

THE WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

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CHARLES FORBES TAYLOR TO BE ENCAMPMENT SPEAKER AT CHRISTOVAL THIS SUMMER

Chas. Forbes Taylor, evangelist who is now conducting a revival with the First Baptist Church, Abilene, was secured to deliver the principal addresses at the Christoval Baptist Encampment which is to meet this year, July 16-26. The encampment program committee held a meeting at the First Church, Ballinger last week and the program for the meeting was outlined. The program committee is composed of Gus Jones, Mrs. Alvin Swendell, T. E. Galimore, Bert Lowe, L. A. Stulce, H. H. Stevens and wife. L. A. Stulce of the First Church, Abilene, is to have charge of the singing for the encampment, and Mr. N. M. Moore, of the Fort Worth Seminary will be pianist. He will also teach a class in hymn playing at the encampment this year. Bert Lowe of Winters will have charge of the Sunday school work of the encampment, and Mrs. Alvin Swendell of Ballinger will lead in the W. M. U. work. Dr. M. E. Davis of Howard Payne College and Dr. W. E. Fry of Simmons University will be on the teaching force again this year. A number of workers from the B. Y. P. U. and Sunday School headquarters will be on hand to assist in the teaching.

Coach Y. P. Kuhn of Simmons and "Dandy" Amis of Howard Payne will direct the water and land athletics again.

A slight change will be made in the plans for the teaching department. Classes will be held for six days only, and the class periods will last for one hour and a half each day.

The program committee plans to have the programs printed and ready for distribution in the near future.

NATIVE BAPTISTS OF SYRIA SUFFER DURING WARFARE AT RASHEYA

Native Baptists of Syria, one of the foreign mission fields occupied by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, were victims of the recent political and military disturbances around Rashey, one of the principal mission stations, and a relief fund for distribution among the sufferers has been sent to Rev. J. Wash Watts at Jerusalem, head missionary for the Palestine and Syria districts. Announcement to this effect has been made by Dr. J. F. Love of Richmond, secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

INTEREST STILL GROWING IN CHARLIE TAYLOR REVIVAL

More than 60,000 people have heard Charlie Taylor in the Tabernacle meeting at Abilene in the last three weeks. The campaign is now in its fourth and last week with the biggest crowds of the meeting, the great building seating 3250 being nearly filled one night and standing room only the next. The weather has been of every type and kind possible since the meeting began. There has been rain, cold, snow, wind, and sand storms; with occasional fine warm days. In spite of the lateness of the Spring, however the Baptists of West Texas are proud of the great showing in the meeting. People have attended the services who have not been inside of a church in thirty years. Friends have been made for the churches by men who were sworn enemies of all things religious. The work has gone without a hitch, everybody putting his shoulder to the wheel, with the great First Baptist church of Abilene leading the way.

Two hundred people have been received into the church thus far. Many have not yet joined who will, and still others have gone to the various churches of the city, almost every denomination being represented. The last week is always the climax according to Charlie, and much is expected in the closing days of the meeting.

On Wednesday night Simmons University brought down six or seven hundred students and Charlie gave a special address on "The Purple and Gold," and also took up an offering for the Charlie Taylor loan fund for poor students.

Thursday and Friday nights Charlie will give his famous sermons on "Can a person be saved instantly?" and "Can a person once saved ever be lost?" One sermon is given

SEMINARY ENTERS SUBURBAN HOME

Louisville School of Prophets Has Made Large Contribution to the Denomination.

Following a residence of years in the downtown section of Louisville, Ky., the faculty and students of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said to be the largest strictly theological school in the world, are now happily domiciled in their new home "The Beeches" in Crescent Hill, a beautiful suburban section of the city. The formal transfer from the classroom and dormitory at the old downtown home on Broadway to the new site was made March 26 and 27, with the loss of only one day from the classroom.

The Seminary, founded at Greenville, S. C., in 1859, was removed to Louisville in 1877. During its nearly 70 years' history it has given to the South and the nation 5,627 pastors, and to Southern Baptist foreign mission fields 291 missionaries. It is regarded as one of the greatest assets of the denomination.

Comprising the present equipment of the new site are a new Norton Hall, which is serving for the present as a library and chapel as well as administration building; a new New York Hall, a dormitory for single students; and a heating plant. Other units that will be added soon will be apartment houses for the accommodation of married students, a chapel, library and gymnasium.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES OF BAPTIST CHURCHES TO CONFER ON METHODS

With a view to comparing notes on financial methods in promoting the work of their respective churches, John S. Ramond, financial director of the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., is calling a conference of church financial secretaries at Houston on Tuesday, May 11, the day preceding the opening of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mr. Ramond is asking that these financial secretaries come prepared to make an exhibit of the forms of their church records, methods and plans for the Every-Member Canvass, and give a demonstration of individual enlistment work and a summary of the results achieved.

RUSSIAN BAPTISTS TO HAVE TWO SEMINARIES

Now that the Soviet government in Russia has granted a charter for a Baptist preachers school at Moscow, two Baptist institutions of learning will soon be in operation in that country, a charter for another Baptist school at Leningrad, formerly St. Petersburg, having been granted some months ago.

DR. GEO. W. TRUETT TO PREACH IN REVIVAL WITH WINTERS CHURCH

Dr. Geo. W. Truett is to do the preaching in a meeting with the First Baptist Church, Winters, Texas, beginning Sunday morning. Services will be held each morning at ten o'clock and the evening services at eight. The meeting is scheduled to run for ten days.

The pastor, Rev. H. H. Stevens states that the church is in a fine condition for a revival and a great meeting is expected. There have been conversions and additions to the church at the regular services during the past three months. During this time over twenty-five young people have dedicated their lives to special service. Pastor Stevens issues an invitation to people all over the west to attend the services when possible and to remember to pray for a great meeting.

CISCO CHURCH MAKES RAPID PROGRESS ON NEW CHURCH BUILDING

Work on the new church building for the First Church, Cisco is going forward in a very satisfactory way, according to a letter received this week from Pastor A. C. Miller. The construction is up to the second story. The members are happy and the designated sum of \$2,500 is being placed in the collection every first Sunday.

On the building and the people are saying, "We will keep it that way to the last ounce of our strength."

The church is not forgetting her missionary program in the midst of the strenuous local enterprise. The church is sending in each month a check in increase of previous missionary giving.

The church paid the expenses of two of its members to the Sunday School convention at Waco, and several delegates attended the District W. M. U. meeting at Mineral Wells last week.

The church is having additions by letter and by baptism right along at the regular weekly services. All current bills are being paid as they come due and an increasing amount of cash is on hand each week. Pastor Miller is happy over the fine co-operation of his people on that great field.

KNOXVILLE LAYMAN WAS USEFUL IN MANY LINES

In the recent death of Capt. William Wallace Woodruff of Knoxville, Tenn., at the age of 86 Tennessee Baptists lost one of their most active and useful laymen. For sixty years Capt. Woodruff was a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Knoxville; for forty years he taught a Sunday school class for University students; was at one time president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, president of the board of trustees of Carson and Newman College, and was for years superintendent of the First Baptist Sunday school. He was also a large contributor to the building enterprise of his own church, provided the lots on which a number of the Baptist churches of Knoxville were erected, and contributed largely to the building funds of a number of the Baptist churches in East Tennessee.

SHREVEPORT GUARANTEES BAPTIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Citizens of Shreveport, La., have responded with the \$200,000 in subscriptions needed to meet the conditions required for the projection there of a standard junior college for girls, a site for the proposed institution, valued also at \$200,000, having been provided by the M. E. Dodd Foundation. The fund subscribed by the citizens of Shreveport will be employed in the erection of buildings. This fund will be supplemented in 1927 by a contribution from the Louisiana Baptist State Convention which will also go into providing the new school with equipment.

HOUSTON CONVENTION AN IMPORTANT ONE

Large Consideration Will be Given There To Fuller Provision For Denominational Work.

Probably no session of the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years has been generally deemed of larger moment to the future work of the denomination than that which will open at Houston, May 12, and continue for five days. So important is that meeting that the committee on order of business has arranged for a special session of prayer and devotion for the evening preceding the opening session of the Convention.

At this hour there will be a song service under the direction of Fred L. Schofield of Birmingham, an old-fashioned prayer meeting led by Dr. W. A. McComb of Gulfport, Miss., and a brief devotional sermon by Dr. H. R. Holcomb of Mansfield, La.

While the matter of providing a larger income for the various departments of missionary, educational and benevolent work fostered by the denomination will prove the most important single business matter scheduled to come before the body, other subjects are due to receive large consideration, aside from the regular annual reports of the various general boards, institutions and commissions controlled by the Convention.

Business Methods Studied
A committee on business efficiency is studying the business methods employed by the various convention agencies with a view to recommending improvements in them, while another committee is studying the basis of representation in the Convention in the hope of finding some way by which larger consideration and fuller deliberation may be given to the various matters coming before the body every year. Dr. Austin Crouch of Murfreesboro, Tenn., heads the committee on business efficiency, while the committee on basis of representation has for its chairman Dr. E. Y. Mullins of Louisville, a former president of the Convention.

The annual convention of the Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary of the Convention, will begin its session on Monday, May 10, this year, and will complete its business by Wednesday noon, May 12, thus making it possible for the women to attend practically all of the Southern Baptist Convention proper, which will open Wednesday, May 12, at 9 a. m.

There is every indication that there will be a large attendance upon the Houston Convention, as special trains have already been arranged for from practically every section of the Convention's territory.

Under the leadership of the Co-operative Program Commission the Baptists churches of the South are being urged to make April a month of general and generous giving on the part of their entire membership, these offerings to be applied toward meeting the emergency needs of all departments of work fostered by the Co-operative Program.

Herein I also exercise myself to have a conscience toward God and men always. Acts. 24:16.

WHAT KILLS THE PROPHETS?

Roy Mason, Th. D., Livermore, Ky.

What's the matter with the ministry?

Are our preachers of this generation failing in their mission of fearlessly declaring the old time Bible gospel?

Are the prophets of today responsible in any way for the present reign of atheism, immorality, disrespect for law and worldliness and indifference of our christian people?

These are questions that are being asked from many sources. In the following article the writer has put out some mighty good food for thought. Read the article and then write the West Texas Baptist what you think about it. Do not make the article lengthy, but make it real strong and to the point.—Editor.

In a former article entitled, "Wanted: Prophets," I sought to indicate that there is a lack of the prophetic note in much of the preaching of today, and that the modern tendency is for men to become mere men-pleasers, ecclesiastical functionaries, and wheel-greasers of denominational machinery, rather than authoritative spokesmen with a living message from God.

I am sure that I am not alone in my opinion concerning the dearth of prophets, for it is not infrequently that I see the same thought expressed in our denominational papers. For instance in a recent editorial in the

BAPTIST PASTOR VOTED MOST USEFUL CITIZEN

Dr. J. M. Thomas of the First Baptist Church of Talladega, Ala., was recently awarded the silver loving cup given annually by the civic clubs to the most useful citizen of the town.

EVANGELIST WINSETT HOLDS GREAT MEETING WITH ENNIS CHURCH

The Revival Meeting at the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Ennis, Texas, came to a close Sunday Night, April 11th. The preaching was done by Evangelist John G. Winsett, and the singing led by K. D. Turner. "We have had many splendid revivals in this church and many great preachers. But never have we had a more far-reaching revival or greater preaching than in this revival. Bro. Winsett is truly a man of God—a man of striking personality, of burning zeal and enthusiasm, of burning denunciation of sin in the church and out of it; but tender and loving in his presentation of the gospel. He is one of the most attractive and at the same time one of the most forceful preachers I have ever heard. He captivated our people in his very first sermon, and notwithstanding the fact that revival meetings were in progress in four other churches, Bro. Winsett preached to overflowing crowds every night. We heartily recommend him to any church needing the services of a true prophet of God.

Mr. Turner is a singer of ability and rendered unsurpassed service in that capacity, and also in personal work among the unsaved. He and Mr. Winsett make an unusual team in the evangelistic field.

There were fifty nine additions to the church, the majority being for baptism. But the results of the meeting are not fully measured by the number of additions. God's people were lifted to higher grounds and made to sit together in the Heavens in Christ Jesus, Eternity alone will reveal the full results of the ministry of John G. Winsett.

MRS. W. E. BRITTON, Ennis, Texas.

SEMINARY FORCES WIN THOUSAND CONVERTS TO CHRIST EACH MONTH

In the fifteen years that it has been in existence the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, through its faculty and students, has been instrumental in leading between 125,000 and 150,000 persons to a profession of personal faith in Jesus Christ, it is announced by Dr. L. R. Scarborough, president and professor of evangelism. Since the seminary has attained large proportions its faculty and students are winning an average of 1,000 persons to Christ a month, counting the vacation periods, it is said, and Dr. Scarborough announces that they plan to make 1926 their year of greatest achievement in soul winning.

BIG SPRING ASSOCIATION IS DOING GREAT WORK WITH MEXICAN POPULATION IN WEST

Rev. L. G. Garcia, having been called to another field, Rev. Carlos Castillo, a graduate from one of our Seminaries in Mexico, was called as pastor of the Mexican Church in Big Spring, and missionary for Stanton and Midland in the Big Spring Association.

The work is directed by a committee appointed by the Workers' Conference and supported by individual subscription from the American people, supplemented by whatever contributions the Mexican Church can make.

The new pastor and his wife arrived in Big Spring on April 5, accompanied from San Angelo by Rev. D. Ruiz, the zealous and successful missionary to all the Mexicans in Central West Texas.

American friends of the mission, anxious for an auspicious beginning of the work, took advantage of the occasion to hold a reception that would attract attention of all Mexico as well as interest more American people in the work.

Missionary W. D. Green and wife of the First Church, Big Spring, and Rev. D. G. Wells, pastor of East Third Church, stood in the receiving line with Brother and Sister Castillo. Brother Ruiz, interpreter for the meeting, introduced them separately to the audience which then filled part to give them the hand of good fellowship and speak words of welcome and greeting.

After all were seated again, Rev. D. G. Heard, pastor of the First church, Big Spring, delivered a welcome address on behalf of the Americans and Senor Jose Garcia delivered a welcome address on behalf of the Mexican citizens.

Brother Castillo, after which Brother Ruiz spoke, holding the keenest interest of the audience. "The Old Rugged Cross" was sung by an American quartette amidst almost breathless silence.

The Mexican orchestra furnished music throughout the evening, and the singing of "America" concluded the program.

A number of the leading Mexicans assisted in serving the refreshments, after which the audience of perhaps 50 Americans and 150 Mexicans adjourned.

The cost in money for the programs, hall rent and refreshments was \$8.90, but a certain little woman who had planned and prayed for weeks in advance, considered it worth a million dollars to her when she noted the results which might be summed up as follows:

- 1.—In immediate friendly contact of the whole Mexican population with the new missionary.
 - 2.—Better acquaintance between the two neighbor races.
 - 3.—Introduction of the missionaries with due prestige and honor in the eyes of their countrymen.
 - 4.—Mexican hands and hearts opened which had never been opened before by our workers.
 - 5.—Six Bibles placed in the hands of leading Catholics.
 - 6.—Increased attendance at the mission services.
- We praise God and take courage. Seventy-five dollars worth of Bibles, tracts and portions of the Gospel have been distributed from the mission the past year.—Contributed.

LARGEST ATTENDANCE EXPECTED S. S. AND B. Y. P. U. MEET

REV. S. F. BAUCOM MAKES APPEAL FOR CHARITY HOSPITAL FUND

Rev. S. F. Baucum, field secretary for the West Texas Baptist Sanitarium, is meeting a hearty response from churches in this great western section of the state. Brother Baucum is sending to the churches this week posters calling attention to the need of charity work in our hospital.

"The hospital not only has a large debt, and running expenses to arrange for," stated Brother Baucum in a statement given out this week, "but there is a constant and growing demand for charity work that must necessarily be met. These funds for charity work must be met by our Sunday Schools and churches and individuals. This makes a blessed opportunity for our christian workers to render a great service for humanity."

Brother Baucum stated that no person should criticize the Sanitarium for not doing more charity work until that person has first done some thing to help make possible the kind of administration he thinks the institution should have.

100,000 TRAINING AWARDS ARE SOUGHT

Educational Department Sunday School Board Would Thus Celebrate Its Silver Anniversary

Having completed twenty-five years' service in the training of Sunday school officers and teachers for their tasks, the educational department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is striving to celebrate its silver anniversary by awarding 100,000 teacher training awards in 1926. In the attainment of this goal the department has the cordial cooperation of the Sunday school departments of the various Baptist state mission boards of the South.

The Baptist Sunday School Board has been a pioneer in the training of Sunday school workers from the beginning and so thoroughly has it done its work that Southern Baptists lead all other denominations in the world in this line of effort.

Dr. P. E. Burroughs is the secretary in charge of the educational work of the Sunday School Board.

TEN NEW BAPTIST CHURCHES PROPOSED FOR MIAMI, FLORIDA

With a view to reaching the 15,000 unaffiliated Baptists in Miami, Florida and its environs, a conference of Baptist workers was held there recently when an effort was projected to enlist 1,000 Baptist men from the eleven Baptist churches there in an effort to organize ten additional churches at an early date. It is contemplated that these new churches will be able to enlist and serve a large proportion of this unenlisted Baptist constituency.

BAPTIST LAD WINS MEDAL FOR ALL-ROUND BOY

Frank Taylor, Jr., bright young lad of the First Baptist Church, Macon, Ga., was recently awarded the medal given by the American Legion to the best all-round boy in the seventh grade of the public schools of that city.

BAPTIST LAYMAN GIVES LAND FOR ORPHANS HOME

Through a gift of 40 acres of land from Deacon W. R. Jones, Baptist layman of Yellville, Ark., the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary are able to establish an orphan's home for children of American soldiers and sailors.

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I'M READY LORD.

By Dr. D. Y. Bagby, Lone Oak Tex.
Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready to go Thy will each day,
Ready to smile, let come what may,
Ready, dear Lord, for Thee.

Ready to walk the roughest road,
Ready to bear Thine own given load,
Ready to go Thy way, if showed,
Ready, dear Lord, for Thee.

Ready to lie on't bed you make,
Ready to suffer for Thy sake,
Ready, resigned, my burden take,
Ready, dear Lord, for Thee.

Ready to live an humble life,
Ready to face all earthly strife,
Ready to meet all trials rife,
Ready, dear Lord, for Thee.

Ready to come home Lord, to Thee,
Ready to walk where 'tis dark to me
Ready to trust where I cannot see,
Ready, dear Lord, for Thee.

Ready dear Lord to stay here still,
Ready to come if 'tis Thy will,
Ready Thy smallest wish fulfill,
Ready for ALL for Thee.

EVOLUTION

To an out-sider who has ceased to expect courtesy in certain disputes about "evolution," there is still faint hope that honesty may prevail. When Professor Stewart P. Sherman as quoted in a Detroit paper, refers to "Evolution" as "the most fruitful scientific theory of modern times" he recognizes the fact by use of the term "Theory." But when he denounces those who protest that a

ARE WE FORGETTING GOD?

R. L. Estes.

"Beware lest thou forget The Lord," Deut. 6:12.

So much depends upon a people's attitude toward God. Histories, both sacred and profane, tell us, in terms of warning, that the nations, the civilizations, and the governments which have failed or refused to recognize God have gone down in defeat. God has proven Himself to be a rewarder of them that love Him, but a destroyer of them who turn away from His teachings. It is a dangerous thing to fall out of the hands of The Living God.

The American people, above all others, have been the recipients of His wonderful goodness. He has made us the greatest nation in the world. All other peoples have looked listened and longed while we have sung, "My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty." We have long held the place of primacy in the world of economics, we have reached summits of power in the military world, we rejoice, and rightly so, that our place is high among the artists, the scientists, and inventors of the day. Our system of education is second to none, and we enjoy, as no other nation in the world enjoys, Religious Liberty. America has been wonderfully blessed of Him from whom all blessings come.

For every effect there is a cause. Why has God so graciously blessed and favored America? Why have we been extended blessings which have been denied others? There is only one answer; We have reached summits of well-being because, through the years gone by, we have chosen to honor God. It has been suggested by some that the natural resources of our country have made us what we are. But many other countries are endowed with the same natural wealth, and yet these countries are backward and undeveloped. No, the truth is that we started on our way to first place among the civilizations of the world when our Pilgrim Fathers left home and fireside and sailed the wide seas in search of liberty to serve, worship, and honor God. With a firm faith in democracy, individuality, and Christianity they landed at Plymouth Rock. As the years went by and their numbers increased, they declared themselves independent. Independent of Papal Power, independent of cold-blooded kings, independent of forms, rituals and ceremonies, independent of everything that would hinder them from worshipping God according to the dictates of their consciences. For this liberty and independence they paid dearly, but they were willing to pay. Patrick Henry expressed the feeling of all when he said: "Give me liberty or give me death." To many of their number

death came, but their blood was there to witness when we meet to crown Him Lord of all. From those dark days of persecution and death, from those days when a nation was being born, to these beautiful days of glory and triumph, the banner of Prince Immanuel has never been allowed to trail in the dust of American soil. "In God we trust."

Is it any wonder then that we have become the richest nation in the world, is it any wonder that auto-crazy seeks refuge when the Dough-boys done the khaki, is it any wonder that we are sought for arbitration when, on the other side the seas, the waves of trouble begin to roll. We have heard Him say "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."

But, is America turning away from her first love? Is she neglecting the source of her power? ARE WE FORGETTING GOD?
I am not a pessimist. I believe in providence of God, and I believe in my countrymen. But, as I stand with them on the summit of this God given supremacy and look about, I am at least made to wonder. I see crowds of mad pleasure-seeking people who desecrate the Sabbath, discard Christianity, and dishonor God. All over our land the critics are endeavoring to tear to pieces the Bible. They deny it's miracles and explain away its parables. Awful scandals are being uncovered at the head of our government. In our higher institutions of learning there are those who would murder for a thrill. Men aspire to represent us in executive bodies, who would pronounce the Christian ministry as being lower down than the skunk of the underbrush. Thieves, high jackers, and robbers are all over the country. Whole families are being killed, homes are being broken up, and innocent people are suffering in the terrible crime wave sweeping the land. Judge Alfred Tylor, of New York City, while inducing a jurist into office, said: "You are going to learn, among other things, that you are serving in a court in a country which must plead guilty of being the most lawless in the world." This, our own Christian America.

What does it all mean? If the experiences of the fallen civilizations of the past mean anything, we may well take warning. All was peace and harmony in the lives of Adam and Eve until they turned their backs on God. A mighty deluge came and the human race was all but annihilated when the world went so far in sin that God repented that He had made man. Amid the rumbling sounds of the crumbling foundations of Rome,

once the mistress of the world, I can hear the voice of God saying, "I am that I am." The Jews are scattered over the world, a people without a country, because "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." A people's attitude toward, and their relationship with God has had much to do with their happiness, their prosperity, their influence and the length of their lives.

Is it time for alarm? How long will God withhold His hand of destruction? Is America going on the rock? ARE WE FORGETTING GOD?

C. P. CONOWAY

There passed from earth to his eternal reward, on April 7th, in Colorado, Texas Brother C. P. Conoway. He had been in declining health for sometime but his condition was not thought to be serious until a short time before his demise. Brother Conoway was born in Palestine, Texas, March 24th 1856, was married to Miss Mattie Jane Killough, January 27th 1881. To this union there were born 12 children, 10 girls and 2 boys. Nine of these children are still living and have families. They were all present at his funeral.

Brother Conoway had lived in Mitchell County for 36 years. This made him a pioneer settler South West of Westbrook.

He was a man of good foresight and took advantage of opportunities. He went through several long droughts in Mitchell County but always believed in West Texas.

He professed faith in Christ in 1892 and joined the church with his wife and oldest daughter and were all baptized together. He was a deacon and had been for several years. He was such a deacon as believed a deacon had some duties to perform. He believed in caring for his pastor.

Brother Conoway was a denominational man. His religion led him beyond his own community. He believed in Christian education. Several of his daughters attended and graduated from Simmons University. He contributed to his means to Simmons for nearly a quarter of a century. He felt the school had a mission and that he as a Christian should help the school perform that mission.

The funeral services were conducted from the Baptist Church in Westbrook. He had been a member of this church for many years while at his death he held membership in the church at Conoway School house. Probably the largest crowd attended his funeral that ever attended a funeral in that community. The writer was master of ceremonies while his former pastor, Rev. A. D. Leach, his present pastor Brother Watson with another former pastor, J. F. Wood, with Dr. Fry of Simmons University had a part in the services. A male quartet from Colorado sang. West Texas will miss this good

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man. His community will miss him. His entire family will feel keenly their great loss. His good widow, who is as brave as womankind ever dared be, will miss him. His neighbors and friends will miss him. His pastor and church will miss him. But we are thinking of what the other world must have gained in his leaving us. For a soul to enter into that blissful state beyond the reach of death power, where sin has never and can never enter must be glorious. To be able to be in the conscious presence of the risen Lord certainly is some compensation for having to pass through the dark gates of death. While it seems that the gates stood wide open for the home coming of this great saint of God. No struggle or effort but merely a smile as he passed through.

A great man has passed from us. He was human but amidst it all he had no patience with law breakers. He felt they were a menace to the betterment of society. He was friend to man and believed in his fellow-man with a confidence that enables him to help those that needed help.

The Masons took charge of the remains at the church and concluded the exercises at the grave.

So, friend and brother, we part for a short while but will meet again in that fair land where partings will be no more and tears will be dried for ever.—M. C. Bishop, Colorado.

MIRACLES

J. N. Campbell

When God works as He usually does we say that He uses means to accomplish His will. In that case the event happens according "to the laws of nature," and it is "natural." But when God chooses to work directly without the use of means, then we say the event is supernatural and it is called a "miracle."

Man can not explain miracles. But the fact that they are mysteries does not mean that they are irrational. A man may do many things which appear to be "miracles" to his dog. Just so God's miracles are beyond our comprehension. Doubtless they would appear to us sweetly reasonable if it were not for our finite knowledge and finite reason.

Numbers 14:11 and John 2:11 state the Divine purpose of Bible miracles, namely: to attest the messenger and the message. Human nature demands miracles as proof of Divine claims. And in Deut. 18, we find that God allows this claim.

A new religion could not hope to get widespread acceptance speedily if it offered no "signs." On the other hand the quickest way to destroy a religion is to undermine faith in its miracles. Exactly that has been the goal of imported German infidelity at work in America in the past few years. If you destroy the supernatural in Bible religion nothing is left. II. Thes. 2:9 speaks of "lying wonders." God permitted the devil to counterfeit some of the miracles of Moses. And in I. Jno. 4:11, we are exhorted to "Prove the Spirits" and detect the "false prophets." No "sign" worker by the finger of God will be immoral or a mere freak of nature, but will result in good and establish right doctrine and, above all, it will agree with the truth God has already revealed to us in the Bible.

Jesus believed in the miracle of the "burning bush"—see Mk. 12:26, and in the story of Jonah and the big fish—see Matt. 12:38. Jesus believed in the Mosaic authorship, the manna, the brazen serpent, etc. On the mount of transfiguration He had a good visit with the two greatest miracle-workers of the past, Moses and Elijah.

Jesus Himself performed more miracles than all the others put together. Thirty-three of His miracles are reported—one for each year of His life! But notice that He never performed a single miracle for His personal benefit, refusing equally to turn stones to bread and to come down from the cross. A man would have done it. What a unique and in-

cidental proof we have here of His Deity.

Jesus exerted supernatural power. His enemies acknowledged it. But they said that it came from Beelzebub. But they did not believe their own lie. If they had believed it they would have been afraid that He would use the "supposed diabolical power" in a vindictive way against them—His bitter enemies. But they did not fear this for a moment. This shows that they instinctively believed that He was good. "The opportunity to use a might none can question needs for its control a goodness none can doubt." Jesus had this goodness—proof again in a unique and incidental way of His Deity.

Psalm 68:1 says the infidel and atheist is a fool. If it were so, then, how much more so now! Today we have in addition to the miracles of the Old Testament also the miracles of the New Testament and twenty centuries of Christian experience besides. No man has a right to be an infidel who has not first of all met the two simple conditions of "repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ" and—found the whole thing a swindle. And no honest seeker will ever have that experience.

There is not a theory of science that would not be universally accepted today if it had only a tenth of the substantial proof that the Bible may offer for itself. The reason men today refuse to accept the Bible and believe it is not a lack of proof, but because the Bible condemns men in sin.

Today men of science (see Prof. Tyndall) tell us that the ear is a lute 3,000 strings capable of perceiving air vibrations from 30 to 4,000 per second.

They say (Todd's Manual of Astronomy) that the earth rotates at the rate, at the equator, of 1,000 miles an hour and yet we do not get dizzy! And that it moves ahead at the rate of 66,600 miles per hour and does not wobble a hair nor lose an atom of atmosphere.

They say (Himman's Electric Physical Geography) that when the earth vibrates 392 trillions of times per

second we see "red." When it vibrates 757 trillions of times per second we see "violet." And at a half-way point in between we see "white." The ether they tell us is sufficiently inert to retard about eight minutes a ray of light in its journey to us from the sun. Now it would seem reasonable to suppose that if the ether had any substance at all and should vibrate 757 trillions of times against the delicate retina of the eye it would pound it to pieces. But in seeing "violet" the eye is not conscious of anything except a profound calm.

Let us by all means accept all

truth discovered and substantiated by science, but I submit that the hypotheses of science often makes a far greater demand upon our credulity than anything that can be found in the Bible. Besides these "miracles" of science the Bible miracles appear as mere child's play. To the man of reverent faith they are indeed "sweetly reasonable."

—De Leon, Texas.

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all dwellings of Jacob. Psa. 87:2.

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DR. SIMMONS AS A BUILDER OF SCHOOLS

W. T. ROUSE

In my former articles dealing with the life of Doctor James B. Simmons, I have had nothing to say concerning his monumental work in founding and building up schools. In a general way, the readers of The West Texas Baptist know of his connection with the founding of Simmons University. But it appeared to me that there is room for another article on the life of this great man in connection with his activities as they related to other institutions of learning.

A Great Call and a Great Opportunity

In the former article concerning the pastoral experience of Doctor Simmons, it was shown that he was elected Cor. Sec. of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. At the time he took charge of the work, there was a wide spread interest among the people of the North in the negroes of the South, in regard to their educational needs. Many people of means were seeking to render assistance. The people of the South by reason of their depleted treasury, were not able to do much for the negroes educationally. At a meeting of the Anniversaries of Northern Baptists in 1869, Doctor Simmons was elected Cor. Sec. of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, in charge of the educational and mission work in the South. This opened the door for him to do the work of which we shall now speak.

Richmond Theological Seminary
The first school founded by Doctor Simmons was at Richmond, Va. This was a fine place to begin. There had been a small school conducted for the negroes under the name of "Colver Institute." It was transferred to the Home Mission Society. The school had no building worth while. It had been conducted in what was known as "Lumpkins Jail."

The first and most important thing was to get a building for the school. Doctor Simmons succeeded in getting an appropriation of \$10,000 from the Freedman's Bureau, then operated by the Federal Government and with this money he bought what was then known as the United States Hotel. This property was well located and solved the problem which had been in the way of progress. The school was incorporated in 1876 under the name of "The Richmond Institute," and afterwards was changed to "Richmond Theological Seminary." This school has done a great work in training the preachers and teachers of the negroes in that section.

Benedict Institute
The next school to engage the attention of Doctor Simmons was at Columbia S. C. He had succeeded in getting a Mrs. Benedict of Rhode Island interested in the enterprise. She gave small sums from time to time and in a few years had given in all \$25,000 towards its support. At her death she left all her estate to this institution and thus made it possible to have a strong school well equipped, with an endowment of more than \$100,000.

Leland University
Much of the work in founding these schools was accomplished through the liberality of friends of Doctor Simmons. He had succeeded in interesting Deacon Chamberlain of Brooklyn, in the education of the negroes of the South. When Deacon Chamberlain visited New Orleans in company with Doctor Simmons, a site for a school was selected and Brother Chamberlain agreed to put \$12,500 into the enterprise if the Home Mission Society would give a similar amount. The proposition was accepted, the school was named "Leland University," and the school was launched upon its career. At his death Brother Chamberlain left the greater part of his estate, amounting to more than \$100,000 to the institution.

Shaw University
On his way to New Orleans to consummate the deal which resulted in establishing "Leland University," Doctor Simmons stopped off at Raleigh N. C. to look into a proposition to establish a school there. Dr. H. M. Tupper who at one time cherished the hope of going to Africa as a missionary, after the close of the war decided he could do more for the colored race by training missionaries among themselves to go as missionaries to their own people in Africa. Dr. Tupper had a small school house but was anxious to increase the equipment for better work. It was arranged that upon certain conditions a splendid piece of property be bought for \$15,000. Elijah Shaw, a friend of Doctor Tupper's gave half of the amount. Thus, Shaw University came into being. It is now doing splendid work with the departments of Law, Medicine and Theology.

Wayland Seminary
Wayland Seminary was established at Washington D. C. for the education of negro preachers. It was named after Doctor Wayland so long President of Brown University, one of Doctor Simmons favorite teachers, being thus honored. The school flour-

ished for a time and was subsequently merged with Richmond Theological Seminary.

Roger Williams University
In 1874 Doctor Simmons purchased for \$30,000 a piece of property upon which was located a school which has come to be known as "Roger Williams University." Located in the heart of Nashville, Tennessee, it has had a great influence in educating the colored race of that section.

Augusta Seminary
One of the Schools established for the education of the negroes under the direction of Doctor Simmons was "Augusta Seminary." Located at first at Augusta, Ga., it was later transferred to Atlanta and became the "Atlanta Baptist Theological Seminary."

Simmons University
The work of Doctor Simmons in connection with Simmons University is so well known to the readers of W. T. B. that I need not here take much time to discuss it. This would be worthy of a long article. Suffice it to say that in my opinion, the greatest single thing that this mighty man ever did to the cause of education, was the making of Simmons possible. To the end of time, his name and influence will be known to the countless thousands who are destined to attend this noble institution.

RUNNELS COUNTY LAYMEN ANSWER THROCKMORTON LETTER OF LAST ISSUE

The West Texas Baptist, Abilene, Texas.

I have just read the article of Pastor L. B. Connel, of Throckmorton, in the last issue of the West Texas Baptist, criticising an article appearing in the Radio, published at Jasper, Texas.

I have not read the article in question, nor did I know that there was such a publication as the Radio, but I am glad to know that there was at least one Baptist in Texas who understood just what Dr. Brooks meant in his comments with reference to Dr. Tidwell's wonderful deliverance at Mineral Wells. As I am just a plain old country rube, living way out in the country in the forks of Valley and Oak Creeks, a member of a half time Country Church, and not even a preacher, I could not be expected to understand such language as Dr. Brooks used in commenting on the deliverance of Dr. Tidwell, but let me inform my Brother at Throckmorton that I have talked to a good many pastors of this section and I have not found one who was satisfied with Dr. Brooks' comments.

I would suggest, my Brother, that since you seem to know just what Dr. Brooks meant, that you proceed to tell us in a way that will be understood by the most ignorant of us, for I assure you, my Brother, that we do not want to put Dr. Brooks in the wrong attitude before the world. And then my Brother before you explain to us what Dr. Brooks meant in his comments on the deliverance of Dr. Tidwell, will you please get an answer to the following question from him, and publish it at the same time that you explain his comments.

Do you believe that God created man in the beginning with a body practically like he has today, by an immediate act, and not by any process of evolution or development from a lower form?

My Brother if you can get a satisfactory answer to the above question, you will have gone a long way toward solving the most vexing question confronting Texas Baptists today. There are literally hundreds of Baptists in Texas today, who are heart broken and despondent, because of the fact that our leaders do not seem to realize the fact that our beloved denomination is going on the rocks, because of an unsatisfactory condition, centering around this very question.

I agree with you my brother, that much harm is being done and that we will all have to stand in the judgment and answer for those things.

JOHN HECK,
R. F. D. No. 1, Winters, Texas.

THE B. Y. P. U.'S OF CHAMPION CHURCH

The B. Y. P. U.'s are improving—getting better all the time. Ernest Wiman is a very efficient general president. The other officers of the different unions are doing very creditable work, also. The church is eager to see Pastor Tankersly again, he having been engaged in a series of meetings at Ford City on his last regular meeting day at Champion, and therefore, could not come. The Missionary Alexander, supplied for him, however, and a spiritual soul-feasting hour was had at both the Saturday night and Sunday services.

LAMESA ASSOCIATION

Interest in the Associational B. Y. P. U.'s is growing by leaps and bounds. Much friendly rivalry exists between the North District Meeting held on the second Sunday of each month and the South Side Meeting on the Fourth Sunday afternoons. The attendance is large at each meeting and representatives from the coordinating unions are always present.

At the close of a revival meeting held by Missionary J. P. Isbell at Sawyer school house in Gaines County on March 7th the Concord Baptist Church was organized. It has fifteen members and has called Emmett Whitaker for fourth time.

Five Mile Church has called F. M. Elliott of Jones County for half time. It is expected that he will accept.

The Missionary, J. L. Isbell, is meeting with creditable success. His services for training courses are in demand. Tent meetings will be held in every community possible as soon as the weather and farming conditions permit.

Calvary has called H. C. Bristow. Rev. E. E. Mason of the Big Spring association recently held a very successful meeting at Ackerly. Several additions were made and religious fervor revived. The church has called him for fourth time but his answer has not been given.

W. S. Evans, formerly missionary of the Eastland Association, has recently moved in to the association from Oklahoma City. He has accepted a call from the Bethel Church near the Gaines County line.

SWEETWATER ASSOCIATION

Jnd. W. Newsom

The Training School conducted with the Shepp Church by the pastor and missionary was very satisfactory. There were 17 diplomas and seals awarded as a result of the school.

One of the best attended workers conferences in this Association was held with the Salt Branch Church Monday. The highest point in the conference was when Brother R. C. Pender preached from the subject, "Watch."

The first issue of "The Messenger," a church paper published weekly by the Lamar Street Church, Sweetwater, made its appearance Sunday April 4th. This will mean much to the church.

The Blackwell Baptist Church has called Rev. W. L. Ayres, Missionary of the Archie County Association, as pastor. We do not know his decision, but if he decides to accept the church is to be congratulated upon the choice.

Rev. Scott W. Hickey, pastor of the Walnut Street Church, Abilene, held two meetings in which there were more than one hundred additions.

There were sixty five additions to the First Baptist Church, Abilene last Sunday. Rev. Chas. Forbes Taylor is there for a meeting during the month of April.

The Nolan County W. M. U. officers rendered a program at Mt. Olive last Sunday afternoon. The women of Mt. Olive have recently organized a W. M. S.

Abilene, Texas.

WINSETT EVANGELISTIC PARTY PRAYER BAND

We are glad to report many members who are pledged to pray daily according to the covenant of our Praying Members' Certificate.

Beloved members, let us take for our promise Matt. 1:21. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

We who are Christ's own redeemed children need saving from our sins of omission, our sins of coldness and selfishness and to be "filled" with the Holy Spirit. Then only will we be truly burdened for the Lost, and then only will we glorify the wonderful Savior who not only saves from sin, but daily saves us from ourselves.

Let us cry unto God to make us faithful.

Brother Winsett sends us a message to be definite in prayer, and begs that we pray especially for the health and physical strength of the party. Also, that God give them power to do the will of the Lord in this wicked and unbelieving generation.

The W. E. P. are now in a great meeting at Ennis, Texas. On April 11th they go to Haynesville, La. Let us do our part by praying without ceasing that many precious souls may be won to Jesus Christ.

MRS. MARY WILSON,
Box 112, Junction, Texas.
Corresponding Secretary for the W. E. P.

God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. II Tim. 1:7.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Phil. 2:5.

BAPTIST STUDENTS

Sixteen hundred of the most representative Baptist students of the various Southern states are expected to assemble in Birmingham the last week in October for the first South-wide Baptist student conference that will give consideration to such practical religious and social problems as "Religious Leadership," "Home," "Church Relationship," "Preparation for Life Work," "Christian Amusement and Conduct," "Personal Influence," "Maternalism and Religion," "Personal Purity," "Recreation and Leisure Time," and "Student Honor."

While students themselves will have large place in the discussion of these problems it is the plan of the Inter-Board Commission on Student Religious Activity, of the Southern Baptist Convention, to bring to the conference not only some of the outstanding men and women of the Southern Baptist constituency but several persons of national and international repute as well who are not Baptists but whose contribution to the religious thought of the world make it worth while for the Baptist students of the South to hear them.

At a recent conference of the chairmen for the various states the following numbers of representatives were allotted the several states: Maryland 25, Virginia 75, North Carolina 125, South Carolina 100, Georgia 75, Florida 125, Alabama 400, Tennessee 200, Kentucky 50, Mississippi 100, Illinois 5, Missouri 50, Arkansas 40 Louisiana 25, Oklahoma 50, New Mexico 5, and Texas 200.

COMMENDS WACO PASTOR

It has been the good pleasure of the Conroe Baptist Church and pastor, to have with them for a week in a Bible Conference, Dr. W. T. Rouse of Waco, Texas. As pastor I am writing this brief word to express our great joy in having had him with us.

Dr. Rouse was a classmate of mine in the Seminary. I knew him then as a student of the Bible. He is now a profound Bible scholar. I know no one whose expositions of the scriptures are more lucid and forceful. There is a great need of a revival in Bible study, and I know no one better qualified to lead in this revival than is Dr. Rouse. Such Bible Conferences as he conducts make a fine preparation for a mighty revival in the church. Also they would be a great benefit to a church following a revival, enlisting the people in Bible study. I commend this great teacher to the pastors and churches.

Brethren, use this gifted pastor. You will be delighted and your church will be greatly benefited.

C. G. HOWARD,
Pastor Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas.

BAPTIST W. M. U. RALLY MEETING

The quarterly meeting of the Fishers county W. M. U. was held at the First Baptist Church of Rotan Tuesday.



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day, April 6th.

A splendid inspirational program was rendered.

Mrs. Dr. Swann giving us a happy homey feeling as she welcomed us in her own sweet way.

To this Mrs. Chas. Bryant, of Sylvester, responded in words of appreciation and good will.

Mrs. Taylor Ramby led us in a sweet spiritual devotional service. Recalling that the grace of God makes us what we are, and gives us the assurance of a better life to come.

Reports from the various W. M. U.'s were then given by Mrs. Chas. Smith, Mrs. Chas. Bryant, Mrs. Taylor Ramby, Mrs. I. J. Duff and Mrs. J. A. Brown showing that most of our Societies are accomplishing things of value.

We were then lifted to mountain top enthusiasm by a talk on the Rose Belle Breedlove Loan Fund and the sanitarium by our own Mrs. R. J. Ellis, now of Abilene.

Following this we were thrilled by a sweet solo "Softly now the Light of Day," by Mrs. Gene Day, accompanied by Miss Mickey Cutbirth.

A short business period intervened, then came the lunch hour, which was plentifully and happily enjoyed by everyone. Such variety and such quantity and deliciousness are not always found.

Afternoon came a helpful devotional service led by Mrs. Ramsey, of Abilene, followed by a message sent to us from Mrs. Caldwell by Mrs. Ramsey. We are hoping all our Societies will carry out the plans as given by our District President, Mrs. Caldwell.

We were then favored by a Royal Service program, given by four of our dear sisters from Roby, Mrs. C. R. Smith, Mrs. Ollie Smith, Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Milson. The subject was "South America" and was brought in a very interesting manner.

We then had a meaningful message from Miss Lilas Penick, Young People's Leader, of Stamford. This was very instructive as well as inspirational and was much appreciated. Reports from committee chairmen,

Mrs. J. C. Parks, Mrs. B. P. Harrison, and Mrs. J. J. Duff were given. Let us encourage these chairmen by sending in our reports.

We voted to hold our next meeting with the Roby church, date to be set later, as we expect our State worker, Mrs. J. E. Leigh, to be with us late in June or early July.

The Fisher County W. M. U. voted

to furnish a room in the nurses' home in Abilene. What nobler thing could we do? Let us all do our bit. Our happy session was dismissed by prayer led by Mrs. Swann.

We are thankful to all who helped on the program or on a committee. Especially were we glad of our outside speakers, Miss Penick, Mrs. Ramsey and Mrs. Ellis.

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TEXAS

News Notes

Rev. S. F. Baucom requests the clerks or moderators of the associations in this section to send him the latest minutes of their associational meetings. His address is 2220 Swenson Ave., Abilene, Texas.

Rev. S. F. Baucom is planning to attend the workers conference at Post Texas next Monday where he will deliver an address. He plans to go from Post to Big Spring to attend the S. S. and B. Y. P. U. Convention which meets on Tuesday.

The Walnut Street Baptist Church is planning for a training school to be held next week. Five courses will be offered. Missionary John W. Newsum, Dr. E. B. Atwood, and the pastor, Scott W. Hickey, will assist in the teaching work.

There were 217 in Sunday School at Loraine Sunday morning, which is a record attendance for that church. There was one addition for baptism at the Sunday morning service. Pastor W. A. Foster states that the church is planning to launch a building program right away. The program committee met Sunday afternoon to discuss the building of a large basement of the church building.

The Hodges Church in Jones county is launching a building program that when completed will give the church one of the best country church buildings in West Texas. The contract has been let for a modern \$6,000 church building with basement for educational work. Work will begin on the building about the first of July.

Rev. John M. Riddell, of Seminary Hill, Texas, has accepted the call of the church at Fort Stockton and will move his family on the field May 1. Brother Riddell, since graduating from Simmons University, has been a student in the Baptist Seminary at Fort Worth. He is one of our best pastors and evangelists and the Fort Stockton church is fortunate in securing the services of the pastor and his wife. On last Sunday Brother Riddell closed his work with the church at Drasco. This is one of the best country churches in the state, and during the three years of his ministry there, the retiring pastor led the church in building a splendid house of worship.

Construction work has begun on the new church building for the Fluvanna church. The brethren there are happy for the prospects of a house of their own. The church lost its building several years ago by fire and since that time have been using the buildings of the other churches in the town.

The Sunday school of the First Church, Graham, has been accepted as a standard school. This honor that comes to this fine church is due largely to the tireless efforts of Mr. Stanley H. Peavey, superintendent of the school. Pastor Lockridge is providing a great asset, not only in the Graham church but in the entire work of the association.

Dr. L. J. Mims, stewardship secretary for the Baptist Convention of Texas was with Pastor Hardesty and the Slaton church on a recent Sunday. Dr. Mims has been working for several months in the Panhandle section in the interest of Wayland College. He has been able to help place this splendid junior college in a healthy financial condition, and the school is enjoying a healthy growth.

Pastor W. T. Hamor of Anson was with Pastor C. R. Campbell and the Noodle church in a meeting last week. There were a good number of additions to the church as a result of the meeting.

Although greatly hindered by the rainy weather, the three weeks meeting held by Pastor Scott W. Hickey with the Novice Church, was a decided success. There were 40 additions to the church, 19 of the number being by baptism. Chas. F. Rhone had charge of the music in the meeting.

Rev. W. G. Tankersley was absent from his Champion Church Sunday, April 11th, but Rev. Geo. E. Alexander, missionary, supplied for him. Brother Alexander held the attention of his audience at each hour's service admirably. In fact, his sermons were simply fine and presented in a winning heart-felt manner.

The church has now elected as its B. Y. P. U. president, Ernest Wiman.

Dr. J. C. Burkett of the South Side Baptist Church, went to Fluvanna recently to assist the church at that place in a campaign to raise money to build a new church building. The campaign was a great success as will be seen by the fact that nearly \$2,700 was raised in cash and pledges. The objective for the day was \$3,000.

The Fluvanna saints are rejoicing in the fact that they are to have a house of worship soon.

Dr. L. G. Morony and family left recently for Clearwater, Florida, where they will reside in the future. Dr. Morony is one of the promoters of the Bible Crusaders of America, an organization that is waging a successful warfare against the teaching of evolution in tax supported schools. The West regrets to lose this splendid family but we all will rejoice that Dr. Morony has gone on this great mission.

A young peoples rally was held with the Indian Mound Church in Young county on Sunday afternoon, April 11. Programs of this meeting and of the Young county workers' conference which met with the Jean church on April 12, was received by the West Texas Baptist too late for publication in the last issue of the paper. Rev. R. A. Scranton, field secretary for West Texas was one of the speakers at the Conference. The Young county association is making a thorough drive for the Spring Campaign. The Spring Round-up was the main topic for the days program.

Last Sunday was a good day with the Hermleigh church. There were two professions at the Sunday morning service and one addition for baptism at the evening service. Pastor Tankersley says the work there is on the up grade.

The Western Church, eight miles east of Haskell, dedicated its new church building on the third Sunday in March. This fine church building has been finished and paid for and the membership is to be congratulated. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. C. Jones. Brother J. A. Kinser is the pastor.

The Dora church is to build a new house of worship and construction has begun on the building. Pastor Kinser and the church are happy over this worthy program.

The Tuscola church is in a building program at this time. The old church building has been torn down and a modern building is being built to care for the growth of this church in the beautiful Jim Ned Valley.

The meeting held with the church at Levelland recently in which the pastor did the preaching, was a decided success, considering the weather condition. The pastor, W. H. Hughes did the preaching and C. B. Stovall of Abilene had charge of the choir. There were 20 additions to the church. Rev Hughes and the church is making progress. The membership has almost doubled since he went on the field. A modern pastor's home has been finished and the church is planning to plant a crop of 110 acres, the proceeds of which will be used to build a new church building.

The editor was with the Lueders church Sunday in two services. We regretted to find the good pastor there, Rev. J. J. Gentry, critically ill. He has been confined to his bed for the past month, and three weeks of this time has been critically ill. We feel sure the brethren over the section will remember to pray for Brother Gentry and his family at this time. The Lueders church is caring for its pastor in a noble way in their time of trouble.

Alumni and ex-students of Simmons University are planning for a banquet to be held at the Southern Baptist Convention which meets at Houston on May 12. An interesting program is being arranged. The banquet will be held on Thursday evening.

FIVE THOUSAND PREACHERS CHANGE ADDRESSES

Dr. E. P. Allredge, of the Sunday School Board is issuing a distress call that he might have a correct list of Southern Baptist ministers. He is now making up a new list. There are about twenty thousand Southern Baptist ministers. He states that since October 1, 1925, more than five thousand of these have changed their post office address; about fifteen hundred of them have been reported to the denominational press. This special request is made: That all ordained ministers who have changed their post office address since October 1, 1925, will mail to Dr. E. P. Allredge, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee, a post card giving their full name and present address. Help him out!

BAPTIST FIVE WINS THE SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP

Basketball championship honors in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association this year went to the team representing Mississippi College, a Baptist institution. On the return of the victorious team from the final tournament it was greeted not alone by the faculty and students but by alumni and friends, including mayors, clergymen, and ex-governor and the governor of the state.

BAPTIST SCHOOL GETS \$25,000 FROM B. N. DUKE

Buie's Creek Academy, a Baptist school at Buie's Creek, N. C., recently received a gift of \$25,000 from B. N. Duke of that state and New York, with which to install a water and sewerage system. Dr. J. A. Campbell is the principal of this institution, which draws students from various states.

WHAT KILLED THE PROPHETS?

(Continued from Page One)

just as truly as He did in the past. What is it that kills the prophets? As I see it, there are several things that contribute to this end. I shall indicate two or three of these.

First and foremost among the things that kill the prophets is the Type of Theological Training that is being given in many places. As the theological seminaries go, so go the pulpits, and eventually so go the hearers. By the time many a young man finishes college and seminary he has imbibed so much modernistic, anti-supernatural philosophy, and has been so filled with doubt concerning the inspiration and trustworthiness of the Bible that he no longer has any depth of conception—no longer feels any certainty that he has any real message from God to declare. I am persuaded that modernistic training in seminaries and colleges kills more prophets than any other one thing. Of many a theological seminary Christ's words, "O thou that killest the prophets... that are sent unto thee," could truly be applied.

To begin with, in the Northern and Eastern sections of our country where denominational schools have largely gone over to Modernism, there are very few young men entering the ministry. The teaching they receive is such that by the time they have finished a four year college course, all desire to preach has been knocked out of them. An atmosphere of anti-supernaturalism and religious doubt is not one in which candidates for the ministry are born.

So few are the number of men from college to Seminary in the North and East that some of our oldest and best established Baptist seminaries have for several years past had only a handful of students. This in spite of the fact that they offer attractive scholarships. And those who graduate from these institutions have received such training that it is almost a miracle if they have left any prophetic message, fire, or zeal by the time they have finished.

I heard Dr. Straton tell of his famous debate with Dr. Potter, the New York Unitarian. He went on to say that Dr. Potter is a graduate of the Newton Baptist Theological Institution. He stated that Dr. Potter told him that the year he graduated, after the graduation exercises, the whole graduating class assembled in his room, and in the course of conversation each one acknowledged that he was a Unitarian in belief. Potter had the honesty to go where he belonged. The rest of the class went out into Baptist pastorates to disprove their doubt.

Certainly no member of that class was able from Unitarian convictions to bear to the world any prophetic utterance. No Unitarian can do so. For Unitarianism has no conception of the truth that men out of Christ are lost, and likewise has no super-human Christ whose blood saves from sin.

Those who come from institutions where Rationalism is enthroned usually have views concerning sin, consequently they tolerate all forms of worldliness in their churches. Indeed it has come to be the exception rather than the rule for preachers in any section of the country to stand vigorously against the various forms of worldliness prevalent among their members. Certainly there are a comparative few who speak John-the-Baptist-like with no care for the consequences.

I read of two men who were discussing a certain popular preacher. "I sure do like him," said one of the men; "he never stirs up trouble, he never hurts any one's feelings, he is not always condemning something; the meanest devil in the world can listen to him and feel like he is somebody." The other man responded, "That is just the reason I do not like him. He lets them go to hell unmolested. A dancer or card-player on Sabbath-deserter can teach in his Sunday-school, sing in the choir, or hold an official position in his church. He sugar-coats when he should unmask the evil in his own ranks."

Then there are other things in connection with theological training that serve to destroy the prophets. In most of our theological schools, the average student spends much more time studying about the Bible than he does in a study of the Bible itself. Then the religious life of the student is often neglected. He spends practically all his time learning about God and very little in becoming acquainted with God. A theological school that so stresses "scholarship" that it neglects to cultivate and to nourish the lives of the students, will turn out few real prophets. For the true prophet is ever one who knows

God by personal experience.

Every man called of God certainly ought to want to do all that he can to fit himself for his holy office. Still there is a potential danger that lurks in theological education—danger that men will become stereotyped quaters of "Rabbi So-and-So" instead of prophets who speak with the voice of authority. It is because of this tendency towards intellectual dependency that God sometimes finds it necessary to thrust forth from the ranks of the people a Moody or a Spurgeon without formal theological training, in order to get before men and women the message that He wishes declared.

Another thing that serves to destroy the prophets is THE DEMAND OF THE MODERN CHURCH. We have come to the time when many churches are demanding organizers and executives, often in disregard of whether or not the prospective pastor is a man of prophetic gifts and vision. Often a man is wanted who can finance a building program, pull the church out of a financial hole, organize a new movement or something of that sort. With all of the many demands made upon him the preacher comes to subordinate his preaching to other things of lesser importance. Often this could be avoided if the church would give the pastor a helper to attend to a part of the work of organization, etc.

Three or four years ago a busy pastor of a city church who had many calls upon his time, said to me, "I spend most of my time doing things that the church could hire done for ten dollars a week." One sure way to kill a prophet is for a church to keep their pastor so busy winding or unwinding red tape that he is led to neglect prayer, study, and preparation to preach.

I spent a month in the great Mayo Brothers Clinic once. There they have surgeons of world renown. Do they require that those surgeons handle the card index system, the records of incoming and outgoing patients, the financial records of the institution, etc? Certainly not. They with their skill are too valuable to be wasted on those details. Helpers are employed to attend to details while the surgeons attend to diagnosis and treatment of diseases for which their expert training has fitted them. Likewise a man who is fitted to deal with spiritual matters and who is called to be God's spokesman is largely wasted when he is overburdened with all of the minute details of the church's machinery.

Then another thing that tends at least to subordinate the prophetic office is the present day tendency to minimize the importance of preaching. As soon as Sunday-school is over, multitudes jump up and go home. Many who regularly go to Sunday-school do not hear a sermon in three months. At what, is commonly termed the "preaching hour" the tendency is to transfer the sermon to announcements, solos, chorus, anthems and so on. These various things are so long drawn out that the preacher finds himself very much limited as to time. The practice of

so many leaving after Sunday-School and the practice of putting everything else ahead of the preaching is calculated to stifle the preacher's enthusiasm to preach.

"Well," some one asks, "how are we to have prophets?" How are we to replace the men-pleasers, the functionaries, the priests, with true prophets who have a message from God? Several suggestions would seem to be in order. First, let us quit sending our young preachers off to Modernist seminaries. Let every pastor urgently advise the young preachers that come under his influence, along this line. Second, let churches look askance at every preacher that

has had training in a Modern school, and be absolutely sure that he is beyond a per-adventure sound before calling him. Let our churches also quit placing so much emphasis upon degrees and upon whether or not a man is called "doctor," and let them seek out men who know and believe the Bible and preach it with the zeal and the fervor of a prophet.

Third, let us go back and place greater emphasis upon preaching and the preaching service, and comparatively less upon organization and machinery. Then let those of us who speak in God's name as His representatives, come to realize what it means to stand before lost humanity

as interpreters of God, and let us tarry in His presence until we be "endued with power from on high."

Only as we wait before Him in meditation, in prayer, in the study of His Word, giving Him time and opportunity to speak to us, will there come to us the message the world needs, and the Divine imperative to declare that message. If we are "Called" men, and will give Him a chance to speak to us, we will be unable to keep silent. We will feel as Jeremiah must have felt when he said: "His Word was in mine heart, as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forebearing and could not stay."



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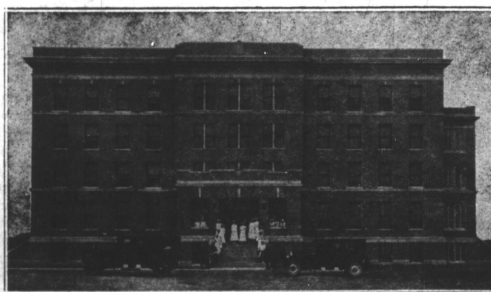
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