come to agreement as to what territory each should be free to appeal to and then each respect the agreement. In the event any church felt that it would rather give to a school other than the one that got it by assignment of territory, there could be no discussion about the right of the church to do as it pleases, and no criticism could be justly made of its choice in schools.

We trust that some agreement will be reached so as to save embarrassment and yet take care of the schools.

Program

For B. Y. P. U. Meeting at Riviera Beach Encampment, Sunday June 14, 1924. Rendered by the Senior Class B. Y. P. U. of Kingsville, Tex. SUBJECT: PAUL.

Song service—Dr. J. V. Chandler in charge.

Prayer.

Song—"Loyalty to Christ."

Bible Quiz—Miss Clovis Hickman.

Piano Solo—Miss Cogie Dawson.

1. Introduction. "Paul the Topmost"

2. "The Forces Which Won Him,"—Aubrey Westlake.

3. "His Vision a Four-fold One,"—Willie Fosselman.

Saxophone Solo—Miss Flora Price.

4. "The Personal Impact of the Risen and Ascended Christ."—R. J. Ball.

5. "Paul's Tact and Method."—D. H. Joiner.

6. "Paul's Letters and Epistles."—Miss Henriola Gregg.

7. "Paul's Prayer Life."—Jack Par-tain.

Song.

FIFTY THOUSAND GIFT TO SAN MARCOS ACADEMY

San Marcos Academy is seeking a \$250,000 building fund to provide needed equipment for its work. Announcement is made that Layman H. L. Kokernot of San Antonio has made a gift of \$50,000 to the fund. With that good-start, President Brown and his co-workers ought to get the figure they seek.

Financing our school building programs will more and more, we suspect, have to be accomplished through the appeals to the larger givers. Conditions for the next five years at least will make that necessary. After the present disturbed condition has been relieved, and new policies of financing all denominational activities have been adopted, there will be a rejuvenance of giving to the schools by the smaller givers.

The act of Mr. Kokernot in giving this healthy sum to start a very worthy campaign is deserving of the commendation of the brotherhood at large. May his tribe increase.

DEACON DUGAN'S DIARY

The Unvarnished Truth

MONDAY:

Jack Stumps cum over. When he started off his hoss balked. We worked and swet and fumed till we wore our selves out and hede not budge narry bit. Jack sed: He is sure balked, aint he? I sed, says I: The worst I ever seen. He driv a stob in the ground, and we tied the hoss tite to it. I lent hem one of mine; we pushed the buggy back, and he tuck my hoss & hiz buggy & went on. As he started off he sed: Let hem stay on that spot till he is most starved. When I got in the house Ma, she sed: Its sad that such a good lookin hoss will use so little hoss sense, but there is sum people that dont use no more about sum things. And, sed I: Yes, sum of us balk when we orter pull, and pull when we orter balk.

You should have iron nails if you scratch with a bear.

ON HAVING "THE GUTS."

Two brethren from far distant sections accosted this editor at the recent Southern Baptist Convention and asked to be put on the mailing list of the Baptist, and each of them said, "I want it because you have the 'guts' to say things."

Now "guts" is a rather inelegant word, but in good standing, and often used during the world war to express courage, hardihood, daring on the part of soldiers. It is quite expressive, even its inelegance making it the more striking.

We hardly knew how to take the implied compliment. Having the boldness to say things may betoken a lack of intelligence rather than an abundance of bravery. It may indicate an undiscerning mind that thinks it must say something and without respect to the effect just speaks. We hope we do not have that kind of boldness. There is a chip-on-the-shoulder boldness also that does not commend itself to us as any mark of real courage. Then too we have discovered that it is often easier to speak out than to keep silence.

We do not want a reputation for merely being bold enough to say things. There is an example of that sort of thing in Texas that may well serve as a warning to all who would be bold.

This editor hopes only to have the courage to say the things that ought to be said, and to have that courage matched by that other grace that keeps silence when silence is golden. He has no desire to wound or stir up suspicion or create a sensation. He earnestly believes that in all matters of denominational concern there ought to be friendly frankness and such criticism as will cure defects and put forward the Lord's Kingdom. What goes beyond that, he believes to be harmful and unbecoming anybody.

Evangelist L. C. Bauer of Whitehall, Ill., desires to hold meetings wherever the brethren need him. He is said to have the endorsements of some of the sturdiest of our Texas and Southern brethren, which references will be furnished any interested person or church. Brother Bauer has just closed his 228th meeting, and during

last year won 1,200 persons to Christ. He is willing to go anywhere and hold meetings for a free-will offering. He was at one time pastor at Clarendon, Texas.

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ARE YOU A CO-OPERATOR?

Co-operation is the ground sill on which our denominational life is founded. A good Baptist is therefore a thorough co-operator.

IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS

We have the whole host of Texas Baptists to co-operate with in Missions, Beneficence and Education. Among ourselves we have these institutions to co-operate with: San Marcos Academy, Carroll College, Harlingen Hospital, San Antonio Hospital, Riviera Beach Encampment, Alto Frio Encampment, and

THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS BAPTIST

which is the active agent for them all and the advocate of their interests. Are you co-operating with the paper?

There is something Wrong

In the June issue of Home and Foreign Fields an editorial of the above caption is so striking and stirring that we quote liberally from it. The brotherhood needs to read a lot of stimulating editorial matter like this and get straight on the one great vital issue of demonical work, missions. Read it and digest it. It will do you good.

A faithful and beloved missionary whose long and honorable and sacrificial term of service in China gives him the right to speak plainly, after contrasting the awful destitution of his province with the rich and favored South and after reviewing the steady retrenchments which the Foreign Mission Board has been compelled to make because of decreasing support, exclaims, "Brethren, there is something wrong!"

A younger missionary, ready to carry out the plans which he and his colleagues have made for the enlargement of the work in a needy mission field, but halted by the inability of the Foreign Mission Board to approve the necessary expenditure, contemplating the Board's debt and the failure of Southern Baptists to lift it, significantly declares, "A debt on the Board means crutches out here; and a large and permanent debt will mean a row of graves."

What does it mean, this slackening of the pace in evangelism and missions, this apparent willingness for our two great Mission Boards to sink under a burden of debt? How account for the lethargy which seems to have come to the churches in their concern for the two greatest of all our causes—Home and Foreign Missions?

Let it be recognized, first, that the slackening is relative, not absolute. When a man's salary of one hundred dollars has been raised to two hundred and then cut to one hundred and fifty, the chances are that he will feel the cut more keenly than if he had missed the increase. This will be especially true if he advanced his expenditures to the level of his new salary, and cannot easily shift to a lower scale. Southern Baptists have not ceased their giving—they have dropped below the standard erected in the first year of the 75 Million Campaign, but are still much in advance of the pre-campaign standard. At that, however, we must humbly confess ourselves near the bottom of the list of evangelical denominations in per capita giving.

And now we are at the heart of the matter: Thousands of our Baptist people are not in love with the cause of missions. Little or no passion

burns in their hearts for the souls of men and women who do not know Christ. They are not stirred by the vision of the South so thoroughly Christian that it will lighten the whole nation with its saying influence; and of a missionary enterprise in non-Christian lands so powerful and determined that it will turn the balance for Christianity in the pagan and heathen nations across the seas. They do not thrill to the thought of a world won to Christ, of a civilization dominated by His ideals and principles, of multitudes of saved souls going home to God because we have opened with the keys of missions and evangelism the gates of heaven, and closed by our witness and sacrifice and Christ-like living the yawning gates of hell.

Why should this be true of a host of our people—and not ours alone, but of church members of every name?

First, because they have not heard enough informing, inspiring and challenging preaching on the subject. Phillips Brooks defined preaching as the communication of truth by means of personality. Nothing can ever take its place. A man in the pulpit on fire for missions, informed about the conditions and needs, with deep convictions in his soul as to the will of God for the salvation of men everywhere and the establishment of a Christian social order in all the earth, will irresistibly carry his people with him in like enthusiasm and sacrificial giving. He cannot assume such an attitude; he cannot preach missions as a mere matter of duty; he cannot substitute money-raising devices—even titling schemes—for this soul-gripping passion which takes possession of his personality. He must have the real thing himself; and then he must—and will—transmit it to his people in living messages from a pulpit of power. When our missionary brother across the seas cries, "There's something wrong," the heart of many a preacher must reply, in honest (Baa fession, "Yes, and I am to blame."

Again, our people are not responding with their gifts because they are not kept informed about the work.

The way out becomes increasingly clear. The missionary motive must somehow be made to dominate the lives of our preachers and teachers. On the basis of intelligent understanding of the teaching of the Bible and the needs and conditions of the fields, the hearts and consciences of the church members must be touched; and then, instead of giving to an impersonal "budget," the church membership must be led into vital, personal, missionary living, beginning at their own doors and extending their personal witnesses through missionaries, whom they love and pray for as their

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own, to the uttermost parts of the earth.

This is no easy way. Our failure, insofar as we have failed, has come largely because we were willing to try an easy way. Is it not time that we give it up, and take Christ's way, the way of the cross, which alone can lead to victory?

DEACON DUGAN'S DIARY

A Review

Hambone and Abe Martin have no corner on homely wisdom strikingly expressed. Deacon Dugan's Diary matches any of them that specialize in dialect wise sayings.

"Deacon Dugan's Diary" is produced by Pastor L. W. White of West Columbia, Texas. He has issued it in a small volume off his own press, and is offering it for sale. The price is small, so is the book, but the smiles that come of reading it are big, and one laughs clear through his soul at many of the sallies of the little volume. It is worth several times the price for the mental reactions one gets.

Deacon Dugan and Ma talk plain to each other and to other folks. They attend church and prayer-meeting and moralize on what takes place at those services. They hit the spot ordinarily. To have these diaries printed on cards and mailed to individuals to whom they apply might get one into the penitentiary, but as you read the daily diary you recall some folks to whom such messages ought to be sent.

For example here is a Saturday's diary: "Went to town, Sum fellers was settin in front of a store talkin' bout what preachers oter and oter not preach about. One sed: If I was a preacher I'd preach to suit the people and I'd always have a job. Another

sed: If I was one I'd get me a ellum club and beat the stuff out of sum fellers that oter go to the bug house insted of the Lords, and belong to the chain gang insted of the chorch. I sed says I: You fellers oter can up your knowledge and see if it is sellable or else but put in a capsule insted of sapperin it out in a public placd like this—If you had your ellum club you'd be in a good place to begin usin it, if you had a lookin glass so you could see where to hit the first lick."

We have such an appetite for the Deacon's daily jottings that we want some more of them—would relish one every day.

Send for the booklet and you will laugh often and get a new thought and then you can pass the little volume on to someone else where it may revolutionize their living.

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BEHOLD, THE TIME IS AT HAND!

Riviera Beach Encampment

1925 SESSION

Another cottage was started yesterday. The grounds are rapidly filling. The Tabernacle is finished. The streets are laid off. The Encampment city is ready.

First Program: Tues. Night, June 9. It will be a 'high-tide' time