

This Changing World

"... that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."—Heb. 12:27.

By LOUIE D. NEWTON

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands — one nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Winston Churchill's toast to 1942 struck home to American hearts—"A year of toil and peril, but a long step forward." My own toast to 1942 is found in the words of Tennyson—"I doubt not through the ages one increasing purpose runs, and the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns."

GIVE TO + RED CROSS

The approaching Pan American Conference is expected to bring Argentina into full collaboration with the United States, along with all other Latin American nations.

GIVE TO + RED CROSS

Spain faces internal revolt at the prospect of a Nazi march through that nation. The revolt comes from army and naval officers. Franco,

TEXT FOR THE WEEK
Arise for our help, and redeem us for Thy mercies' sake.
Psalm 44:26.

caught on the horns of this dilemma, dependent as he is, both upon the Vatican and the Axis powers, ordered the arrest of these officers on the grounds of treason.

GIVE TO + RED CROSS

The recent effort to assassinate General von Stulpnagel, commander of the Nazi occupying forces in France, as he left the Crillon Hotel in Paris, failed, though one of the bullets clipped part of the insignia from his collar.

GIVE TO + RED CROSS

Salazar, dictator of Portugal, fearing an early invasion of Nazi forces, aided by Spain, is rushing 150,000 Portuguese soldiers to various bases—50,000 to the Azores and Cape Verde, 50,000 to Angola, and 50,000 to Mozambique, thus putting them out of immediate reach of Hitler.

GIVE TO + RED CROSS

Tin cans will soon disappear from grocery stores and pantry shelves, due to the shortage in this vital metal for defense. Substitutes in the form of glass, plexiglass-cardboard, and so forth will take the place of the time-honored tin can.

GIVE TO + RED CROSS

Watch out for racketeers and fakers, warns Washington. For example: agencies offering to produce birth certificates; "doctors," sometimes in Army uniforms, who offer selective service registrants advance physical examinations; "plumbers," who prepare furnaces for air raids; organizers of phony charities and benefits, and so forth and so on.

GIVE TO + RED CROSS

"Isles of valor" is the eloquent phrase of the British obituary on Hong Kong, 32-square-mile rocky island that fell from Britain's ownership of 101 years on Christmas Day. Lord Palmerston referred to the island as a barren waste in 1841, and Queen Victoria once wrote facetiously (Continued on page 2)

EVENTS TO COME

January 19-23—Training Union Emphasis Week in all associations.

December 21-31—Christmas Holidays, H-SU.

February 24-25—District 7 Convention, Marfa.

February 26-27—District 8 Convention, Lamesa.

March 5—District 17 Convention, Rotan.

March 17-18—District 16 Convention, Coleman.

March 31-Apr. 1—District 9 Convention, Coleman.

April 2-3—District 10 Convention, Amarillo.

April 3—District 11 Convention, Vernon.

April 7-9—State Sunday School Convention, Houston.

April 14-15—District 17 W. M. U. Convention, Stamford.

YOUR CHURCH CAN WIN A BANNER JANUARY 19-23

An Award of Recognition will be issued to one church in each of the 112 associations in Texas during the week of January 19-23. This award will be issued to the church having the largest percent of its church membership present at the one-day associational Training Union conference.

The program for each of these meetings will begin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and will close that night about 9:15.

A picnic supper is being planned and, therefore, a great time is expected. In view of the fact that there will be a night meeting in each place, it appears to us that very large crowds should attend these meetings.

The combined state goal for the 112 meetings is 20,000.

Twenty-four teams have been secured. There are five and six on each team. All team members will be prepared to present new ideas, new plans, new programs that will aid in growing larger and better Training Unions. We are all agreed that all members of all Baptist churches should be trained to serve Christ effectively and heroically. We are, likewise, agreed that if Baptists are trained and indoctrinated there must be an organization designed to do it.

We are agreed further that the Baptist Training Union is that organization designed to train, develop, indoctrinate and challenge all Baptists for real heroic Christian service and giving.

PLANS PROGRESSING FOR CENTRAL TRAINING WORK

The week of January 26-30, 12 central simultaneous Sunday School Training Schools will be promoted by 12 centers in cooperation with the Baptist State Sunday School Department. The 12 centers participating, together with the goal set by each, are as follows:

Houston, 4,000; Dallas Co., 2,000; San Antonio, 2,000; Abilene, 1,000; Austin, 1,000; Amarillo, 1,000; Waco, 1,000; Port Arthur, 750; Beaumont, 750; Concho Valley at San Angelo, 500; Wichita-Archer at Wichita Falls, 500; Denton, 500; Total, 15,000.

Every member of every church and all other interested parties should plan to be in a training class at one of these places. Practically every book in the Sunday School course will be taught.

ATTENDANCE REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 28

Attendance in most churches was far below the average for the last Sunday of 1941. Part of this is explained as the result of holiday visiting and partly due to disagreeable weather. Send reports to Box 1560, Abilene, any time during the week.

Church	Att.
Amarillo, First	1270
Wichita Falls, First	796
Lubbock, First	784
Abilene, First	778
El Paso, First	750
Vernon, First	590
Wichita Falls, Lamar Ave.	585
Borger, First	463
Sweetwater, First	374
Coleman, First	303
Big Spring, First	256
San Angelo, Immanuel	238

Training Union	Att.
Abilene, First	330
Sweetwater, First	195
Vernon, First	169
San Angelo, Immanuel	106
Big Spring, First	70

EVANGELIST NORMAN HAS A GOOD YEAR

During the past year Dr. McKinley Norman, state evangelist, conducted 21 revival meetings with a total of 595 additions to the churches, 311 of these coming for baptism.

In addition to these meetings, he was chosen to promote and lead in the simultaneous evangelistic campaign in Waco Association, in which 31 churches and three missions participated. This campaign resulted in 571 additions to the various churches, 339 of whom were baptized. This makes a total of 1,166 additions, 659 by baptism; in connection with his efforts for the year.

MRS. WARE GIVES TIME TO MISSIONS PROMOTION



Mrs. J. W. Ware of Louisville, Kentucky, the former Myrtle Barber of Texas, spent the month from November 23 to December 21 in various mission activities in West Texas, including associational and church schools of missions and addresses in behalf of the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and China relief.

During Christmas season she spoke widely in Louisville in behalf of the mission offering. This is her third year of such service there.

She was one of the visiting team in the Mission Revival of Brownfield Association, speaking 14 times at some of the stronger churches. In these services a total of 80 people dedicated themselves to the Lord.

On December 2 she taught "These Things Remain" to the W. M. S. at Loraine. The following week she led in a church school of missions at Dimmitt, where Rev. Ware was pastor before going to Louisville. December 14 she spoke on behalf of missions at Lockney, where Rev. A. L. Shaw is pastor. Her address was followed by a handsome offering for foreign missions. While in Lockney she addressed the public schools and the W. M. S.

The concluding appearance in Texas was at Calvary Church, Abilene, Rev. Clyde Campbell, pastor. Nearly \$100 was raised for the Lottie Moon Offering and Chinese relief. Mrs. Ware's mother, Mrs. Bertha Barber, is a member of this church.

Mrs. Ware, who is a frequent contributor to W. M. U. publications, returned a large portion of her expense checks of this trip to the local mission offerings.

Rev. Ware has completed his residence work for a graduate degree at Southern Seminary. He has been pastor of a Kentucky church during this time.

CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUE FOR HOSPITAL CHARITY

The following gifts to Hendrick Memorial Hospital have been received since the last report and have been credited to the charity fund.

Dorcas Class, Henrietta Church, \$5. Estelline W. M. U., 11 pints of jelly and preserves. Eunice, N. M. G. A., 2 scrapbooks. W. M. U., First Church, Midland, 24 napkins. Hodges W. M. U., 10 qts. peaches, 2 qts. beans, 5 pts. tomatoes, 2 qts. peas, 3 qts. blackberries, 3 pts. apple butter, 1 qt. corn, 1 qt. chow chop.

MISSIONARIES IN MACAO CABLE NEWS OF SAFETY

In Macao, South China, are located the Graves Theological Seminary and the Mo Kwong School of the Blind, these two institutions having been moved from Canton when the Japanese occupied that city.

The Foreign Mission Board has just received the following cable from Missionary John L. Galloway in Macao:

"Isolated. Telegraph salaries Seminary Blind. Bank Nacional Ultramarine Lisbon transfer Macao. Notify families safe."—F. M. B.

LONGWORTH SHARES CHRISTMAS WITH ORPHANS HOME

Longworth, a fourth-time church in Fisher Association, Rev. A. D. Smith, Sweetwater, pastor, shared their Christmas cheer with the children of Buckner Orphans Home, sending them 39 pounds of home made cookies and candy. Women of the church are planning to make some quilts for the children soon.

ASSOCIATION S. S. MEET TO BE HELD AT MERKEL

Sunday School workers of Sweetwater Association will meet at Merkel for the first monthly meeting of 1942 on Tuesday evening, January 13 at 7:30. Benediction will be said at 9:00. The regular time for the meeting is Monday evening, following the second Sunday of the month, but a conflicting date caused the change this month, states J. D. Riddle, Abilene, associational superintendent.

The plan is to hold a meeting at Merkel for all the association in the first month of each quarter and to have zone meetings the other two months.

The theme for the January meeting is "Going Forward." The following goals for the Sunday Schools of the association will be discussed at the meeting: An increase of 1,500 in total attendance, 66 new classes, 12 new departments and four new schools; 120 standard classes in the association, 38 standard departments and 12 standard schools; 1,500 training awards, 25 Vacation Bible Schools and 10 church libraries.

The following department superintendents for the association will lead conferences: Adults, Mrs. W. F. Joyner; young people, Mrs. Cooper Waters; intermediates, Mrs. D. H. Maxwell; junior, Miss Harriet Evans; primary, Mrs. C. E. Lambeth.

PLAINS CHURCH THANKED BY MEXICAN MISSIONARY

The Mexican Mission of the First Baptist Church of Amarillo wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to the First Church and to other Christian agencies and individuals who have made it possible for this mission and its pastor to carry on successfully the season's activities and also earnest evangelizing efforts.

During the past year this small group has entertained the association, has had courses of studies, an anniversary program, an effective Vacation Bible School, various periods of revival meetings and a Christmas program.

The results of these activities have been the reorganization of this mission which now has 27 active members. The additions have been as follows: 17 by re-registration, five by statement, six by letter and three through baptism. Of these, four members have been dismissed by letter to join other Baptist churches.

For this year 1942 we are in a better position to carry on the work. We have had to work on preparation and organization of members and on adopting plans and methods. Now we expect to work these plans and methods in order to accomplish greater things for our Master.

We covet your prayers for this work and your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours in the work of the Lord,
REV. A. L. ORTIZ, Pastor.

AFRICAN KING ATTENDS MISSION THANKSGIVING

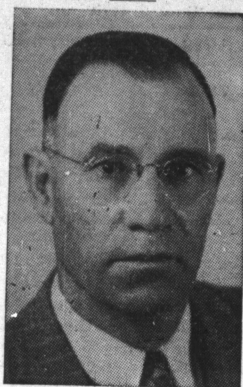
From West Africa Miss Lena Lair writes of a Thanksgiving service held in Ile-Ife, to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the accession of the king of that town. For two hours, the service of song, prayer, praise, and sermon went on. At the close of the service a thanksgiving offering was made by the hundreds of people present at the meeting.

Miss Lair writes: "You should have seen their rich-looking dresses and robes; some of royal blue velvet, others of red velvet—a great array of fine garments. It was very impressive to see him, a king whom the people worship, bowing before God and acknowledging Him as the God who had been good and gracious in leading him as he led his people."

SECOND ANNUAL TRAINING BANQUET

The second annual Sunday School Training banquet will be held on the second day of the State Sunday School Convention, which is to convene in Houston April 7 to 9, 1942. The rules, pertaining to those who will be eligible to attend this banquet will be announced soon. However, it is suggested that you begin now, at the beginning of the New Year, to study more books and secure as many awards as possible before this time. Some have already indicated to us that they would sit at the Gold Seal table.

RALLS CHURCH OBSERVES FIFTY YEARS OF GROWTH



REV. W. R. DERR

The First Baptist Church of Ralls observed January 4 as the 50th year of organization and the sixth anniversary of Pastor W. R. Derr.

The charter membership of 17 has grown to 363 when Rev. Derr was called to the Ralls Church and the number has now increased to 631. There have been 515 additions during the six years, 241 of them coming for baptism.

During the last six years the church has raised an average of \$5,000 per year for all causes. The beginning of the depression found the church with a handsome new building and a heavy debt. Interest has been paid monthly and the debt has been greatly reduced. In addition, \$2,000 in cash and much work has been expended in improving and beautifying the buildings and grounds.

The church was organized at Emma, then county seat of Crosby County, by Rev. J. W. Winn, who served one Sunday a month for ten years. With this exception, Pastor Derr has served longer than any other. He is at this time vice-moderator of Floyd Association and chairman of the District 9 executive board.

The Ralls Banner issued a special edition January 1, in appreciation of the 50 years service of the Baptist Church to the community.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES IS READY FOR MAILING

The Calendar of Activities for the Baptist Training Union should be in the hands of all Baptist pastors and Training Union directors. This Calendar of Activities gives the dates of all district, state and southwide meetings. The pastor or Training Union director who wishes to keep up with Baptist events in Texas and the South, should get this calendar and put it up in a conspicuous place.

The general theme for the Training Union this year is "The Growing Christian." Scripture: 2 Peter 3:18. The aim of the Training Union of Texas is "A Fully Graded Training Union in Every Church."

Order your Calendar of Activities from your State Training Union Department, 509 Baptist Building, Dallas. It is free.

PROGRAMS ARRIVE LATE

Programs for the Floyd Association workers' meeting at Calvary Church, Silverton, January 6, and the Callahan Association workers at Denton Valley, January 7, unfortunately reached this office last week the next day after the paper was made up.

The West Texas Baptist is always glad to carry programs of any meetings in this territory which are of more than local church interest. We make it a fixed policy to use these, if necessary to the exclusion of some other matter which can wait. But Tuesday noon is the dead line for copy and material reaching the office later has no assurance at all of being printed that week.

We are glad to have programs of meetings but, if possible, send them the week before they are to appear, certainly not later than Monday of the week of issue.

A Little Girl's Prayer

Perhaps you have heard of a little girl who prayed—"O God, make all bad people good, and all good people nice." It was just a child's prayer, a prayer with the scars of some unhappy experience, but it was none the less a prayer of insight. Unfortunately, all good people are not "nice."—Baptist Bulletin Service.

SERVICES CONTINUE AT ABILENE GOSPEL MISSION

Daily services continue to be held at the Abilene Gospel Mission, a cooperative enterprise with a meeting place at North First and Cedar. Rev. Sam Bonetati, ministerial student at Hardin-Simmons, is director of the mission. Services held are a combination of fellowship and evangelistic preaching. The mission is open each evening and on Sunday afternoons.

A large portion of the congregation, and most of the converts have been men in uniform. But Director Bonetati urges more of the church members to have a part. "Some of our church members who have attended have praised the work in our mission highly," he states. "We wish more people would come and be with these boys from the camp. They don't like to have fellowship only with other soldiers, but want the company of civilians."

"This service has been the best service I have attended in the last five years," a church member who visited the mission is quoted as testifying. "I want to praise the Lord tonight because we have felt His presence here."

Services are conducted under the direction of Mr. Bonetati, but the student ministers and pastors of Abilene share the preaching. An open house program was held New Year's Eve with services continuing until 12:30.

The management of the mission has seen the need of serving refreshments after services and has found that it is appreciated. Among donors of food have been E. P. Mead and the Young Married Women's Missionary circle of First Baptist Church. This opportunity is open to any class or church group that is interested in helping.

A group of men and women from various Abilene churches are the board of directors of the mission. Included on the board are Presidents White of H-SU and Turner of McMurry. The work is supported by free-will offerings. Outside of the refreshments, the main expenses are the utility bills and the rent, which falls due the first of each month. Donations may be mailed to Rev. Sam Bonetati, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene.

CHINESE RELIEF FUNDS MAKE WORTHY MEMORIAL

By Foreign Mission Board
Some of Southern Baptist Relief funds have been used in the Herman Liu Memorial Home for Refugee Children, located in Szechwan Province. Mr. Jensen tells us that at first many of the children were faced with actual starvation but that stage has passed, even though there are still "short spells when food has to be rather severely rationed." He has also been able to supply foods that contained vitamins which were badly needed, since quite a number of the children were losing their eye-sight because of lack of proper food.

Other funds have bought weaving machines and thread which have been used to make cloth for use in the home and also to sell. Also several children are being clothed and kept in school. In this way we of the Southland are helping Free China to save lives and to educate some of the future leaders of that country. What a worthy memorial to the great and martyred Herman C. Liu!

PRACTICAL EVANGELISM AT WORK IN URUGUAY

From Uruguay, South America, where Southern Baptists have four missionary representatives, comes a report of practical evangelism. Mr. Askew and the seminary students from Argentina spent a week in visiting and preaching. Mr. Askew's account follows:

"Besides conducting the Saturday and Sunday services for the churches and mission stations, we led the young people in holding 13 open-air meetings. Each afternoon we held two or three street meetings on busy corners, in public squares, and once at the huge Farmers' Market. We left Uruguay feeling that the Lord had not only blessed us by giving us these opportunities for service, but that He also blessed those churches in leading them to realize the opportunities of extensive and intensive evangelism."—F. M. B.

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A Mighty Movement Among The Master's Men

By PAT O. HAMMOND,
A Conductor on the Missouri-Pacific
Lines, Delivered at State Bro-
therhood Convention

Text: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."—Acts 1:8.

Brother President, and Brethren of the Baptist Brotherhood of Texas:

I am sure that each pastor and church leader has dreamed of, and wished for, yea even prayed for, a consecrated, working, church membership, and has looked many times with sorrow and regret that we have not been able to lead our churches into a higher walk with Christ. I wonder if perhaps any failure along this line might be attributed to the fact that we have failed to enlist our men in this movement. Yes, sometimes men who are grappling with the affairs of this world and its complex business situations are a little harder to enlist, and as a result, because it is easier—we may have joined with the cry of the captain of a sinking vessel, "Women and Children First." Brethren, I believe that the Brotherhood with its program of enlisting, indoctrinating and training the men, is the key to this whole situation. Our own leader, Brother Springer, is right when he complains that too many men in our churches have for their favorite song, "Take my WIFE, and let her be consecrated, Lord, to Thee."

In this matter of growing a spiritually powerful church, the pastor is the "key" man and if he is sold on the plan, policies and program of the Brotherhood—if he has a vision of what such a plan will mean to his church and to the winning of a lost world, he will be able to convince others.

The great conquests of Christianity have been made by men, and it is well to remember that Christ did not choose his apostles from the priesthood, but selected them from the average, plain laymen. He transformed and trained and sent them out to win the lost. This was the Apostolic method, and Brethren, I am convinced, it must be the method of today, if we are to succeed in this vast enterprise left in our hands by our Master.

The battles of today are of such that they cannot be won, without enlisting our man power—we do have battles to fight, wars to win, enemies to down—and this is an hour that the phrase, "National Defense," is rather popular. In fact, I am afraid that this phrase is used to cover a multitude of sins. We excuse our Sabbath breaking on "National Defense"—we are allowing the hellish liquor traffic to make its terrific inroads under the same slogan. We are insulting womanhood all over America with the dances designed to "entertain" the soldiers all under the slogan of "National Defense."

Brethren, it is time to rouse and rally our men to one great fact—WE DO NOT NEED TO FEAR THE OUTWARD AGGRESSION OF ANY FOREIGN NATION as much as we need to fear the internal tearing down of our country, not only by foreign "isms," but such enemies as the liquor and commercialized vice interests that infest our land today. Read the fifth chapter of Daniel, and remember how an empire went down to doom wallowing in her drunkenness—turn the pages of history and read the decline and fall of every other nation who went this route, and then have enough manhood left among us to stand to our feet and call for the brakes on this skidding path our own beloved country is following. We have a Great God—and He has the power to turn a nation and a world back to right—all He needs is what we can and should provide Him—CONSECRATED MANPOWER.

Dr. Roland Q. Leavell reminds us that Greece was once a land of mighty mentality—with architects, sculptors, poets, philosophers and artists—such as the world has never equalled. Today her sons are scrambling eggs in restaurants and shining shoes on the streets. And since God is no respecter of persons, how can we sensibly hope to escape a similar fate.

Certainly such a prospect would not be conducive to our present happiness. But after all sin has never produced happiness, and when we remember that every person in the world would like to be "happy, our hearts ought to burn within us to tell them the secret. Truly, the Christian people—the consecrated Christian people—are the only people in the world who know what real happiness is, and yet with this secret, we sit idly by and let people go to hell,

without telling them of this new experience we have had with our dear Lord. God needs real men for a real program. Real churches with a real program need real men!

I need but remind you of some of the objectives of the Brotherhood: Enlisting tithers, distributing religious literature, holding cottage prayer meetings, visiting the sick and needy, enlisting the unenlisted Baptists, winning lost men to Christ and many other things that will come to a surrendered life—among these we might mention, would be an "ANDREW CLUB," a little movement within this big movement that would be designed to take the timid, shrinking brother and challenge him with a program such as was carried on by Andrew, who seemed to live only to get people in touch with Christ.

Some one may ask, how would be the best way to start this movement and put it on. The ideal way, in your speaker's mind, would be to get some layman to lead in a 30 day campaign—organize prayer hands to pray for this great campaign, get a religious census, and classify your prospects: list all the nine-year girls and boys, separately, and so on up by ages until marriage and then list these with adults. After you have listed your prospects, give each Sunday School teacher, each departmental superintendent, the general superintendent and your pastor a list of all the prospects and then do something about these possibilities. Use two weeks getting ready—and then use two weeks in an extensive and intensive evangelistic campaign. Get a soul-winning preacher to lead this part of the campaign, using your laymen to lead the rest of the way. The pastor should enlist and train three or four teams who would be willing to go afield and win lost men to Christ.

Brethren, I may not have made myself clear—nor gotten my message over—but today, and tomorrow, and when you shall leave this convention and go home, just remember that the Master has enough men to make a mighty movement that will march on and shake and tear down the very gates of hell—but even the Master cannot use His men unless we enlist them, organize them, train them, and turn them over to Christ our Matchless Leader.

PROGRAM

Quarterly Meeting of Fisher Association W. M. P., meeting with Rotan Church, Tuesday, January 13, at 10 A. M.

Theme: "Oh, send out thy truth and thy light."

Song and praise service conducted by Mrs. Koenig, McCaulley.

Devotional, Mrs. Roy Hennington, McCaulley.

Greetings, Mrs. C. E. Leon, Rotan.

Response, Mrs. O. D. Henley, Sylvester.

Recognition of visitors and of new society at Liberty Church.

Reports of societies by local presidents: Highland Home, Mrs. Earnest Smith; Sylvester, Mrs. J. M. Turner; Sardis, Mrs. W. A. Hancock; Roby, Mrs. L. W. Dickson; Pleasant Valley, Mrs. J. S. Edwards; Liberty, Mrs. Vernon Fry; Royston, Mrs. S. R. Brumfield; McCaulley, Mrs. Roy Hennington; Rotan, Mrs. W. F. Taylor. Key women of other churches: Mrs. Emory Scott, Hobbs; Mrs. Frank Kingsfield, Cross Roads; Mrs. Andy Anderson, Plasterco.

Announcements and business.

Special music.

11:30—Inspirational address, Rev. Perry King, Roby.

Lunch—Braided covered dish.

1:15—Song and prayer service.

Devotional, Mrs. L. Q. Campbell, Abilene.

Corresponding secretary-treasurer's report, Mrs. J. A. Brown.

Reading of minutes, Mrs. J. D. Bradshaw.

Reports of standing chairmen: Mission study, Mrs. George T. McBeth; education, Mrs. Geo. Tucker; Benevolence, Mrs. Emory Scott; periodicals, Mrs. Perry King; Missions, Mrs. O. D. Henley; publicity, Mrs. S. R. Brumfield; Margaret Fund, Mrs. Obed Hughes; Personal Service, Mrs. C. A. Jones; Bible study, Mrs. Harold Stephenson; stewardship, Mrs. C. E. Dick; young people, Mrs. D. O. Gray. Message, Mrs. O. B. Woodrum, Abilene.

Special music, Mrs. Koenig.

Message, Mrs. J. B. Buckley, Abilene.

When the state is most corrupt, then laws are most multiplied.—Tacitus.

I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.—Abraham Lincoln.

CONTESTS IN POPULARITY DRAW PROTEST OF PASTOR

The article below must remain anonymous, though the writer deserves highest praise for his clear-sighted courage.

Some time ago the editor was privileged to see a letter which a pastor had written replying to a request to appear before another church with a view to a call. Because the letter says forcibly some things which need to be repeated and emphasized, a request was made for permission to put it in print. Consent was given only upon assurance of complete anonymity.

The reader will wonder if the church met the conditions laid down. They did, and—you guessed it—the writer of the letter received an unanimous call.

I appreciate more than I can tell you the kind invitation of the pulpit committee to come before your church in view of a call. Never would I consider lightly such an invitation. Believing that you sincerely sought the will of God before you invited me, I am now seeking His will in the matter of my accepting this invitation.

Perhaps it may seem strange to you that I am so hesitant about even preaching before your church. I doubt if I can explain my viewpoint adequately. But going before a church is serious business with me. Especially is that true just now. These people here have been good to me and to every pastor they have had. Never did I feel so close to those I minister to as I do to these. God has blessed and is blessing our work, and I couldn't for the world make them feel that I am dissatisfied with my work and seeking to leave. If I run out and preach before every church that asks me, they could easily draw that conclusion. I have not turned one finger in an effort to leave, and will not make such an effort unless I feel an impression from the Lord.

I make this statement, hoping you will understand, in order that I might say this: I am not at all interested in coming before your church, if it means that I must compete with several of my brethren. If you want one prospect this Sunday, me the next Sunday, and another prospect the following Sunday, then count me out now. I don't believe in pastorless churches disturbing a half dozen fields before they even attempt to make a call. I am not going to be one of that group.

Here is my proposition: The pulpit committee has investigated my work. If it hasn't, it is taking a tremendous chance in asking me before the church. If such investigation has been made and the committee feels impressed by the Holy Spirit that I should go before the church, I will come if the following condition is met. I want it understood that my name must be disposed of at once. If the committee, after hearing me preach, feels satisfied that I am the man God wants in your city, I would suggest that a recommendation be presented to the church to the effect that a pastor be called. If the committee feels that I am not the man, then recommend that all names be dropped and the search for a pastor continue. But definite church action must be taken before I could agree to come.

I know you may misunderstand my attitude, but I hope you can see my position. I didn't seek to get before the church there. You did the seeking. Therefore, I am refusing to hurt myself here by making it appear that I might be dissatisfied.

I am sorry I could not get my consent to be with you this Sunday. I had to have more time. Last night I prayed this thing through, and this letter is the result. I had been praying, since Sunday night, that if God didn't want me to move that you would not even invite me before the church. Then, when you phoned me, I didn't know what to do. I guess I was like Gideon, wanting to try God out more than once. So I am writing this frank letter, trusting that it is under the leadership of the Spirit. The matter of my coming before the church will be determined by your answer.

Whatever you do, feel sure that I am eternally grateful to you for the invitation and that I do appreciate my friends, whoever they might have been, that suggested me to your committee. It does me good to know that friends believe in me; it makes me more determined to go on for Christ. May the God of all mercies be with your good church, and may you find the leadership of Christ in selecting your pastor.

The nation that has the schools has the future.—Bismarck.

'Tis the mind that makes the body rich.—Shakespeare.

MISSION EDUCATES GIRLS AT COST OF \$35 A YEAR

Some months ago the West Texas Baptist quoted Missionary Maye Bell Taylor as saying that the North Brazil Training School at Recife, Pernambuco, educates selected girls at a cash cost of \$35 per year. The school is conducted in connection with the Baptist seminary at Recife. Miss Mildred Cox is director and Miss Taylor is house mother for the 64 girls last reported.

The following letter from Miss Taylor is replying to one who asked the privilege of furnishing a scholarship for one of the girls. This is two scholarships, which have come to the attention of the editor, as the result of Miss Taylor's address.

Caixa 178
Recife, Pernambuco,
Dec. 1, 1941.

Mr. Pearson Morgan,
Ablene, Texas.

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Imagine, after two months, I received your letter today asking about a Brazilian girl to educate. Of course I am very happy to hear from anyone who is interested in helping our girls through school. I always feel that person has an interest in missions because he is a good Christian.

Yes, \$35 will send a girl through the Training School as they work for their board. These girls have to be 18 years old, recommended by their church, feel called to do special service for their Master and pass all their work. Also have to have good health to stay in school. Most of these girls are so poor and often come on faith just praying some one will help them get through school. We hate to turn anyone away but some times we do not have the money to educate them. They can stay one year and if they pass their work and show a sincere call of Christ to do special work we let them stay on until they finish, four years.

I will be so happy to select a girl for you to help through school. As our school is out in December and does not start until March, by then I feel sure the money will be here. I will write you a letter about the girl I select and send you her picture next year (March).

So many people like to have that personal touch in the missionary work. You will receive a blessing from helping the girl and she will be most grateful that there is some one who is interested in her education.

I presume you are a member of the First Baptist Church of Abilene. While a student in Hardin-Simmons I taught a class of boys in the Junior Department. The first Sunday I had the class, they greeted me with these words, "Ah, shoot, we wanted a man teacher, so we could play football." I believe they had a name of being the worst bunch in the department. We came out all right though. That church and its pastor are very dear to me.

After spending fourteen months in the United States, on a sick leave, I am so happy to be back in Brazil again. I like my work so much and

AT THE TOP O' LIFE

By Orval A. Hendon

The greatest investment of life a person can make is to give that life to Christ. The Christian conception of life is that one's life is not his own, but that each person is the steward of the life with which he is entrusted to use. Consequently, each person is under obligation to invest his life in such a way as to bring about the most beneficial results both for himself and society.

Often we lavishly waste life, and that is one of the most prominent sins of civilization. We point our fingers at some person and say, "That man is simply wasting his life." What we mean is that he is not living up to his capacities. He can do better and more worthwhile things than he is now doing; and that is true of every person to some degree so let us all be at the top of life by investing our lives in God's work. Invest in a worthwhile thing. It is important to discover what work God has fitted for each life.

The Bible gives some suggestions concerning investments. The parable of the talents is worthy of study. The master gave five talents to one; to another he gave two and to still another one. The former two invested wisely and doubled theirs, but the latter hid his and did not put it to use. When the master came back he praised the former two because they had invested wisely, but the latter was condemned, his talent taken away from him and given to one that would use it, and the unprofitable servant was cast into outer darkness.

The parable informs us that each one is obligated to use all his talents, and to invest them wisely. It is indeed a little person that keeps back part of his talents from God and society. That talent may be taken away if we fail to use it. Think that over. Serve God with that talent. Invest your life in Christ.

"Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which had ten talents."—Matt. 25:28.

We will not get rid of Hitler's power until we overthrow Hitler's ideology with paganism.—J. B. Lawrence.

You can put it down for a fact that the mind stops growing when the head starts swelling.—The Watchman-Examiner.

Please let me hear from you again, and if you have questions to ask please don't hesitate to ask me. So sorry your letter was delayed.

Sincerely, a missionary,
MAYE BELL TAYLOR.

CONVICTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Edward B. Jenkins

When a student in Chicago we heard one of America's most famous evangelists tell his life story. His father was a Methodist minister, and one Sunday sent him, a sixteen year old boy, down to a small church in the mountains of Colorado to fill his appointment at one of his churches.

When he reached the church there was no one present although it was time for worship. He went into the church, and ascended the pulpit, gave out the number of a hymn and sang it. Then he read some Scripture, and knelt and prayed. When he finished praying two old women came in and he preached. One of them was the postmistress of the village.

The Holy Spirit convicted her of her sin. She had been stealing from the post office for years and had been covering it up by changing her books. It was too much for her and she got up and confessed her sin. Then she paid back the money to the postal authorities and found peace.

That night the little church was filled with people as the news had created a sensation in the little village. A revival broke out in the church and many were saved.

"And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment.

Of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father and ye see me no more, Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged" (John 16:7-10).

SENTENCE SERMONS

By O. D. Henley

Implications frequently cause complications.

Love that isn't noticeable isn't worth noticing.

Tradition may lead to perdition. He hasn't learned much who doesn't realize he has much to learn.

Missions seek to make the God of the universe the universal God.

Universal love is preferable to universal language.

A lie will not lie (still).

There must be a sun before there can be a sunbeam.

The cocksure are more cocky than sure.

Faith is not fatalism. Christ's great commission is often the Christian's greatest omission.

The greater the obstacle the more glory in overcoming it.—Moliere.

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Careful Plans Yield Results As W.M.U. Prays For Home Missions

By JOE W. BURTON,
Publicity Secretary,
Home Mission Board

The telephone rang in the home of Mrs. George Chase of Columbus, Georgia.

"Mrs. Chase's residence," said the maid, taking down the receiver.

"Mary," came the voice in the telephone, "are you and Mrs. Chase going to be praying with us this afternoon when we have our Week of Prayer program for Home Missions?"

"We sho' is, Mrs. Howard. You knows we prays every day while you are praying at the church."

Mrs. Vera Howard, program chairman, did know that Mrs. Chase, a cripple who uses a wheel chair, and her maid at home, alone, would have together the same program being given at the church. Together the two each day studied the parts, prayed for the missionaries, and made their offerings, even as do the other shut-ins of the Columbus W. M. U.

Each day, late in the afternoon Mrs. Howard called the Chase residence again, and she and Mary exchanged reports, Mary telling how she and Mrs. Chase had enjoyed the program and the program chairman reporting on the service at the church and the amount of the offering.

Typical of Home Missions Emphasis
This observance in the home of a cripple of the Week of Prayer for Home Missions is typical of the emphasis put on the week by the Woman's Missionary Union of the First Baptist Church of Columbus, the spiritual blessings attending the observance, and the possibilities for kingdom advancement from the special prayer season.

An event each year in the life of this church is the first week in March. I knew it to be so from a brief two-day visit last year for the inauguration of the week at Sunday morning services and at the first W. M. U. session on Monday.

I had felt the contagious spiritual exhilaration as the women entered prayerfully, albeit enthusiastically, into those services. I had been thrilled with them when the leaders told me that the first day's offering was over \$300 and later, by letter, that the total for the week was \$1,176.55, more than \$400 above the previous year.

Such weeks of mountain-top blessings as have come in increasing tempo to the First Baptist Church of Columbus, I knew, do not happen by

quently, he explained, a Board representative is invited to speak at the Sunday morning service inaugurating the Week of Prayer, as was done last year.

Sunday Services on Home Missions
It was evident that the pastor regards Home Missions as of such importance as to warrant him in devoting to its consideration the most important 60 minutes of the week in



Here are leaders making plans three months in advance for the observance of the Week of Prayer for Home Missions by the W. M. U. of First Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga. Left to right, Mrs. M. L. Flournoy, program chairman; Dr. Frederick S. Porter, pastor; and Mrs. Vera Howard, president.

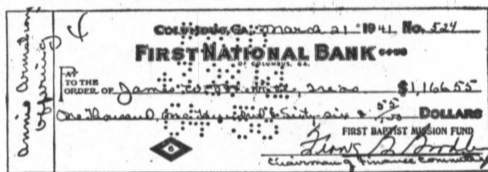
the life of the church—from 11:00 until 12:00 on Sunday morning.

The Week of Prayer is deliberately, carefully, prayerfully planned, not just for days nor for weeks, but for months in advance. Public announcements are made, beginning in January, and the women are asked to pray for the proper observance of the week.

"What are your specific aims in your plans?" I asked further.

"We want to do better each year," Mrs. Flournoy replied.

"But is your main aim to get a larger offering?" I asked.



Last March the Columbus W. M. U. gave \$1,176.55 to the Annie Armstrong offering for Home

Missions. This is a reproduction of the first check covering all but \$10 of that offering.

accident. Accordingly, I made a special trip down these in December to get the explanation.

I found the new program chairman, Mrs. M. L. Flournoy, already at work on plans for next March, even before any program material had been received. One speaker had already been secured, the decision had been made on a second, and others on the programs, she said, would be local women.

"We do not have many outside speakers," she explained, "but our women take most of the parts."

Ahead of Headquarters
Aided by Mrs. Howard, who has succeeded to the presidency, and the mission study chairman, Mrs. M. O. Turrentine, Mrs. Flournoy said that plans also were under way for the study of the preparatory book, "Fellow Helpers to the Truth." That, too, before the book was off the press.

"They're ahead of headquarters," said Dr. Frederick S. Porter, pastor, proudly, as he entered into the discussion.

The book, Mrs. Flournoy said, would be studied in circles, there being 15 in the W. M. U., including one of deaf and another in a mission operated by the church. Study sessions, she said, would be held in the homes, sometimes for one day and rarely for more, according to plans made by the individual circles.

"When do you expect to have your program completely outlined for the Week of Prayer?" I inquired.

"By February 1," she replied. "I expect to have every part assigned, even to the special music, by that date."

Dr. Porter assured me that a definite part of the preparation would be at least one sermon on Home Missions and another on stewardship on the Sundays preceding the week. Fre-

made me cry inside. Those are our big gifts."

The church has had a practical interest in missions, sponsoring a local mission of its own, holding services each Sunday for deaf mutes, and initiating an annual institute for Negro preachers which has set a pattern for such institutes throughout the state. This definite missionary activity in their own community, according to the pastor, has stimulated interest in missions everywhere.

I wanted to know if the church was one-sided in its support of missions. Quite to the contrary I learned that the women were rejoicing in Lottie Moon offering to Foreign Missions just completed which had totaled more than \$2,500 and that for seven years in succession the W. M. U. had led the state in special offerings to State Missions.

"These three special offerings last year," said Dr. Porter, "amounted to \$4,329.72."

Cultivating Habit of Giving
"Have these special offerings interfered with support of the local budget?" I inquired of the pastor.

"Not at all," he answered at once. "They have helped every phase of our church life. These special weeks of study and prayer and offering have lifted the whole level of Christian stewardship to the point where the church as a whole is steadily meeting a greater challenge."

"Indeed, the acid test is how the budget turns out. This year the budget in all of its phases is fully subscribed. The missionary budget is over-subscribed. Invariably in our church the missionary part of the budget comes up first and the expense account comes slower. This is because missions is magnified, and the thing magnified will register somewhere."

"There is now very little feeling that special offerings for missions hurt local support. These special offerings cultivate the habit of giving and by them the church is helped in every way. A man voluntarily handed me a check for one of the W. M. U. offerings, saying that he wanted to have a part in the offering."

A study of the associational minutes for the past half dozen years revealed that the church had given to all causes, local and missions, the sum of \$252,282.12 in six years, of which amount \$86,654.51, of 34 per cent, went to missions, benevolences and educational enterprises of the denomination.

"The greatest contribution," Dr. Porter added, "of these seasons of prayer for missions is that they establish the habit of centering on missions. Our people expect it, and it is not new for us to raise a large offering and receive the blessings which come from worthy giving."

Blessings from the Offering
I asked in turn the W. M. U. leaders what each thought to be the greatest accomplishment from the observance of the Week of Prayer for Home Missions.

"A deeper conception of stewardship," said Mrs. Flournoy.

"Greater knowledge of the fields and needs," said the retiring president, Mrs. S. C. Butler. "I never before saw the Southern field as clearly as I did from studying 'Give Ye Them to Eat.' We need to place more emphasis on the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. We could convert the world and not leave our own shores."

"The greatest value," said Mrs. Newsom, "is giving—a result of stewardship."

"To me," said Mrs. Howard, "the greatest accomplishment is the joy which comes when we apply stewardship; it is the blessing which comes from giving time, prayer and offerings. Toward the end of the week last March one woman said that she was making a second offering, that she had given early in the week, but now she wanted to give more. Another said that she was happier than ever after making an offering for which she had been saving over a long period."

I owe all my success in life to having been always a quarter of an hour beforehand.—Lord Nelson.

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ASSOCIATION REINFORCES "FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM"

By LUTHER J. HOLCOMB,
Pastor, First Church, Durant, Okla.
Moderator, Bryan Association

The Four-Year Program of the Baptist Sunday School Board, working in cooperation with the various state mission boards, is meeting with significant success. In our association, which is in an agricultural section, we have recently sought to re-enforce this program. There are 48 churches in this association, however, only five of these have full-time pastors. Many of the churches have been without pastors and we had been unable to enlist more than 12 to 14 churches in any kind of undertaking.

We called on Rev. J. A. Pennington a special worker of the Oklahoma Baptist General Convention. Brother Pennington has had extensive experience in planning programs for rural churches. We decided to group the churches of the association in six zones. Plans were made for an all-day meeting in a different zone each day, Monday through Saturday. This special effort was called "Bringing the Program to the Local Church." The following subjects were discussed:

The Place and Value of the Country Church in the Community.

The Place and Value of the Country Church in Our Denominational Life.

The Problems of the Country Church and Their Future Possibilities.

God's Plan of Financing the Country Church.

The Work at Home and Abroad.

The State Paper. Its place and value in our church and denominational life and plans for enlarging its circulation.

There was also a general conference period each afternoon when informal discussion was encouraged. At this time the value of the various organizations of the church were stressed. This period proved very helpful.

Rev. J. A. Pennington, along with several local pastors was responsible for this program. Everyone gave his time, no collections were taken, and the thought of service dominated all discussions.

I commend this program wholeheartedly. Thirty-eight churches were represented in these various meetings with a total attendance of approximately six hundred. It has brought about a spiritual awakening in our association. We are now looking forward to a simultaneous Sunday School Enlargement Effort under the leadership of Jasper N. Bannette.

There is only one way to get ready for immortality, and that is to love this life and live it as bravely and faithfully, and cheerfully as we can.—Henry Van Dyke.

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM PERCENTAGE REPORT NOV. 1941

Dist.	Missionary	No. Chs. Giving			Pct. Chs. Giving			Amt.
		Chs.	Nov.	Oct.	Rank	Nov.	Oct.	
1	M. A. Roberts	178	59	53.3	15	33.8	3,246.70	
2	C. M. Spalding	228	81	51.5	14	35.5	2,173.73	
3	O. D. Martin	143	66	59.8	7	46.1	1,889.52	
4	Lem Hodges	219	131	72.3	4	59.8	6,707.18	
5	C. G. Carter	100	53	79.1	6	53.0	1,555.80	
6	W. J. Ray	156	92	79.3	5	58.8	3,435.68	
7	J. A. Kidd	42	29	85.7	2	69.0	1,019.13	
8	W. C. Harrison	86	39	70.5	8	45.2	2,010.96	
9	J. L. Ponder	187	76	52.9	11	40.6	2,987.73	
10	J. C. McKenzie	95	62	87.4	3	65.2	2,116.76	
11	J. M. Riddell	118	51	66.3	10	43.1	1,793.77	
12	J. D. Brannon	318	105	47.0	16	33.0	5,163.72	
13	E. W. Marshall	414	159	55.2	12	38.4	9,615.56	
14	M. O. Cheek	211	151	78.0	1	71.5	5,258.62	
15	J. A. McIver	245	94	62.7	13	38.3	3,026.51	
16	J. P. King	202	60	54.9	17	29.7	1,654.28	
17	J. H. Littleton	168	74	63.4	9	44.0	2,303.53	
TOTAL		3100	1382	62.1		44.4	55,959.18	

W. W. MELTON.

FRUITS OF REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE

By Joe R. Mayes

In next Sunday's Sunday School lesson we have in the text the story of old Simeon; he is an interesting character, and gives to us a very fine lesson. There are three things about it that I want to suggest and hope this it may help to get some of us along a little.

In the first place, this old man stayed around the Temple. If he had lived today, in Texas, in West Texas, he would be one who would always be at the church every time there was a service. He was certainly one of the old faithful.

In the second place, he was there when the Baby Jesus was brought to the Temple. Now it is true that one may find the Lord away from the church, but it is more likely that one will find him in the church, for it is certain that our Lord is always about the sanctuary of His own. It pays to go to church, it always has and it always will; no one ever lost anything

by going to the house of the Lord. It will pay the children of God to spend much time there, and certainly it is the place for the unsaved to go, for they need to meet the Lord and he will be found of them there.

In the third place, the Holy Spirit was with old Simeon and showed him that this Babe was the Lord's Salvation. Now we need, all of us need, the Holy Spirit to reveal unto us the things of God. He is necessary that we may know just when we have found him, the Lord. We need the Holy Spirit to show us the way and he certainly is more likely to be about the place of worship, so I say again, it pays to go to church, to be in the Lord's Sanctuary, for there we will meet the Lord himself, and there the Holy Spirit will teach us. He will lead us.

It would be a great thing for all of us if we would heed that word from the Lord when he said, "Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is" (Heb. 10:25).

Don't forget to pray for world peace; we shall have that when our Lord returns.

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Spring Semester Registration, January 28, 1942

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