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RAMBLING

EMARKS



By DICK O'BRIEN

I heard a story once upon a time about a preacher who was holding evangelistic services in a certain community under a large tent. One morning just as he arose to preach a small boy came wandering by. Just before he came alongside the tent he encountered a stray tin can and boy fashion began kicking it along before him. When he came near the tent he heard the preacher's voice raised in animated tones peculiar to the old fashioned evangelist, and he stopped to listen. Leaning against a post of the tent raising one bare foot until it rested comfortably but awkwardly on the opposite knee, he cocked his ears in the direction of the parson with a puzzled expression on his face as much as to say, "how come?" He held this pose for several minutes, attracting the attention of both the preacher, and the congregation. Then he suddenly relaxed his expression, dropping his foot to the ground, gave the tin can a vigorous kick and proceeded on his way. After the service was over he preacher was walking down town and met the boy on his way home. "Well," he said, "I believe you are the little man who stopped at the tent a while ago and listened to me try to preach." "Yeah," responded the typical boy, "but you couldn't cut 'er could you?" "That exactly describes my situation as I try to write rambling remarks this week. If I should attempt to tell you all the things that hindered me in even getting to the column this week, that would be rambling remarks. And when I thought I had finally found the right time and sat down to concentrate on the task, Mr. R. A. Springer, who is to speak to our men tonight, and a typical West Texas dust storm blew in at the same time. I am enjoying Mr. Springer so much, and the dust storm so little that between them my mind is a blank and my fingers all thumbs. . . . So I am just writing this time to tell you that I will try to do better next time. . . . I read in a newspaper the other day where a boy at Lamesa had a cow that sent his sister to school. I never had that happen to me exactly but the next thing to it. One day when I was mad at the other boys and was putting along behind on the way home from school I heard a low rumbling sound behind me and turned to see a gentleman cow approaching with head lowered, hoofs digging up dirt and throwing it high in the air, and he didn't fail to send me home from school. But they say it is a poor rule that won't work both ways. Well, I gotta go to the Brotherhood meeting.

Quitaque Church, where Rev. J. Lowell Ponder is pastor, averaged 154 in Sunday School in February compared with 136 last year.

Dr. William H. Joyner, State Evangelist, is now in a revival with Pastor S. W. Cowles and the Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, Port Arthur, Texas. This is Evangelist Joyner's second revival with this pastor and church.

EVENTS TO COME

- March 16-17—District 8 Convention, Odessa.
- April 9—B. T. U. High Attendance Day.
- April 11-13—State Sunday School Convention, Waco.
- April 18-19—District 17 W. M. U. Convention, Ranger.
- May 4-6—Spring Pastor's Retreat, Camp Lueders.
- May 18-24—Southern Baptist Convention, Oklahoma City.
- June 1—47th Commencement, H. S. U.
- June 2—Registration, Summer Session, H. S. U.
- June 5-10—Preachers Evangelistic Conference, Fort Worth.
- June 19-25—General Assembly, Camp Lueders.
- July 22-28—Baptist World Alliance, Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. J. P. Boone To Conduct Revival



DR. JOSEPH P. BOONE

To conduct the annual H-SU Religious week, Dr. Joseph P. Boone of Waxahachie will arrive on the campus March 20 to begin a series of sermons that will last through March 26. Dr. Boone will speak each morning during the chapel period and each evening at 7 o'clock. Conferences will be arranged for those students that desire a private talk with him any time during the day. Special prayer meetings will be held on the campus for these few days.

Dr. Boone is a graduate of Baylor University and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is now pastor of the First Baptist Church, Waxahachie. His past attainments reveal that he is one of the most successful pastors of the South.

The B. S. U. was organized in Texas in 1920, with Dr. Boone as the originator. He was elected as B. S. U. secretary and remained in that position for several years. When the State B. S. U. convention met on the campus of Hardin-Simmons in 1924, Dr. Boone was in charge of the program. The convention will meet here again next October.

LOVINGTON EXTENDS MISSION TO OIL FIELD

By MRS. ODEN WILLIAMS

There is much talk around the city of Lovington, N. M., regarding the service that was conducted at Buckeye last Tuesday evening by our pastor, Rev. Loyal E. Brown, at which time seven made a profession of faith, five of these for baptism; three re-dedicated their lives anew to Christ and one came by letter. This was indeed a great service. All of these who came forward were adults, there being only 23 adults present and the other 13 were Christians.

The Lovington Baptist Church is establishing a mission center at this new Vacuum oil field, the services being conducted every Tuesday evening by our pastor, Rev. L. E. Brown. Our entire church has been stimulated by this modern pentecost.

With this group included, it has been our joy to see more than 70 decisions to serve Christ, out of which there have been 66 additions to our church since September 1.

Every department of our church is moving forward in a great way; the crowds are growing from Sunday to Sunday. We covet the prayers of every Christian that we may go forward for Christ and see the greatest revival in this church that Lovington has ever known.

ABILENE CHURCHES PLAN SIMULTANEOUS V. B. S.

Following the one day Vacation Bible School rally on Friday, March 10, led by Rev. Sibley Burnett of Nashville and Rev. Mark H. Richards of Pasadena, Texas, Baptist pastors and religious education leaders of Abilene launched plans looking to simultaneous schools in the city beginning Monday, June 5 and continuing two weeks.

Preparations were also inaugurated for a unified training course for vacation school workers under the general direction of Missionary B. N. Shepherd. This school will probably be held at First Church May 1, 2 and 8 and all vacation Bible school workers whether in the city or not, who find it convenient, are invited to attend.

MISS KATHLEEN MALLORY WILL SPEAK IN ABILENE

Sweetwater association W. M. U. will hold its annual mission study institute Tuesday, March 21, at the University Baptist Church, Abilene. The associational chairman, Mrs. W. S. Daniels, has arranged an excellent program and was particularly fortunate in securing the presence of the State chairman, Mrs. R. L. Brown of College Station. A good attendance is expected and a most helpful day of study is expected.

Of very unusual interest is the visit to District 17 on the same day of Miss Kathleen Mallory of Birmingham, Alabama, for many years corresponding secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. As only one day could be given the district, letters of invitation have been sent to every society in the territory and the women urged to attend the meeting at 2:30 in the First Church, Abilene, immediately following adjournment of the mission study institute.

It is hoped that every association and even every church will be represented on this occasion to greet Miss Mallory. She has a most winsome personality and is a speaker of rare appeal. Her experience covers every phase of W. M. U. work and all who hear her address are sure to receive a definite impulse to better service.

A social hour will follow and there will be opportunity to meet Miss Mallory and each other. Let us make this an outstanding day in our district year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT DIST. 17 BROTHERHOOD

As your president since the annual convention on March 31st, 1938 some very interesting things have happened in this 17th District, and I feel that you would be interested in having somewhat of a detail of the activities. Before doing so allow me please to express my sincere appreciation for the privilege of serving as president and the recipient of the honors bestowed upon me by your election. I have likewise been, at the same time, confronted with the responsibility which it carried.

My first thought was that our men were not quite sufficiently acquainted with some of the vital things that the Brotherhood stood for and my first efforts were to secure a sufficient amount of tracts and helps for distribution, and obtained from the Baptist Brotherhood of the South, general secretary, Knoxville, Tennessee, two hundred tracts and also from other sources an additional one hundred and immediately distributed those to the various Pastors where the need was found and to the laymen interested. The expense being nominal, your president gladly contributed these tracts, which I feel have been very beneficial in the movement with a nice response from our men.

I have spoken in this eleven months, plus, twenty-four times, nine of which have been to associational meetings or workers' conferences. I have spoken in all except two of the associations comprising this 17th District. These two associations have not called me and in both, others have been called in, whom I am sure have done a much better work than I could have done, but in each association there have definite programs, and definite meetings have been held. All of the associations, except one, having an associational organization now and in all associations except one we have active Brotherhoods in full force as against three associations prior, but active.

I attended, as your representative, in September, the general meeting at Fort Worth and had a part in that meeting, which has done much to stimulate new interests in the Brotherhood movement. I have also spoken at Big Spring at their District meeting, twice at our district meeting and once in Brownwood at their District meeting and at Wastalla, Scurry County at a general men's meeting, which was not an associational or District meeting. The remainder of these have been meetings with our own district.

During these eleven months, plus, I have traveled 2,000 miles and have had contact with practically every one of our pastors. My reception has been great. The feeling of encouragement predominates. The expense to the local churches, associations and Brotherhoods has been none. I have borne my own expenses gladly and the District organization has, as far as I

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Are You Prepared For B. T. U. Contests



Senior Oratorical Contest Winners—1938



Beginner—Primary Story Telling Contest Winners—1938

What Baptists Will Find At Oklahoma City

By L. R. Scarborough

I am thinking of the Southern Baptist Convention which meets at Oklahoma City May 17, at two p. m., in the great City Auditorium, and closes Sunday night, May 21, the auxiliary meetings—the Pastors' and Laymen's Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union Convention—meeting in separate places Monday night, the fifteenth, and running until noon, the seventeenth (or at least the W. M. U. meeting will run until then).

I, as President of the Convention, should like to say a most persuading word to every Southern Baptist who loves the Convention and the causes for which it stands:

1. They will find a great, modern, up-to-date, thriving, prosperous, western city, in one of the most thriving Western states. It's a typical Western city, with its hospitality and great welcome to visitors, and especially to Baptist visitors.

2. They will find plenty of room—many hotels, some of the largest in the nation, with every accommodation, and smaller hotels, and rooming houses, and tourist camps and thousands of welcoming homes among the very best citizens of the earth. They will find plenty of room in the great auditorium, seating many thousands, and smaller auditoriums—seating smaller numbers. They will find a great, accommodating space for all sorts of exhibits—and all this near the hotels. They will find probably as good parking accommodations for automobiles as any place in all the land.

3. They will find that Oklahoma City is great in schools and churches, magnificent homes, parks. It is a great center for oil and cattle and farming and all the other rich products of the West.

4. They will find a cordial welcome—a city welcome, a Christian welcome and a Baptist welcome. There is no more cordiality anywhere than in the typical Western city, and Oklahoma City majors on it. It's the state of Will Rogers (and that says a great deal) and Will Rogers loved it best of all. It's a city of many Baptists, strong Baptists, spiritual Baptists, soul-loving and winning Baptists, cordial Baptists. I remind you again that it is a city of many tens of thousands. It has a sky line up in the

brackets with the great sky lines of the East.

5. They will find three great assemblies of Baptists. There will be the women of the South, with their wonderful leadership and clientele and a large constituency. No finer mothers ever assembled on earth. They will feel the pulse of their spiritual passion across the continent, and they will have a challenging program. They will find a large group of consecrated pastors and laymen in session, with a most thrilling and inspiring program, for a day and a half and two nights.

Among the most important meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention are these two great assemblies. And then they will find in Oklahoma City a remarkable Convention. The numbers will be great, the program will be inspiring and challenging, covering all the phases of our denominational life and work. The program will have arms—spiritual, compassionate arms—reaching around the world. There will be great reports by great leaders. There will be great sermons by God's preachers. There will be exhibits of the achievements of the various parts of our denominational life which will be worth going for, and a book exhibit that will be worth your while and your money.

The Convention is to be a mountain-top Convention. For twelve months and more Baptists have been praying and planning and winning and weeping and expectant to register a climax in evangelism never known before among our people. The report of baptisms for 1938 will show at least 45,000 to 50,000 increase in baptisms over a year ago. They will report plans and programs, and they will feel the passion and, I trust, the power of a mightier movement climaxing at that Convention than they have ever seen or felt before.

Nothing should keep the pastors, the laymen, the women, and the young people from going to Oklahoma City to that convention. It must not be a preachers' convention; it must not be a laymen's convention; it must not be a woman's convention; it must be Christ's convention, all with faith and love and prayers and tears and spirit.

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MISSIONARY

ESSAYS



By B. N. Shepherd
Missionary, District 17

Things are happening in District Seventeen, leading to a revival. The District Evangelistic, one-day meeting at Stamford made many of us over. Then every message and conference of our District Convention at Sweetwater was turned to evangelism. Every workers meeting is charged with evangelism. Let us pray that the Lord will give us that revival that will result in many souls being saved. Soon we are to be in Waco at the State Sunday School convention with a program with emphasis on evangelism. We must be about it NOW. This spring is a good time for revivals in many churches and communities.

Things are happening at Gillespie and Brushy, Haskell association. Edward Freeland is the splendid pastor.

The Vacation Bible School clinic at Abilene met last Friday. Bro. Mark Richards delivered the opening message and was fine. Dr. Sibley Burnett, Nashville, Tenn., was at his best in conferences and messages. Each department conference was well attended and conducted. We want to express our appreciation to all who helped make the clinic a grand success. Last year our District had 16 schools. This year we plan to have 36 or more.

The Callahan Workers Meeting is to give the whole program to the V. B. S. cause next month. Brother Joe Riddle is to bring a force and lead in it. Other associations might do well to follow this good example.

May 1, 2 and 8, is the date set for a school for V. B. S. workers in the Sweetwater association. Each night at 7:00 they are to study in departments. All are welcome to attend.

Pastor Doyle and the Anson Church have just closed what the pastor termed, "the best study course they ever had." Miss Helen Turnidge and Bro. Selby Aswell, H-SU, assisted them. Bro. Doyle says they are fine, extra fine. Miss Turnidge is assisting Pleasant Hill church, Bro. Arville Richardson pastor, this week.

The Missionary is assisting Pastor Nipp and the Moran church in a Training Union revival. Bro. Tierce is helping us. We are cooperating with nine other churches in the Cisco association.

Next week I am to help lead the Fisher association in a Training Union revival, beginning next Monday (Continued on Page 4)

DISTRICT 17 OFFICERS RE-ELECTED FOR 1931

Rev. P. D. O'Brien, pastor of First Church, Stamford, was re-elected president of the District Seventeen Convention in the closing session of the annual meeting at Sweetwater last week.

Other officers included Mrs. J. B. Buckley, Abilene, W. M. U. vice president; E. S. Cummings, Abilene, Brotherhood vice president; J. M. Cook, Abilene, Sunday School vice president; Rev. J. I. Cartledge, Eastland, B. T. U. vice president; Mrs. Broughton Hardin, Stamford, secretary-treasurer.

Breckenridge will be the host for the 1940 meeting of the district convention.

Rev. C. A. Powell, chairman of the district board presided at a luncheon meeting of the executive board at which time a vote of confidence and loyalty to District Missionary B. N. Shepherd was recorded.

Board Treasurer, R. E. Dudley read a report showing all bills paid with a small balance in the treasury.

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R. E. DUDLEY Editor

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THE BAPTIST STANDARD

Dr. L. J. Mims, a veteran of the Cross who has ably served Baptist causes in Texas for a generation, is spending March in our section in the interest of the Baptist Standard. He reports good progress in his work. May it be greatly extended.

When a person joins a service club, the Parent-Teachers association, the American Legion or almost any other group, a part of the first money paid in and a liberal percentage of the annual dues will be used to finance from one to three publications which are considered essential to the achievement of the objectives of that body. Yet there are today, in Texas alone, tens of thousands of Baptist homes which have not now and never have had within their doors any sort of denominational paper.

And we wonder why our people are not more interested in religious affairs, why they do not contribute more freely to missions, to Christian education, to hospitals. We have set six years ahead as the time to complete paying off a debt of about a dollar each—making six bites at one small peanut.

We are extending our stakes in Texas this year. We have set as our per capita goal for the Cooperative Program in the state the price of one change of oil. But for the Baptist press we would do well to secure the price of the tax on a gallon of gasoline.

In a state the size of ours and with our Baptist population, more than one denominational paper is needed to present all phases of our religious life and activities. The day should come when the Standard reaches a hundred thousand or more homes and every section of the state adequately supports a regional weekly. If best results could be had by using only one denominational paper, the Catholics, with centralized government, would certainly follow that plan. Yet no other denomination has such a multiplicity of papers and magazines as the church of Rome.

There is no competition between the West Texas Baptist or any other regional paper, and our statewide paper, the Standard. Both, on the budget plan, can be sent to every home each week for the price of the stationery and stamp of a letter. Any church which is functioning enough to buy Sunday School literature can do that—if they think they can.

Sending the papers to the members won't make a church grow any more than opening the head-gate of an irrigation canal will make a crop. But coupled with able management and intelligent cultivation, it will help mightily, just like irrigation in a land of short rainfall.

Dr. Mims repeats that we are interested only as we are informed and that we do only as we know. Church members who read their denominational papers are, on the average, much better informed and more co-operative in their actions than those who miss that privilege.

PROTEST

This office is in accord with a lengthy protest received this week from Bishop James Cannon Junior of Richmond, Virginia, regarding the recent adjournment of Congress out of respect for the death of Pope Pius XI.

In this case we believe the aggressive Methodist leader to be exactly right, not because the late pontiff was head of the Roman Catholic Church, but because he was the head of a church at all. If Bishop Cannon had written a few days later he would probably have added a more vigorous protest on account of the official recognition of the new Pope Pius XII by the government of the United States in the person of Ambassador Joseph Kennedy.

It is all right for any religious body or individual in our country which sees fit to extend condolence and felicitations on this occasion. But our government is an entirely different matter.

More and more, in this turbulent age when all old standards are being assailed, it is necessary for lovers of liberty in our country to stand uncompromisingly for the priceless heritage of our Bill of Rights.

If it is right for the Congress of the United States to adjourn in respect for the death of the Pope of Rome, it is equally fitting that they should adjourn in honor of each deceased pastor of a Baptist Church, for he was the bishop of a church which is as sovereign as that of Rome, though he makes no claims to infallibility nor to being the vicegerent of the Almighty.

This is another example of where we go when our elected leaders, through senatorial courtesy, follow the European ideas of foreign-born members. With a history of a century and a half of national life under the Bill of Rights and seven centuries in the spirit of the Magna Carta we should be careful of yielding our guidance to men but lately from the dominance of autocracy.

APATHETIC DRYS

Recently a county in Texas, which has always been a dry county, voted for light wines and beer—by a margin of 24 votes.

Approximately ten times that number of qualified voters remained at home, taking no part in the contest. There can be no doubt that in so close an election there were far more than enough drys who gave up the fight before the election day to have retained their county in its historical dry position if they had gone on and voted their convictions at the polls.

Most wet victories, including the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, happened in that way. When the election comes in your community, and it will, sooner or later, every dry vote must be mustered. Only the spirit of "They shall not pass!" will be certain of holding the lines.

News Notes

On March 12, the O. K. Baptist Church, Lamesa Association, ordained Bro. W. T. Snellgrove and Bro. Carl Reavis as deacons. These young men are men who love the Lord's work. Brother K. D. Brian led the ordination prayer, Rev. Elmer Holt delivered the charge and Rev. Earl Landtroop preached the ordination sermon.

The Wilmett Baptist Church in the Rannels Association will begin a revival meeting the first Sunday in April. Pastor Sam E. Brian will do the preaching.

Rev. J. D. Badley supplied Sunday for Pastor Clebert N. Jones at Johnston's Chapel, having three good services. This remarkable church with around 60 in Sunday School has double that attendance in Training Union.

Andrew Allen, J. N. Barnette and Miss Mary Alice Bibb of Nashville will assist Secretary S. S. Russell in the Arizona Sunday School officers conference at Phoenix, April 7 to 9.

Harris Cheek and Raymond Robinson of Lubbock are assisting in a Training Union enlargement campaign in Portales association, New Mexico this week.

First Church, Sweetwater, is in a revival with Pastor J. M. Sibbey doing the preaching and Mrs. P. L. Ullom directing the music.

Dr. J. J. Cook of Huntington, West Virginia, will lead First Church, Lubbock, in a spring revival beginning May 8 and closing Mother's Day, May 14.

The Arizona Assembly at Prescott will be in session August 7 to 13 this year.

In ten years at Munday Pastor Will Albertson has baptized 318 people, conducted 151 funerals and married 110 couples.

Brownwood churches are planning a simultaneous vacation Bible school for this summer.

Nolan Church broke ground last week for a pastor's home in a ceremony led by Mrs. Andy Jones, oldest active member. This aggressive rural church, of which Rev. Dean Elkins is pastor built a new rock house of worship two years ago.

"Go to Church Sunday" will be sponsored March 19 in Abilene by the "High Y" and "G and G" clubs. The city Ministerial alliance voted Monday to take recognition of the occasion in all their churches.

Miles Church will have a B. T. U. Training school March 27 to 31 followed by a revival with Pastor E. F. Graham doing the preaching.

In a Bible school, Monday through Friday last week, Pastor A. A. Davis led the Baird church in a study of doctrines and church history.

Dr. W. H. Knight, superintendent of Evangelism in Louisiana, will direct a simultaneous revival in New Orleans, March 26 to April 9.

Andrew Allen, Wm. P. Phillips, J. N. Barnette, McKinley Norman, Harry P. Staggs, D. C. Stringer and Carson Taylor will be among the speakers at the New Mexico State Sunday School convention at Albuquerque, April 4, 5, and 6.

Intermediate sword drill is a regular feature of the monthly B. T. U. federation meetings in some Oklahoma associations.

Christmas boxes from 88 towns and cities in 16 states were received by Missionary R. A. Pryor in the Navajo reservation.

Pastor J. F. Nix of First Church, Clovis, N. M., has resigned effective May 31.

Missionary-Pastor H. H. Summers, who braved almost impassable snowstorms to reach his New Mexico churches, has had an attack of the flu which has been prevalent in that state.

Mrs. B. N. Shepherd has had a letter from Miss Floy Hawkins telling that she arrived safely in Hongkong on February 1.

Rev. R. A. Scanton, formerly of West Texas and H-SU has returned from Waco to become full time pastor at Big Lake.

Something to Think About

By A. W. BLAINE

Many Christians are so fine and loyal to the Lord and His church today that one is made to say reverently, "Thank God." While on the other hand no thinking person will deny that there is a need of deeper convictions on the part of many who profess to be followers of Jesus. This lack of conviction is not diminished by the attitude and conduct of our State and national leaders. Recently a man, who very often urges others to attend church and expresses his allegiance to the ten commandments, had quite a little to say about a Sunday excursion he was going to make; he also stated that he would come back by Fort Worth and attend the Fat Stock Show on Sunday evening. Is that keeping the Sabbath day holy? Of course we know that the Sabbath was made for man—yes man's good and not man's license to dishonor God in seeking selfish pleasure. It all goes to prove that we had better do as some people say and not as they do. Who filled this man's place in his local church while he was away and who filled the places of the many Baptists who were doing as bad or worse?

One pastor's heart was made to ache recently when two professed Christians persuaded an unsaved person to leave the training service and go driving during the evening preaching hour. That was cooperation—with whom? That is just one example of many that might be cited to show the need of conviction plus consecration.

A checkup of places of Sabbath desecration as to the number of professed Christians in attendance would reveal an indictment against them. Many of our pastors may drive by the local theatre on Sunday evening and find the answer to his question in regard to the small attendance at church, that is providing he can recognize the cars of many of his members. What would happen if all professed Christians ceased to patronize these places of insult to God? We are persuaded to believe that many if not all would cease to operate at least on the Lord's day. Shame on professed Christians who continue to dishonor God by bowing to the idol "pleasure," while the Lord is seeking those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

PROGRAM

Workers Conference, Fisher County Baptist Association Meeting With El Paso Church, Monday, March 20.

Theme: Preaching the Gospel to every creature.

10:00. Some scriptures that teach the gospel should be preached to every creature—R. T. Barton.

10:25. The importance to civilization that the Gospel be preached to every creature—Jno. P. Hardesty.

10:50. How the church can preach the Gospel to every creature—Geo. E. McBeth.

11:15. Sermon—O. D. Henley.

12:00. Lunch.

1:00. Song Service—Ernest Smith.

1:30. How the denomination can preach the Gospel to every creature—B. N. Shepherd.

PROGRAM

Mission Study Institute, Jones Association, W. M. U., Anson, Thursday, March 23.

Quiet Music, Mrs. Maurice Smith. 10:00, Song Service—Mrs. W. C. Russell.

10:05, Worship, II Timothy 2:10—Mrs. Doss Harris.

10:10, Special Music—Mrs. H. C. Michael.

10:15, Class Periods.

W. M. S., Helping Others Become Christians—Mrs. P. D. O'Brien.

Y. W. A., Handmaidens of the King in Foreign Lands—Mrs. S. C. Ezell.

Intermediate G. A. and R. A., I Dare You—Mrs. W. L. Boyd.

Junior G. A. and R. A., Guitars and Water Jars, Mrs. H. D. Scott.

Supper, The Call Drum—Mrs. J. L. Keen.

11:45, Demonstration—Mrs. A. L. Stell.

Noon—Covered Dish Luncheon.

Music.

1:00, Demonstration—Mrs. A. L. Stell.

1:15, Class Period.

2:45, Report of Registrar—Mrs. Ed Rowell.

Business, announcements, closing Prayer.

Jean Church, where Rev. Clint Irwin is pastor, recently completed a study course with 47 enrolled and 29 taking the examinations. There were nine decisions for Christ on the following Sunday. They have added four new Sunday School rooms, making a total of eight.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

March 19, 1939

By Hight C. Moore

PETER EXHORTS TO CHRISTIAN LIVING

I Peter 3:8-18

The churches in Asia Minor were subjected to annoyances and reproach among their neighbors: By the Jews for abandoning ceremonial observances and by the Gentiles for not joining in idolatrous rioting, as of old; and this feeling was liable to break out into extreme persecution. This intelligence was borne by Silvanus to Peter, then laboring among the many Jews in Babylon on the Euphrates. The time was not later than 66, nor earlier than A. D. 63; certainly before the destruction of Jerusalem. In response to the need and demand of the troubled churches of the west, Peter wrote this first epistle, addressing the Christians generally in Asia Minor, naming the countries from northeast to south and west. The practical object in view was the encouragement of those who were suffering on account of their faith; their minds were lifted from present trials and occupied with the hope of heaven. The privileges of Christians eclipse their trials, and the path of duty is clear, though beclouded with suffering.

1. Brotherhood

Christian living in relation to other Christians is marked by brotherhood. Outstanding phases of brotherhood are here presented by Peter which may be put in the form of seven imperatives: (1) Be harmonious. Be united in affection and in purpose. Be like-minded in loyalty to Christ and his cause. There is room for great diversity of opinion and thought upon many things but entire harmony in spiritual attitude. (2) Be sympathetic. It is not enough to sympathize superficially. One must feel sympathy and not merely express it in conventional form. Be compassionate in the world that is hungry for the touch of fellowship. (3) Be kind. Brotherly love should occupy heart as well as hand. Therefore, be loving rather than try to be lovable. To love as brethren is not to be effusive or effervescent. It is a high, manly word.

(4) Be considerate. Others are in distress. Have compassion toward them and show it. Others are overtaken in a fault and openly stray and stumble. Be tender-hearted toward them. (5) Be humble-minded. This requires humility in the heart. It expresses itself in modesty with respect to self and courtesy toward others. It is the opposite of pride and self-conceit. Lofty minds are lowly-minded. (6) Be a blessing. It is wrong to pay back evil for evil. There is no room in Christian conduct for resentment or retaliation. The very vocation of a Christian requires that he be a blessing to others. (7) Inherit a blessing. To bless others one must himself be blessed. For that purpose indeed we are permitted to obtain blessing "because a blessing is what you have been called by God to inherit" (Weymouth).

2. Obedience

Christian living in relation to the Word of God is marked by obedience. Peter's quotation of Scripture (Psalm 34:12-16) is very apt. (We note: (1) The Word of God defies right desire. The proper enjoyment of life is worthy. It is wrong not to love life in a noble sense. One may well wish to see good days. The Bible justifies the high hope of happy days. Every true aspiration is kindled and stimulated by the Bible. (2) The Word of God demands careful obedience. If one wishes to enjoy life and see happy days, there are some very positive things he must do. First, he must hold his tongue, for deceitful lips and an evil tongue cause misery and wretchedness rather than enjoyment. Second, turn away from evil, for any sort of sin is certain to destroy happiness, both of the sinner and of others. Third, do good as the sure counteractant of gloom and discord, for nobody can do better than to do right. Finally, seek peace as a definite goal and as a happy state of mind. (3) The Word of God declares personal responsibility. Before each individual there is either mercy or justice. First, there is mercy, for the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are attentive to their entreaty. But also there is justice, for he face of the Lord is set against wrong-doers. The Bible teaches individual accountability to God.

3. Courage

Christian living in relation to the world is marked by courage. Observe here a sevenfold call to courage: (1) Have courage to be zealous. If one is eager to do what is right he will fare better among his fellows than if he wavers or faints and flees. If one has

"a passion for goodness," who can really harm him after all? (2) Have courage to suffer. When one is persecuted for righteousness' sake he is rather to be envied than to be pitied. Let him be sure that the blows that fall upon him are because of his righteousness rather than his wrongdoing. (3) Have courage to stand threats. It takes fortitude of a high order to have no fear under a storm of threatening and abuse. But the courage to consecrate Christ in the heart. Put Christ on the pedestal of our inner nature. Reverence him as Lord in the heart. Dedicate the whole of self entirely and always to him. (5) Have courage to answer effectively. In the time of persecution the Christian may be called upon to account for the hope he cherishes. Let him be ready with a reply. But let the reply be gentle, cautious, respectful, for only thus can it be effective. (6) Have courage to be conscientious. There may be the temptation in dealing with the persecutors to outwit them in argument or to dazzle them with emotional eloquence or divert them from the main issue. Let one so behave under fire that he will come out with a clean conscience. (7) Have courage to await vindication. Is one hurt because of the slanders upon his good name? Let him know that those who libel his good Christian behavior may themselves be ashamed of their mischief. At any rate the day of complete vindication will surely come. But it takes courage to wait.

Gold in the Golden Text

As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. I Peter 1:15.

God is holy. He is perfect without any flaw. He is sinless without any fault. He is complete and infinite without any defect or limitation. Holiness is the top and the total of divine attributes.

God has called us. Though he is sinless and we are sinful, he called us out of the miry clay of our iniquities. That call was consistent with his holiness for it blended his mercy and his justice. It is the call to salvation from sin. It is a call to service in a good life.

God commands us to be holy. Be holy in the new heart he gives. Be holy in the high aim he inspires. Be holy "in all manner of conversation" which he plans for us and proposes through us.

God Himself is our Model and our Master. We must be like him before we can do what he says. And he will help us.

Home Daily Bible Readings

March 13—Growth in Grace, Colossians 1:9-14.

March 14—Living at One's Best. I Peter 3:8-18.

March 15—A More Abundant Life. Isaiah 58:6-11.

March 16—Purity of Speech. Psalm 34:1-6.

March 17—The Fulness of Christ. Ephesians 5:1-7.

March 18—Wrestling and Winning. Ephesians 6:10-19.

March 19—The Perfect Pattern. I Peter 4:1-5.

PROGRAM

Associational W. M. U. Mission Study Institute, University Baptist Abilene, Texas, March 21, 1939.

9:30, Devotional—Mrs. B. C. Rogers.

9:45, "His Golden Cycle"—Mrs. R. L. Brown, State M. S. Chairman. Class for W. M. S. and Y. W. A. Leaders.

10:30, "Darings In The Dawn" . . . Mrs. J. H. Dean. Class for Int. R. A. and G. A. Leaders.

11:15, "The Chinese Boat Baby"—Miss Verna Lee Carson. Class for Sunbeam Leaders.

11:45, Missionary Message—Mrs. R. L. Brown.

12:15, Lunch.

1:00, "Whirligigs in China"—Mrs. J. H. Hunt. Class for Junior R. A. and G. A. Leaders.

11:45, Class for W. M. S. and Y. W. A. Leaders as above.

2:30, Adjournment—To hear address by Kathleen Mallory, Southwide Executive Secretary, at First Baptist Church.

Books for above classes will be for sale.

This Institute is planned for leaders and prospective leaders of W. M. U. organizations. It is hoped that at least one leader for each organization will come from every local W. M. U. May we count on you?

All are welcome. Come, bring a covered dish.

DOCTRINAL

WHAT IS THE UNPARDONABLE SIN?

Millard A. Jenkins

Is there a sin unto death? What is that sin? How is it committed? What are its manifestations in a life where it has been committed?

That there is a sin unto death, the Apostle John declares (1 John 5:16). Jesus affirms that there is such a sin, and that there is no forgiveness for it, "neither in this world, nor in the world to come" (Matt. 12:32). When that sin is committed hope dies and destiny is fixed.

"There is a line by us unseen,
That crosses every path;
The hidden boundary between
God's patience, and His wrath.

"To pass that limit is to die,
To die as if by stealth;
It does not quench the beaming eye,
Nor pale the glow of health.

"How far may men go on in sin?
How long will God forbear?
Where does hope end, and where begin
The confines of despair?

"An answer from the skies is sent,—
"Ye that from God depart,
While it is called today, repent,
And harden not your heart!"

The sin against the Holy Ghost is the crossing of that line. That sin committed, the soul is left doomed and damned.

It is our conviction that that sin was not confined to the days of Christ's ministry and of the early church, but that it is a common sin today. Against its fatal committal is the Divine warning: "Because there is wrath, beware lest He take thee away with His stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee" (Job 36:18). God's statements are positive, direct, and easy to understand. When He says of the righteous that He will give unto them eternal life, and that they shall never perish, nor shall any one snatch them out of His hand (John 10:28), the soul that believes may dare to stand upon that promise and shout "Victory!" in the face of hell. And when He declares that He is a God of wrath against sin, and that He will not spare the guilty (Ex. 34:7), the soul that will not repent, set it down as a fact that he must make his bed in hell. There is a sin unto death the forgiveness of which we are told there is no use to pray.

God is a God of wrath as well as a God of love. Love despised means wrath kindled. He woos the sinner by His Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is a Person and may be resisted, vexed, tempted, grieved, driven away. Because there is wrath, God calls upon sinners to beware lest the stroke of that wrath fall upon them, and they find themselves hopelessly doomed forever.

His is not the wrath of a proud monarch against his disobedient subjects. It is not the wrath of strength against weakness. It is not the wrath of superiority over inferiority. It is the wrath of outraged love and despised mercy. It is the wrath of purity against impurity and of holiness against sin. He cannot be satisfied with any thing in a life short of righteousness, and righteousness means right relationship.

A man who had been sent up for ten years, escaped from Sing Sing Prison, went into another town in New York, changed his name, became successful in business, married a lovely Christian girl, and began rearing a family. One day an officer stepped into his store, and calling him by his name, said, "You are under arrest; you must go back to Sing Sing and serve out your sentence." The man said, "Yes, you've got me. Come with me to my home. I must explain to my wife and tell her goodbye." They went. He said, "Wife, have I been a good husband?" "Indeed you have; why such a question?" "Have I been a good father?" "Why, children never had a better father; I cannot understand." "Have I been a good citizen since you have known me? This is an officer of the law, and I want you to tell him." "Sir," said the wife, "I am sure I am unable to understand this; I have never known a better citizen." "Well," said the husband, "the name that you know me by is not my name. I broke away from Sing Sing prison, and came here determined to hide my identity and be a man, and I have tried to live as a good citizen should, but the law has found me out, and I must go back and serve out my sentence." What was wrong in that man's case? He was in right relationship to his wife, and to his children, and to his business friends, and to his community, but he was in wrong relationship to the state of New York. A sinner may have all the excellent qualities that place him in ethical relationship to his surroundings, but he

is in wrong relationship to God, and Christ died that he might be brought into right relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit comes to the sinner that He may work in him that work of righteousness, which will make him a child of God and an heir of heaven. But He may be resisted. He may be tempted, and grieved, and driven away by his steadfast refusal to accept God's offered mercy through His own dear Son. And when He leaves a sinner, then falls the stroke, the sin against the Holy Ghost, that puts him beyond the deliverance of the great ransom that was paid for his soul on Calvary's cross.

The ransom for sin is the blood of Christ.

"A second look He gave which said,
'I fully all forgive;
My blood is for thy ransom spilt,
I die that thou mayest live."

Christianity is not an argument. It is a fact. Christ is a fact. His death for our sins is a fact. Try ever so hard, you can't get away from the blood. Some of them are saying, "Leave the blood out of our songs." Why, if they ever do get to heaven that is the first thing they will hear them singing about. Up there Jesus is "the Lamb that was slain." But the thing God warns men against, is the possibility of going beyond the power of the blood of Christ to ransom them from sin, and the danger of falling beneath the stroke of His wrath from which there is no deliverance.

II

The stroke that puts a soul beyond the deliverance of the great ransom, is the sin against the Holy Spirit; the unpardonable sin; the sin for which there is no forgiveness, both in this world and the world that is to come. There are three things that invite this stroke. There are three ways by which the unpardonable sin may be committed.

1. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit. In Matt. 12:24-32 Jesus tells us that the unpardonable sin is committed by attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to the Devil. Jesus had healed the demon-possessed blind and dumb man "inasmuch that the blind and dumb both saw and spoke." Then came the taunt from the Pharisees, "This fellow doth not cast out demons, but by Beelzebub the prince of the demons." Jesus affirmed that the casting out of demons was through the power of the Holy Ghost, and that they had blasphemed Him in declaring His work was Satanic. "Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." If the curtain could be drawn and we could look into the regions of the damned today, we would see those very men there.

Dr. W. A. Nelson, father in the ministry to many of us younger preachers, told of a young man in the community where he grew up, who committed that sin. An old fashioned campmeeting was in progress. This young man got under conviction and went forward for prayer. When the gang he ran with ridiculed him he did not have the courage to stand. He joined in the ridicule of religion, and denounced the prayer-altar as a think of the Devil, and religion as a hoax, and said he was done with it forever. That night he turned to a cross-fence where a path led across the field to his home, while the others went on down the road. They had not gone far until they heard him say, "Come back! Come back!" They ran back and found him sitting on the fence with his arm upward stretched. They asked him "what do you want?" "Oh," he said, "I did not mean you. Go away. You can not help me. God's Spirit has left me, and I was trying to call Him back." Mr. Nelson said, "I knew and observed that young man from that time on. He never was known to again show any interest whatsoever in his soul. The war came on and he enlisted; and receiving a death-wound on the battle field he was carried to the rear where he died cursing God and man." Be careful how you speak of God's sacred and holy things. Satan tries to counterfeit what God does in His provision of grace, but woe to him who attributes to Satanic power the work of the Spirit of God!

2. Lying to the Holy Spirit. We have this forcefully illustrated in Acts 5:1-10. Persecution had broken out in Jerusalem, and the disciples had covenanted to preach Christ more fervently than they had ever done, and the Lord was showing mighty signs and wonders among them. That

none might lack the necessities of life they pooled all their interests and had things in common. What they did is not to be confused with the communism of today. They are as opposite as noonday and midnight. There were two among them, evidently professors but not possessors of the Christian life, who wanted to stand high in the praises of the disciples, professed to have done what Barnabas and the others had done, the giving of all they had to the common fund. They sold a possession and kept back part of the price, but came claiming that they had given it all. Peter told them frankly they had lied to the Holy Ghost. The price they got for the land was theirs. They were under no compulsion to give it. "Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto man, but unto God." Ananias fell down dead. His wife, not knowing what had taken place, came in with the same lie on her lips. They had "agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord," and she too "yielded up the ghost," and was buried by her husband.

Let the sinner beware of unkept promises to God. A young husband was seriously ill, and asked his Christian wife to send for her minister. "Ask God" he said, "to let me get up from this sickness. I am not ready to die. If He will let me live I will be a Christian." The minister and the wife prayed. The young man recovered, but did not become a Christian. Some months went by and he was dangerously ill again. He called for the minister, and said, "Tell God for me, if He will give me one more chance I will not go back on Him." Again prayer was made for his recovery, and again he was raised up. Some time went by, and the minister called to see him. "You are doing a very dangerous thing," he said. "God is not mocked. Twice you have promised, and you have not kept your word." "Well," said the man, "I can't be a Christian among my old surroundings. I am going to sell my business and move away where I can form new associates, and then I'll be a Christian." When the minister insisted that he had lied to God twice and that he was endangering his soul, the man got mad, and told him frankly he was not going to become a Christian now, and that if he went to hell it would be his soul lost, and that he wanted no further advice from him about it.

A few weeks passed, and the wife of that man went for this minister again. At the door she was weeping. "Come in," she said, "it is too late to do him any good, but I cannot go through it without you. He does not want to see you." "We went into his room," the minister said in relating the story, "and the poor fellow turned his dying eyes on me and said, 'The harvest is passed, the summer is ended, and I am not saved.' I tried to point him to Christ, but he would shake his head. I tried to pray, but the heavens were brass above me. As he breathed his last, his lips moved and I bent my ear to catch the whispered words, they were these: 'The harvest is passed, the summer is ended, and I am not saved.' The unpardonable sin may be committed by lying to God.

3. Resisting the Holy Spirit.

The Lord has declared "... My Spirit shall not always strive with man ..." (Gen. 6:3). The Holy Spirit may be resisted till He will go away grieved never to return. When He withdraws from one then there is no concern left about one's soul. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us concern. After the Holy Spirit leaves a man, an angel might preach to him, but he would remain unmoved. Suppose I were ill, and without medicine or food, or any one to care for me, and you should knock at my door and say, "I am come with medicine that will cure you, and food that will strengthen you, and I will nurse you till you are well," and I would say: "That is kind of you; perhaps sometime I may let you do some of those nice things for me, but not now." And you came next day and the next and the next only to be turned away, how long before you would cease coming at all?

The unpardonable sin may be committed by resisting the Holy Spirit till in grief He departs to come not again. The sinner can't come to Christ and be saved just any time. No one can come except when the Holy Spirit draws him. That is why God warns us, "Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, 'Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts ...'" (Heb. 3:7, 8).

Mr. Moody told of a young man who had been employed by his mother. He had noticed a sadness about the man, and one day while they were hoeing corn he asked him if he were in trouble about something. "Well," he said, "Dwight, I've made a mess of everything. I decided to leave home and go out into the world and seek my fortune. Mother begged me not to go, but nothing else would do me.

Others had gone out into the world and made fortunes, and so would I. She said, 'Then son, take this with you'; and she repeated Matt. 6:33, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' I said, 'No, I'll seek my fortune, and then I'll think about religion.' The first town I went to, I went to church the first Sunday, and up gets the preacher with Mother's text. Well, I thought she had posted him. I said, 'Not now, maybe some future time I will seek, but not now.' I failed to find work, and went to another town. The same thing occurred there. I wondered how mother was keeping up with me, but she surely was, and keeping the preachers informed about the text she had given me.

I failed to find work in that town, and so went on to another where I got a job, and for several Sundays I stayed away from church. When I went the preacher arose, and announced for his text Matt. 6:33, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' I knew mother had nothing to do with that, for she did not know I was there. I felt that it was God calling me. But I said, 'I won't! When I've accomplished something for myself I'll think about God.' There I fought my Waterloo, and there I lost forever. Since that day I have not had a religious impression. My heart is as hard as that rock," as he pecked it with his hoe.

Young Moody was not a Christian, and there was nothing he could do. Some time after that he went away to Boston to clerk in a shoe store and while there he was converted. Said he, "The first one I thought of was that man. I wrote my mother about him. In her reply she said she thought that I had been informed; he had lost his mind, and was at his old mother's home nearby, and spent his time rocking back and forth in a big rocking chair repeating a verse of Scripture. Said Mr. Moody, 'I knew at once what that passage of Scripture was.' He said, 'I made a trip back to the old home especially to see him. I found him mrooking away in the big rocking chair, and I said, 'Howdy! This is Dwight Moody; do you know me?' He ceased rocking and stared at me a moment, and then said, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,' and went back to rocking again. Reason had toppled from her throne, but mother's text was still there. He had resisted unto death, striving against the Spirit of God.

III

When the sin unto death has been committed, it manifests itself in different ways.

1. With Some It Is Indifference. They give religion, God, the future, their souls no thought at all. With them it is, "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Nothing religious attracts them. Nothing religious moves them. They are not enough concerned about religion to oppose it. All thought of it has been put out of their lives, and they just leave it alone. The soul becomes atrophied. The heart of flesh becomes a heart of stone.

2. With Others It Is Hatred of God. A man who got under conviction for sin in revival meeting and who threw it off and turned away from God, a year later met the minister who conducted that meeting. The minister asked him if he had got the matter settled with God, and he replied, "I hate God, and have no use for the church."

I think that explains the attitude of many today who oppose God, and

have nothing to do with the church, or with anything religious. They have sinned away their day of grace and have turned to hate the God whose love and mercy they have despised.

3. With Still Others It Is Despair. I think it accounts for many of the suicides. Not all of them, but many. The Devil who is the destroyer of faith is also the destroyer of life. Hell is his doom and he seeks the doom there also of the immortal souls of men created for God's glory.

In a Christian home a boy rebelled against its religious discipline, turned away from God, and went into a life of sin. The father died, but it did not move him. On in his life of sin he went. Then the mother died. He came home for the funeral. As they were about to close the coffin lid his sister kissed the white face, and said to him, "Kiss mother goodbye and tell her you will meet her in heaven." "You may," he said; "I will not, I am not going that way." Three days later they found him a suicide back of a beer saloon.

God has said, "Woe to him that striveth with his Maker" (Isa. 45:9). To resist the Holy Spirit is to trifle with one's soul. The rock is a bird, it is said, whose eggs are much sought after. It lays its eggs on the ledges

of the overhanging cliffs, and in order to reach them the gatherer must let himself down by a rope over the cliff and swing himself on to the ledge. The story goes that one, when he had accomplished this, lost hold of the rope and it swung out from him. But a breeze caused it to swing back towards him. To stay there he must die. To leap for the rope and miss it he must die. He took his chance and leaped and caught the rope and swung back to safety. When the Holy Spirit swings the rope of God's saving grace towards the sinner, then is the time to seize it, lest the opportunity pass and come not again forever.

"The Spirit calls, how blest the day!
How sweet the Gospel's charming sound!

Come sinner, haste, O haste away,
While yet a pardoning God is found."

The accepted time is the new time.
Today is the day of salvation.

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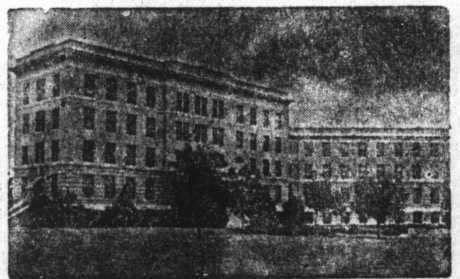
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MY LIFE'S PURPOSE

By Bobbie Copeland, H.-S. U. '42

(An address before District 17 Convention)

But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33.

Jesus had waves of popularity and unpopularity, but much of the popularity was very superficial and the people were really insincere. They did not quite comprehend what following Jesus meant. So the Master turned on them one day and asked if they were willing to follow him no matter what the cost. In the world today many of us face precisely this same problem. We say we are willing to follow Christ, but when we count the cost we decide it is too great.

Counting the cost means to look at the facts squarely in the face and then to stand the consequences. It is making an honest, intelligent survey of the facts before one launches out on an undertaking.

The life that counts for Christ must toil and fight for the right no matter what the cost.

God is yearningly looking for great surrender. Surrender is the answer to every problem, the key to every spiritual door, and the supplier of all peace. It was Moody who said, "God is not looking for golden vessels but clean ones and empty ones." Be they ever so clean, unless they are fully surrendered to God there is very little use in them.

God has a plan for every life, and it is only through surrender and communication with Him that we find His will for our lives.

It was at Lueders Encampment two years ago that I fully surrendered my life to God. I could hardly see how he could use a life of as little importance as mine, and doubted the call for sometime. It was under the leadership of our fine district young people's leader and our own district missionary, that several young people surrendered their lives for special service. Lueders Encampment has done much to influence the young people of this district for Christ. If you have not been sending young people from your church to the camps do so this summer. We have a glorious time winning the lost for Christ. The idea of prayer mates had been put before us, and each young person on the grounds had someone with whom to pray daily. One afternoon three of our intermediate girls were down on the river bank praying when it began to rain. They kept on praying until they were sure God had heard their prayers. They did not mind the rain if they could only see a lost soul brought to the fold. That camp was built within a fence of prayer.

My main purpose in life is to see more souls saved, but for the achievement of this purpose a college education is essential. I feel that God has a definite plan for my life, and I am preparing to go wherever he may lead, at home or abroad.

At the beginning of the school year it looked as if I could have to wait awhile before entering college. In the meantime I received a letter from a cousin in California, who has been wanting me to come and stay with her. She said if I would give up my work here and come out there I could really enjoy life. She said I could do as I pleased, and she would give all the comforts possible. Of course all the young people want to have a good time, but I felt that if God had really called me He would open the way for me to enter school. I put my faith in Him even though doubts began to form before me, and promised to do his will if he would only open the way for an education.

I came to the Associational meeting at the First Baptist Church, Abilene, and Mrs. Moore told me I had been chosen as one of the scholarship students. I was so happy that when they called on me to speak, I could hardly speak. My heart leaped for joy. My prayer had been answered. I knew God would never fail.

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself, what kind of a life am I living

Can the lost see Jesus in me? If we as Christians do not let our lost friends see that we have something that they do not have, we are not letting our lights shine for God.

I said, "Let me walk in the fields." He said, "Nay, walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there." He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the air is thick, And the clouds are veiling the sun." He answered, "Hearts are sick And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "But the sky is black There is nothing but noise and din." And he wept as he turned me back. "There is more than that, there is sin."

I said, "I will miss my friends, And my friends will miss me, they say." And he answered, "Chose tonight Whether I will miss you or they."

I took one look at the fields, Then set my face toward the town. He said, "My child do you yield? Do you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into his hand went mine, Into my heart came he. Now I tread in the light divine The path I had feared to see.

D. H. JEFFERIES ANNOUNCES FOR MAYOR OF ABILENE



D. H. Jefferies, 28 years a business man in Abilene, has announced as candidate for the office of mayor of the city of Abilene in the city election of April 4, stating that he has done so at the request of many of his friends and tax payers who have urged him to present himself for this high office.

During his years in Abilene Mr. Jefferies has been active in his church, civic clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, the West Texas Fair, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts, the schools and other organizations for the betterment of the community.

"I have no axe to grind with the present administration," he states. "They are all my friends and will be classified as such regardless of the outcome of this election. I am not making this race on the demerits of my opponents but merely upon my own merits and the belief that the people of Abilene are willing and ready to give an untiring worker and fellow citizen a chance to serve them."

"I love this city. I love its people. I am very thankful for the good fortune it has seen fit to bestow upon me, and I cannot help but swell my bosom with pride in the accomplishments of this great little city during the past twenty-five years, and have some feeling of self satisfaction in that I have done my small part as a taxpayer and a citizen in helping it to attain its present degree of development."

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President's Report--

(Continued From Page 1)

On four different occasions each church with a pastor has been contacted in the association and while I am sorry to say, the response has been meager, nevertheless the results attained have shown a marked increase from that heretofore manifest.

The objectives for the year of 1938 have been presented to the various associations and the recommendations to the respective local Brotherhoods show clearly their willingness to co-operate with their pastors respectively on the field, in the pastor's suggestion of definite work, aims, and objectives that he, the pastor, desired accomplished.

More and more our pastors are beginning to understand, to appreciate and to use our men and I am very grateful for the many new Brotherhoods that have been organized and are functioning throughout this 17th District during his year's work. Everywhere you turn it is encouraging to note the very great interest with which our men are accepting the challenge.

The 1939 challenge, in co-operation with the movement of the Southern Baptist Convention to evangelize the south, in the effort to mobilize a million men for Christ for 1940 is progressing at a fine rate in this District. The further objective to loyally support the local church to accept the Bible and the Biblical way of giving their tithes and offering through the church, their willingness to conform with the local and denominational activities, aims and programs through the medium of our papers and periodicals is certainly complimentary. Our aim toward personal evangelism in co-operation with our local churches and pastors is producing results wholly unexpected. The enlistment of uninitiated men and the giving to them a place of service has been trebled this past year and in so doing the first major objective shows to be a great momentum in that our men are loyally behind our pastors and evangelists in the campaign of soul winning. The missionary feeling has advanced in such a rapid state that we are pleased to report that some of our finest mission work imaginable is being done with a great soul winning campaign in each of the fields.

May I, in closing say that the co-operation of our beloved missionaries, and the great pastors, and all are great, are so encouraging and strengthening that I feel sure in predicting that strides not anticipated, advances not dreamed of and results unmeasurable will be ours during this 1939 District year, and again I have you to thank for the place of service in this great movement which you have honored me with and to the Pastors and the missionaries I express my sincere thanks for their wholehearted cooperation and to the men of the District I pay humble tribute to their loyalty, engerness and earnestness in the Master's work.

Respectfully submitted,
E. S. CUMMINGS,
Brotherhood 1 res. 17th Dist.

MISSIONARY MESSAGES

(Continued From Page 1)

night. Please continue to pray for us.

Pastor Trott reports that there were five conversions and seven additions the two Sundays following their recent B. T. U. revival. It was a revival, thank the Lord. Miss Helen Turnidge, Miss Bobbie Wash and Byron Fletcher assisted us in the revival.

The Callahan workers meeting at Clyde last Tuesday was well attended. Brother H. D. Blair, missionary in Cisco association, brought the closing message.

DISTRICT NINE GOES TO TAHOKA IN 1940

Tahoka will be host on March 12, 1940 to the annual convention of District Nine which met this year at Lubbock.

Over 2,000 individuals were in attendance at the 1939 sessions from the 175 churches in twenty counties and seven associations.

The following District officers were elected: Mrs. L. Lumsden, W. M. U. President; Mrs. B. W. Baker, W. M. U. Recording Secretary; Mrs. R. E. L. Farmer, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. D. C. Hamilton, Sunday School President; L. E. Waite, B. T. U. President; and Mrs. A. T. Cocanougher, Secretary-Treasurer. Other district officers are: Rev. C. E. Hereford, District Evangelistic Organizer, and Rev. A. C. Huff, District Missionary.

Great Britain's drink bill in 1937 was up by thirteen million pounds. The British have consumed more beer, wines and spirits during the past five years. Convictions for drunkenness have increased 55 per cent with beer the main cause of drunkenness. Brewery profits are soaring. The increase in drink is attributed to trade pressure compelling extension of hours.

"I predict that when accurate and complete figures become available upon the relation of alcohol to traffic accidents, upon a national scale, you will find that sixty per cent or more of your highway accidents are traceable to the use of alcohol at the wrong time and place," declares Hon. Harry H. Porter, Chief Justice of the Municipal Court of Evanston, Illinois.

Cowboy Band Is Praised On Sunday Program

Praise for the Cowboy Band's sacred concert at the First Baptist Church, in Houston, given on the Sunday the musicians were in the city for their annual Fat Stock Show engagement, has been received from Rev. Walter Jackson, assistant pastor of the church.

In a letter to G. B. Sandefer, the band manager, the Rev. Mr. Jackson writes: "Everyone seemed to be thrilled by the band's performance. We are glad the band came this way, and will consider it a privilege to have the boys with us again should the occasion arise."

The band gave several church programs in Houston churches on the Sunday the musicians were in that city, asking to be excused from their show engagement for the day. The Houston trip boosted the band's travel mileage to 14,000 since last August when it went to Washington for the National Letter Carriers' convention.

SENTENCE SERMONS

O. D. HENLEY

It is sometimes unfortunate to be fortunate.

Barbarity is not bravery. Imitate the best and not the rest. Determination helps reach destination.

The world will go on when you are gone.

It takes more than philosophy to prevent tragedies.

Cross-wearing is more popular than cross-bearing.

God's children ought to be working or getting ready to work.

God operates no cold storage business.

It is easily possible to have a poor existence and a rich life; but it is absolutely impossible to have a poor life and a rich existence.

The work of the Catholic papers has been most praiseworthy. They have been an effective auxiliary to the pulpit in spreading the faith.—Pope Benedict XV.

CHURCH BULLETIN SECTION

O. K. CHURCH

Sunday School—10:30 a. m.

B. Y. P. U.—7:30 p. m.

God has not called us to be successful but we can be faithful.

Meet your Sunday School Superintendent Sunday morning at 10:30 a. m.

Lord's Supper, March 26th.
SAM E. BRIAN, Pastor.
JOE SNELLGROVE, Supt.

BRADSHAW

All our services were marked by good interest the past Sunday. Let us talk, pray and work for our church and community. We regret that some of our people are sick and not able to attend services at this time. We wish for you a speedy recovery.
HAROLD RUSS, Pastor.

ELMDALE

1939 Goals For Sunday School
1. Increase enrollment to 175.
2. Organize and standardize classes above Junior Department.
3. Enroll all resident church members in Sunday School.
4. Enlist unchurched Baptists in community.
5. Average attendance of 100.
6. Start a church library.

WHAT BAPTISTS WILL FIND AT OKLAHOMA CITY

(Continued From Page 1)

ual passion glorifying Jesus Christ as Savior.

The local Baptists are preparing for one of the greatest movements for soul-winning in the city and around the city as they have ever known of, and in the Convention itself there will be a mighty heart-beat for a lost world.

I join Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Baptists, the Baptists of the Southwest, in urging the people from every section to come. Come by highways, airways, railways, and (if no other way) hickways. Come praying, expectant, hopeful, purposeful. Come to win somebody to Christ; come to make a new consecration of self and powers; come to contribute your best praying and your deepest-felt tears and your highest-exhibited purposes for another great leap into the problem of bringing the world to Christ. Don't fail to come!

The churches must send their pastors and their missionaries. All the evangelists must come; people who are leaders and who are not, among the men and women of all sorts, ought to plan today to get to Oklahoma City and get there in time. The joy of the fellowship of such a meeting ought to draw us; the inspiring messages ought to draw us; the throb of a greater evangelism ought to draw us; we ought to yield to the impulsive Spirit of God in His demand to have us go. Be there at the fall of the gavel of each of these three great meetings and stay there until the last Sunday night, when we hope there will be the greatest single preaching hour in the auditorium that night we have known in the triumphant history of Southern Baptists.

First Church, Vernon, is engaged this week in a five day school of evangelism.

Even from the body's purity the mind receives a secret sympathetic aid.—Thomson.

GILLESPIE

Preaching this Sunday as usual. Services at 10 a. m. and 7 p. m. Again we rejoice in the blessings that the Lord gave us through our district Missionary. Let us pray for him as he goes to our sister churches carrying on his constructive work.

Dr. Massee, a well known Baptist evangelist, suggests a good motto for a church, "The light that shines farthest, shines brightest at home." A worthy motto for us!

EDWARD FREELAND, Pastor.

PROGRAM

Workers' Conference, Jones Association, March 21, Lueders, Texas

10:00, Songs and Prayers—L. B. Harden.

10:15, Devotional Keynote—V. R. Bliss.

10:35, "Before the Revival"—J. H. Skiles.

11:00, "After the Revival"—L. A. Doyle.

11:25, Special Music, Announcements.

11:30, Sermon—O. D. Henley.

12:00, Lunch.

1:30, W. M. U. and Board Meeting.

2:15, Business.

2:30, Sermon—J. Gorden, Dandig-nac.

J. E. STOWE ANNOUNCES FOR CITY COMMISSION



J. E. Stowe, dealer in real estate and rentals, whose home is 2137 Idlewild, Abilene, announced recently as candidate for the Abilene city commission, place Number 2.

Mr. Stowe has been a resident of Abilene since 1920, when he moved here from Colorado, Texas. He had served four years as county treasurer of Mitchell county and was in his second two-year term as city secretary and tax collector when he moved to Abilene to educate his children, three of whom have already finished college here.

During the Abilene years he has been active in church and civic affairs.

"I have had considerable experience in governmental affairs and feel that I can be of service to my fellow townsmen as a city commissioner," said Mr. Stowe. "I believe in a clean, progressive city and in the up-building of Abilene. Needless to say, I will greatly appreciate the help and support of the electorate."

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