

THE WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

VOLUME II.

ABILENE, TEXAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1925.

NUMBER 3

EXECUTIVE BOARD HOLDS IMPORTANT MEETING; OFFICERS ELECTED FOR NEW YEAR

The newly elected Executive Board of the Baptist General Baptist Convention of Texas held its first meeting at Dallas on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Mr. R. E. Burt of Dallas was re-elected president of the Board. Pastor Forrest Smith of Fort Worth was selected as vice president and Mr. Geo. J. Mason was re-elected treasurer and secretary of the Board. Dr. F. S. Groner was re-elected corresponding secretary.

Most of the committee meetings were held on Monday preceding the regular Board meeting so that when the Board met business was dispatched in a speedy and harmonious manner.

Mr. T. C. Gardner was re-elected secretary of the B. Y. P. U. department and Mr. John Taylor of the B. S. U. work. Mr. G. S. Hopkins, educational director of Cliff Temple, Dallas was elected to take the place of W. P. Phillips, who recently resigned as secretary of the Sunday School work in Texas to become secretary of the adult and young people's work of the Sunday School Board at Nashville.

The present staff of the Evangelistic Department was re-elected. The staff is composed of W. Y. Pond, superintendent and B. E. Blaylock and Joe Jeffers evangelists. Dr. T. V. Herndon was re-elected Budget Director and Rev. R. A. Scanton, assistant. The officers of field secretaries and publicity director were abolished.

According to the Baptist Standard the policies committee reported the current indebtedness of the Board at \$762,658.45, or a total current and bonded indebtedness of \$1,345,658.45. This is a little less than the total current and bonded indebtedness of the board in 1919, which at that time was \$1,369,750.38.

The matter of refunding \$500,000 of the Board's indebtedness was discussed at the Dallas meeting and a committee was appointed for this purpose. This committee is composed of R. E. Burt, Harold Majors, F. M. McConnell, F. S. Groner and Geo. J. Mason.

WINTERS YOUNG PEOPLE ORGANIZE VOLUNTEER BAND

Those members of the First Baptist Church, Winters, some twelve or fifteen in number, who had definitely surrendered their lives to be used by their Lord in any field He might call them met last Sunday night after the evening services and organized a volunteer band thus, further, signifying their willingness to be used of the Lord that His work might be advanced not only here in Winters, but out to the ends of the world.

This volunteer band had charge of the evening services at the Baptist Church Sunday night, Dec. 20, 1925, and rendered the following program:

Opening prayer and song service. Quartet.

A review of recent weeks activities—Claude Gregory.

The Volunteer Band. Who and What are its members—Miss Adah Barber.

The Object of the Band and How to Reach It—Chas. Dorsett.

Solo—Otho Caldwell.

The Band and the Pastor; Their Relation—Miss Velma Jeffries.

My Responsibility as a Member of the Volunteer Band—Perry Barber.

Song—Entire Band.

Prayer.

What the Volunteer Band Means to its Members—A. H. Lovvorn.

Scripture Reading and Comment—Brother W. H. McGuire.

TEXAS SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER JOINS STAFF OF SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Following a successful experience of ten years as head of the Sunday School Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, William P. Phillips has just joined the staff of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville as secretary of the Organized Class Department, this place having remained vacant for a year, following the death of Harry L. Strickland. In the future the department will give itself to strengthening the Young People's and Adult Departments rather than the individual classes, the aim being to so reinforce these departments as to enable them to develop a number of strong organized classes.

RE-ELECTED CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF TEXAS BAPTIST CONVENTION



Dr. F. S. Groner

LUEDERS CHURCH REMEMBERS FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

Lueders Baptist Church remembered the Foreign Mission Board and its heavy debt in a humble way. When the pastor came back from the convention and made the report about the heavy debt on the Board, the W. M. U. started a campaign for a special offering for the Board which was swelled to \$50.00 yesterday.

Our women have been doing a great work at Lueders this year. They do not give "suppers" but work with their own hands for what they give to the cause. When we took our offering for the 1925 program they put a nice sum in the collection. They are giving a like amount to a Buckner Orphans' Home.

We had a very touching scene yesterday in the collection. One good woman said she wanted to say a word. Said she had planned to get her a new dress this fall, but did not feel that she could do that with such a heavy debt on the board, but would make over her old one and give the money to the Lord's cause, which she did. And some children came up after the benediction and gave their Christmas money. Such a spirit as this will win out for God.

Our women here have put in the whole year almost in studying mission. The W. M. U. here is small, but they are a power for God.

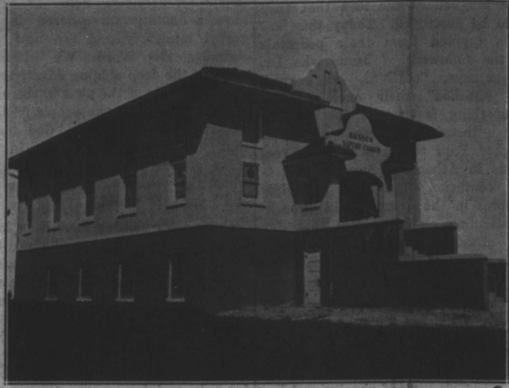
—J. J. Gentry.

ORGANIZED CLASSES TO HEAR BIG TALENT

Outstanding talent among Southern Baptists will appear on the program of the next annual Organized Bible Class Conference that will be held in Birmingham January 12-14, it is announced by Dr. I. J. Van Ness, corresponding secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, who has given general supervision to the work of that department during the past year, when the secretaryship of the department has been vacant, due to the death a year ago of Harry L. Strickland.

Among the speakers announced for the general sessions, all of whom are well-known for their distinctive contributions to the departments of Sunday school, evangelistic and general denominational work which they will discuss, are Dr. Wallace Bassett, pastor of Cliff Baptist Temple, Dallas, the outstanding church of the denomination in the matter of teacher-training and other phases of educational work; Dr. W. H. Knight, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., who has had more than 500 additions to his church by baptism during the past year; Dr. R. G. Lee, of the First Baptist Church, New Orleans, who has done a distinctive work along both Sunday school and general congregational lines in that city; Dr. L. R. Scarborough, president of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, and former director of the 75 Million Campaign, as well as a distinguished evangelist, who will bring a message calculated to enlist the full forces of the whole program of the denomination.

Drasco Church Bldg., Runnels County



SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY WILL LAY CORNERSTONE FOR NEW MUSIC BUILDING

(By Louis A. Myers)

On January 10th, 3 o'clock p. m., the Southwestern Baptist Seminary has planned a Corner Stone Laying ceremony, the only one of its kind of which Baptists have any record. The occasion is the construction of a handsome \$300,000.00 building dedicated to Gospel Music.

Speakers at the ceremony will be: Dr. L. R. Scarborough, President of the institution; Professor I. E. Reynolds, Director of the School of Music; and Dr. F. S. Groner, General Secretary of the Baptist work in Texas. The special prayer will be led by Dr. Forrest Smith, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. A large concourse of musical artists will be an interesting and inspiring feature. If the weather will permit the meeting will be in the open air about the new building and where adequate room may be had for the large number expected to attend.

The chapel building nearby will be used if the weather is not fair. Rooms, studios, practice rooms, a study hall, a reception room, a spacious assembly hall, and an equipment modern and commensurate with the needs of a building of this kind. A large pipe-organ will make possible the expansion of the pipe-organ department for sometime needed by the institution. Building and equipment will be adequate to efficiently care for an enrollment of 250 Gospel Music students, and the interest stimulated by the new building with increased teaching facilities is expected to materially increase the enrollment in this department of Seminary work. The building will be known as the George E. Cowden Music Hall. It was the gift of Mrs. George E. Cowden of Fort Worth, that made the building possible. It is expected that the new building will be ready for occupancy by the close of the session.

At the present time the Gospel Music faculty includes the following teachers: I. E. Reynolds, Director of the School; B. B. McKinney, Professor of Harmony and Composition; E. L. Garnett, Professor of Theory and History of Music; Edwin McNeely, Professor of Voice; J. Frank Cheek, Professor of Voice; W. B. Moore, Director Piano Department; Mrs. L. R. Elliott, instructor in piano; Mrs. Edwin McNeely, instructor in piano; Mrs. Zula Meadows, teacher in voice; Mrs. Katherine Cole, teacher in voice; P. H. Medsker, Director of Orchestra and Band; and J. N. Josey, teacher of pipe-organ.



THE HOLY NATIVITY

Text: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."—Isa. 9:6.

By Millard A. Jenkins, Pastor First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas.

Again we celebrate the greatest, the grandest, and the most glorious event recorded in the world's history—the holy nativity of the Son of God. We have therefore a theme which is above every theme, and one which I trust we will prayerfully consider, for the comfort, the consolation, and the inspiration it affords, and for some of the many lessons it may teach us.

This is a most momentous hour in the history of any family when another life is ushered into existence, another living soul incarnated. Parental care is increased, a new eternity dates from that moment, and another living soul must be won for Christ or lost forever.

Beautiful and appropriate is the custom of celebrating these days, and down into the seventies, and eighties, and nineties, the re-occurrence of this day in an old man's life calls forth recognition and congratulation.

Nations have their birthdays and the birthdays of their heroes, benefactors, and deliverers. On the fourth of July and twenty-second of February, business gives way to oration and banquet and bell ringing and cannonade; but those and all other birthdays are tame compared with the festivities which celebrate the incarnation of the blessed Christ. Of course you will not understand me to refer to the carnal revelries and indulgences which so often prevail, but to both Protestant and Catholic, who with all the power of music and grandeur and decoration and procession and doxology and humble devotion, put into national, continental, and hemispherical chorus the words of our text: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Who would forbid our joy? Who would not be grateful this Christmas

Day? Shall the christian's lips be mute and the christian's heart be cold? Nay, this shall be a day of soul jubilee:

"O blessed Lord that thou shalt come, To save thy people here on earth; With joy we'll sing of thee our king, Commemorate thy lowly birth."

The Birth Place.

First, I would have you pause with me and view the birth place of our king. At this time the world was all astir. The imperial pride of Rome demanded that throughout the dominion of Caesar, all the people should be enrolled for taxation. This necessitated their going to the places of their birth, so that the register might be kept according to the genealogy of their tribe and family. With as pomp and parade, some in gorgeously decorated chariots, some on camels, some on dromedaries, they drew up into the crowded streets of Bethlehem, there was a poor couple, Joseph and Mary who had made their way across the distant hills on foot or as best they could. Amid all this display, in the jostling crowds they were unnoticed, and when they sought lodging in the Inn it was not afforded them. The only place in Bethlehem that night which offered them shelter was the stable of the ox on the hillside. While here, far away from home and friends, Mary the blessed woman and chosen instrument, who could say to the angel, "Behold the hand-maid of the Lord; be it unto me according as thou wilt," brought forth her first born, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

Why did God choose so lowly a birth for His Son? Why not in a palace? Why not in some royal court? Ah! He would teach the world its greatest lesson in humility; that to be humble is to be God-like. (Continued on Page Four)

DRASCO CHURCH IN RUNNELS COUNTY HAS MODEL NEW BUILDING

BUDGET FOR DRASCO BAPTIST CHURCH 1926

Pastor's Salary	\$ 900.00
Buckner Orphans' Home	300.00
Associational Missions	200.00
Incidentals:	
1. Janitor's Salary	200.00
2. Fuel	100.00
3. Literature	200.00
4. Upkeep and Insurance	185.00
5. Pastor's Trip to the Convention	50.00
For the 1926 Co-operative Program	1000.00
Total	\$3185.00

The Drasco Baptist Church was organized in 1908, with only a few members. This church was then in a county that was not so thickly settled as it is now. As the country has developed the church has kept pace with it. They have had four pastors. One of which served for eleven years. There men that have gone before me have wrought well. They have laid the foundation well.

When we entered the field three years ago, we found the people already trained to give in a great way. They were soul winners and through their efforts many have been led to Christ. They had an old frame one-room building. The Sunday School was small and poorly attended. Their membership numbered about one hundred and fifty. They had no B. Y. P. U. at all.

Two years ago there was a move started to build a new and better house of worship. The move was welcomed by all of the members and the church has had the encouragement of all the community. We wanted to build to take care of all the work. So this is the outcome, we have a building now that is forty feet wide, sixty feet long, basement with concrete floor and ten Sunday school rooms in it. The walls are twenty-eight feet from the bottom to the top, of solid reinforced concrete, the walls are plastered and stuccoed to hide the raw rough walls. The building is covered with Spanish tile, has the old mission front. We have, as you see from the picture, the name of the church on the front. We have an auditorium that will seat about seven hundred. Five Sunday School rooms in the balcony and around the pulpit. The building is lighted by Delco lights and heated by a hot air furnace. The building and what equipment we have cost us about twelve thousand dollars.

The church has along with its building done some other things as well. We have had one hundred and eighty-five additions in the last three years. About one half of them have been by baptism. Our enrollment in the Sunday School department has almost reached the two hundred mark. The Sunday School is organized in departments and is constantly growing. We have also four B. Y. P. U.'s, a Sunbeam Band, Y. W. A. and G. A., and a good W. M. S.

There have been about three hundred and fifty awards given to the work done by the members of the church in the last three years. These have been in the Sunday School, B. Y. P. U., and the ladies work. They have also licensed two preachers in that time.

We have not put all our money into our home work but have kept up the other causes as well. We have borne our part of the associational work and the outside causes too. We have paid for our church building and have given more to the mission causes than ever before. That is, we have given a thousand dollars to the mission causes and three hundred dollars to Buckner Orphans' Home, furnished a room in the Baptist Hospital at Abilene, carried a local budget of almost two thousand dollars, everything paid for and still going on in the work.

On the fifteenth of last November the last notes were burned and the building was dedicated. The sermon was preached by Dr. W. F. Fry of Simmons University. Our hearts are happy and we expect to do more for the Master this coming year than ever before.

John M. Riddell, Pastor.

At a recent service at the South Side Church, Abilene, over eleven hundred dollars was raised to finish paying the indebtedness of the church. Pastor J. C. Burkett states that the building will be dedicated on the First Sunday in January. This church, under the leadership of Dr. Burkett has made a remarkable record, and in the next issue of the West Texas Baptist will appear an interesting article on the work of the church.

MISSIONARY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SIMMONS UNIVERSITY IN FEBRUARY

PRESIDENT SANDEFER SENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS TO FRIENDS OF SIMMONS U.



The fall quarter of Simmons University is past. The records have been written. I am happy to announce to friends everywhere that from the standpoint of numbers, standard of work accomplished by students and the general spirit that has characterized the quarter's work that it has, in my judgment, surpassed that of any other thus far in the history of the institution since my connection with it.

I take a moment here to express the deepest sense of gratitude of which I am capable to all friends and patrons who have in any way made possible the achievements of Simmons to now, and especially to those who are rallying to the institution in these times that call for friends willing to contribute and even sacrifice to have a share in bearing the burdens and responsibilities devolving upon those of us here in authority.

Every reader of this brief message can and I feel will be happy to say a word during the holiday season to some worthy young man or young woman who needs council and encouragement to enter Simmons University. Each of you can render this service and eternity alone will reveal the consequences in achievements of young men and young women who are educated in this western christian university. You can do more than this. You can pray for our spiritual and material and social welfare. Many of you can do more even than the above. You can assist us in a material way, that at this time, will mean more than any of you can know. I am praying that this thought may find expression in your thinking to the point of its becoming a real fruition here for our King.

I want to convey to every friend and lover of Simmons University greetings to the effect that a merry Christmas and a happy New Year abound in the lives of each of you. Grateful beyond adequate words of expression for any impulse you may have had or for any service you have rendered in the past or that you may render in the future, I am, gratefully, J. D. Sandefer.

RESOLUTION

God in His infinite wisdom and love thought it best to take from among us little Claudie Mae Phillip, aged four, on December 3rd. All who knew her loved her. She was a little Sunbeam scattering sunshine where ever she went. Like the beautiful rose, though withered and fallen to the earth its fragrance hangs around it still. So with Claudie Mae, though called to heaven, the fragrance of her life will be sweet to all who knew her until we meet on the other shore. Our loss has been great by her going; but heaven has been made richer and a stronger cord now binds us to heaven that could have been otherwise.

One who loved her.

VIRGINIA HOSPITAL GETS \$75,000 GIFT

Through a special gift of \$75,000, made by Mrs. Annie C. Mundy, of Natural Bridge, Virginia, the Virginia Baptist Hospital, at Lynchburg, is able to complete the second unit of its plant and the trustees have decided to name it the Mundy Memorial Building. Mrs. Mundy desires that the structure shall stand as a memorial to her late husband, James A. Mundy, who died in 1921; her daughter, Annie Mae Mundy, who died in 1917, and herself. The building will be completed about June 1, 1926, and will contain 52 bedrooms.

The West Texas Baptist is in receipt of a program of the West Texas Missionary Training School to be held at Simmons University beginning on February 11. The program, which will be published in the next issue of the paper, calls for three days conference. Drs. Scarborough, Groner, Herndon, Mrs. Leigh and other State workers will be present to take part on the program. Dr. W. F. Fry of the Bible department of Simmons is scheduled to deliver a series of addresses on "The Missionary Message of the New Testament." The entire program will be published in the next issue of the West Texas Baptist. In the mean time, make your plans to be in Abilene for this great conference. The good people of Abilene will provide entertainment for all visitors.

The revival beginning November 15 which was preceded by 10 days prayer meeting, the most far reaching in conversions, reclamations, and additions in church's history. Pastor A. Rilly Copeland of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Waco, did the preaching. Feature of meetings, every convert joined the church.

News Notes

Brother George W. Carmack, for nearly forty years a citizen of the Murray community in Young County, died recently as a result of injuries received when he fell from a wagon loaded with feed. For many years he was a faithful member of the Murray church and his council will be greatly missed in the community.

The suggested quota for the Sweetwater Association for the coming convention year for the cooperative work is \$19,250. At the next meeting of the Board with the Live Oak Church at Nubia at the January Worker's Conference, the matter will be taken up with a view of placing all of our churches 100 per cent behind the work for the year.

A report of the chief of Chaplains to the War Department of our government shows that there are 1115 chaplains in the reserve corps of the army. These were distributed among the denominations in the following manner: Roman Catholic 218, Protestant Episcopal 163, Presbyterian 159, Baptist 135, Congregational 55, Disciples of Christ 36, Christians 13, Unitarian 10, Christian Science 6, Evangelical 7, Dutch Reformed 4, Church of Christ 3, Protestant Episcopal Reformed 3, Reformed in America 3, Reformed in United States 8, Salvation Army 3, Lutheran 54, Jewish 17, United Brethren 6, Universalist 6, Methodist 221.

The offering of the Drasco church last Sunday for Buckner Orphans' Home amounted to \$132.86. This church has given the home this year through the regular budget \$300 and the budget for the coming year includes a like amount.

Dr. R. C. Pender preached at the First Church, Abilene last Sunday and presented the work of the Orphans' Home. The collection amounted to about \$900. This great church has given to the home this year \$3,000. We are glad to report that Sister Pender is still improving. She was carried home from the West Texas Baptist Sanitarium last Saturday.

Rev. N. E. McGuire who recently accepted the call of the Scranton church has been called recently by the Pleasant Valley Church.

We understand that the Baird church has called Rev. Joe R. Mayes, and that he has accepted the work and will move on the field by the first of the year. Since his graduation from the Southwestern Seminary of Fort Worth last year, Brother Mayes has been doing missionary work in the Uvalde Association. He is one of the best pastors that the West has produced and we rejoice in the fact that he is coming back home.

The West Texas Baptist

SAM MALONE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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COUNTRY CHURCH PROBLEM

Much has been said in recent years about the country church problem. It is one of the most vital problems confronting our Baptist people. Any denomination that loses its grip on the rural section is surely doomed to a great decline, both in membership and in endeavor.

We know of no rural community in Texas where more is being done to really solve the country church problem than the Drasco church in Runnels County. The editor visited this church last Sunday. A write up of the church and a picture of the building will be found in this issue.

The building is modern in every particular and is planned to care for a large Sunday School organization. The plant with its Delco lighting system, air heating system, three pianos in various departments, and the artistic finish of the building, is a wonderful monument to the progressiveness of the people and their pastor, Rev. John M. Riddell, who is now pastoring the church from the Southwestern Seminary at Ft. Worth. It is the plan of the church to erect a pastor's home in the near future and then have a pastor on the field. The church is successfully working the budget plan of financing, all phases of the work being on the budget. So successfully did the budget work the past year that over \$400 was transferred from the fund and applied to the building fund.

The West Texas Baptist is not carrying its usual run of news items this issue. At this glad season of the year we would hardly expect our friends over the West to be much concerned about sending in items. However, we are publishing some fine timely articles in this issue that are well worth reading. The Christmas sermon by Dr. Jenkins will strike a responsive cord in the heart of every reader of this paper. Dr. Jenkins has promised to contribute regularly to our sermon department. We are asking other preachers to contribute to this department. If you have a good sermon that you would not mind passing on to our readers, condense it down to about one or one and a half columns and send it in.

We are asking our readers to always bear in mind that the West Texas Baptist is published only Semi-Monthly. Sometimes complaints are made that the paper is not being received regularly, and upon investigation we have found, invariably, that the reader was of the impression that the paper was a weekly. Very often some of our readers ask when we are going to make the paper a weekly. We feel that the present plan of publishing a semi-monthly will meet the need of a paper in this section and at the same time will not in any way interfere with the circulation of our great denominational paper, the Baptist Standard. With our present clubbing rate of \$2.00 per year for both the Standard and West Texas Baptist, pastors and other workers should be able to place both papers in hundreds of homes where a denominational paper is not now coming. We want it understood that we are in sympathy and full cooperation with Dr. Routh and the Standard and we would rejoice to see every Baptist in this great section take our denominational paper. However, as there are hundreds of our homes where a denominational paper is not coming and many of these could be easily induced to at least take advantage of our club rate of fifty cents per year where five or more subscribe or send in at the same time.

A letter from Pastor George F. Brown of Midland states that his wife, who had one of her lower limbs fractured in a fall at Mineral Wells during the convention, stood the trip home fine and is improving. He says the following complimentary things about the good people at Midland: "The people here have outdone themselves in kindness. I think I have never known a people to show such universal sympathy. A great group met us at the train that night, though it was 2 a. m., and all kinds of things have been done for her comfort."

We are in receipt of a splendid article by Brother E. E. Mason on intellectual monasticism. This does the Sunday School. This article will not mean that Christianity rests on appear in the next issue of the West Texas Baptist.

A WORLD CONQUERING SPIRIT

(Continued From Last Issue)

Following is the remainder of the convention sermon preached at Mineral Wells by Dr. E. B. Atwood of Simmons University. It you have not preserved the first part of the sermon which was published in last issue, you are missing a real Christmas treat. It is truly a wonderful sermon and should be preserved. Editor.

Notice how Paul assured himself of the love of God. "If God be for us who can be against us. What does it matter? He gives the grounds of assurance of God's love." He that spared not his son but delivered him up for us all. We see a man opening slowly, painfully to bestow the greatest conceivable gift, a father's gift of his son. The pain and sorrow and heartache with which Abraham laid his son, Isaac, on the altar, and lifted the knife to slay him is only a faint picture of the Father's love—gift to a sinful world. I know that God loves me because He gave His son for me. His argument gives a step higher in assurance of divine love and alliance. We know that God loves us because Christ died for us. How often did Paul return to the cross as the center of God's message of love and redemption for men? How he gloried in the cross! Poured it as from a fountain there poured forth for him and for the world a warm, life-giving stream of divine mercy. He loved to contemplate that cross.

"See from his head, his hands, his feet,

Sorrow and love flow mingled down Did e'er such love and sorrow meet? Or thorns compose so rich a crown? But He rises yet one step higher in proof of divine love. "He maketh intercession for us." I know He loves me because He is praying for me. The story is told by Talmadge that when a youth he gave his mother a great deal of trouble. One night coming home late he saw a light in the sitting room and looking in at the window he saw his mother on her knees in prayer. He knew she was praying for him. His heart was melted and going in and kneeling beside her he gave his life to God. Many a life has been much strengthened by the memory of a mother's prayers. Those prayers tell of an unyielding love. Well, above the prayers of mother are the prayers of a loving Advocate before the Father.

"Arise, my soul, arise! Shake off thy guilty fears; The bleeding sacrifice In thy behalf appears."

Such love flowing out of the heart of God to a lost and rebellious race is the heart of Christianity. "God commandeth His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." This divine love not being conditioned on human merit is not fickle and changeable like human emotions. "Can a mother forget her suckling child that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, she might forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isa. 49:15. More abiding and more constant than a mother's love for her son is the love of the Heavenly Father for His children. "When Israel was a child I loved him and called my son out of Egypt. I taught Ephraim to walk. I healed them. O, Ephraim how shall I give thee up? My heart is turned within me. My compassions are kindled together." Hos. 11:1-9. Here are vivid pictures of the strongest and tenderest of human relations to set forth the depth and power of divine love. The Father who has taught a child to walk and has risen up in the night to give it food and to fight back through anxious and tearful hours the threatened advance of some dread disease—that father holds such child in the embrace of love that can never be affected by the passing of time or the change of circumstances. Such is the love that has embraced us, enfolds us, encircles us, empowers us!

"O love, that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer fuller be."

The Triumphant Issue "To a heart filled with such a principle there can be no doubt as to the outcome. The victory has already begun, the triumph is already in sight. We are more than conquerors, we are super-conquerors. In the realm of thought we are confident that Christ shall remain triumphant. We do not have to deny our intellects in order to become Christians or to remain Christians. Christianity is a rational religion. Otherwise it will die, because our Christians faith cannot live in constant antagonism to our growing knowledge. We cannot practice in article by Brother E. E. Mason on intellectual monasticism. This does the Sunday School. This article will not mean that Christianity rests on appear in the next issue of the West Texas Baptist. But or faith while unreasoning is

not unreasonable. There must not be a war, there is no war between our faith and our knowledge, between the church and the school. Some, apparently, would have us deny or ignore the progress of knowledge, would have us repudiate the facts of science, but not so. We claim all truth as His. The Christian finds a place in his mind for truth whether of astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, sociology, ethics, anthropology. That thoughtless criticism that appeals to ignorance or denies facts only alienates educated and cultured sympathizers, and is fatal to our cause. The conflict between science and faith only waits for a proper interpreter. Fairburn has shown with a magnificent sweep of vision and wealth of learning how Christianity in its progress through the centuries has appropriated that assimilated Greek philosophy, Roman law, medieval scholasticism, reformation, theology, and modern criticism. We are not afraid of any truth in any realm. Whoever hews it from the quarry we must take it up and build it into the temple of truth for the glory of our conquering Lord. His truth is comprehensive and progressive. A consideration of all the facts will lead inevitably to Christ. George J. Romanes of Cambridge University had lost his faith through scientific studies—but one day while at work in his laboratory he thought came to him that there must be an intelligent force behind the forces of nature. He wrote to Dr. Gulick of Japan and this missionary in the far off orient gave to the great scientist the key by which he found Christ and came back to the Father's house. By the process of experiment he found Christ to be alive and powerful to save. Christ gives us an intellectual satisfaction found nowhere else in the world. Facts of the New Testament, facts of nature, facts of experience, facts of history proved Christ to be real and lead the mind to rest and peace in Him! The whole realm of truth is His and the wise men brought Him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, some day the world's scholarship shall bow before Him and acknowledge Him as the way, the truth, and the life.

In the realm of personal experience Christianity has demonstrated its power to triumph in millions of lives. Examples can be gathered from every age and from every class of men, showing that Jesus Christ can lift and transform and keep and make triumphant the life. From degradation and sin and misery they are rising up to peace with God; inspired by new moral ideals, energized by new moral forces, and possessed by a new motive, the love of Christ, thousands are testifying that He has power to save. Some of us have heard Samuel H. Hadley tell his story. After thirty years of slavery to drink he knelt at the altar in the old Jerry McAuley mission in New York and there he met the Saviour who gave him power so that he never touched another drop of liquor, and more wonderful still became a great missionary and soul winner.

The list of witnesses could be extended indefinitely. Thinkers have become missionaries whose influence shall never die—drunkards have been turned into flaming evangelists whose messages have led millions into the way of peace. In China, in Madagascar, in Africa, in the South Seas, they have died triumphantly for their faith. A few years after Paul wrote these words Nero condemned him to die. They led him out of the gate of the city and the executioner struck off his head. But he said "I am ready to be offered. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. There is a crown laid up for me." They thought to conquer him, but he said, "It is far better I have a desire to depart and be with Christ". The executioner's block was his throne room; and the blow that struck off his head really placed upon his brow the triple crown of righteousness and life glory.

In the realm of history Christianity has proven itself to be a conquering force. It is not simply a creed or cult but a resistless force that has moved forward sweeping opposition aside and widening the circle of its achievements. The history of Jesus Christ is not that of a man who lived in Galilee, 1900 years ago, but of a spiritual creator whose deeds are recorded in every subsequent century among many races and whose great works are still being enacted before our very eyes. Renan said to "tear the name of Jesus from this world would be to shake it to its very foundation." Speaking of the character of Jesus Mr. Lecky said, "Through all the changes of eighteen centuries it has filled the hearts of men with an impassioned love—capable of acting in all ages, nations, temperaments, and conditions; has not

ly been the highest pattern of virtue, but the highest incentive to its practice, and has exerted an influence—that has done more to regenerate and to soften mankind than all the disquisitions of philosophers and all the exhortations of moralists."

When Paul uttered this word the world was full of idols, the gods of the ancient world, and men would have laughed at the idea that they could be destroyed. Today they are gone, toppled from their pedestals by the followers of Jesus who Dr. Glover says, "outlived, out argued, and out-died" their enemies. The same thing is true of the philosophic theories whose advocates laughed Paul to scorn in the Areopagus in Athens; they were forgotten centuries ago. The principle burning in the heart of the preacher standing on Mars Hill that day has marched triumphantly onward until today it counts its adherents by the hundreds of millions in all lands. Jesus Christ has broken the shackles from the limbs of the slave; has dignified childhood and given it a worthy place in life—has elevated and glorified womanhood; has given the world its idea of charity and has filled the earth with institutions of mercy. His followers have directed the course of history in its most central currents. Can you find ten names of non-Christians that gave as much to the world as Paul, Augustine, Clement, Origen, Luther, Calvin, John Wesley, Roger Williams, George Washington, and Woodrow Wilson? Or, looking from another angle, let us think of William Carey in India; Adoniram Judson in Burma; David Livingstone in Africa; Robert Morrison, Hudson Taylor, Timothy Richards and Matthew T. Yates in China; of Verbeck and Gulick in Japan, and of John G. Paton in the South Seas. Can the world furnish ten such names? Can it furnish one that is worthy to be put in that list? Think of the native converts in recent years; Punjita Ramabai, in India, Krishna Pal, the Burmese slave, Joseph Hardy, Neesima of Japan, Pastor Hsi and evangelist Ming of China. Christianity is a world force that is everywhere working for the transformation and uplift of humanity. Its stately march is visible in the Fiji Islands, in Hawaii, in Africa, in China, in Russia. Our representative in Europe says that what has taken place there in the years since the World War is nothing short of miraculous. During the years 1500 to 1700 Christianity gained as many converts as during the first 1000 years of its history; from 1700 to 1800 it doubled its numbers; from 1800 to 1900 it gained three times as many converts as during the first 1500 years of its history and now in the first quarter of the 20th century it has gained as many converts as during the 1800 years of its history. The missionary movement is a monument evidence that Christ is regenerating the world. In front of us on the white horse of victory rides our Captain who is leading the world onward and upward that "far off divine event toward which the whole creation moves."

found Him without Whom there is no joy and salvation, in our altar prayer meetings. We have found that "kneology" is the greatest need among our people today. Many hundreds have re-dedicated their lives to the services of our King. Many have found their places in the closer fellowship of the Spirit of God. Many others have entered places of training, giving their lives to the Lord in special services. Some 12 or 15 have definitely surrendered to the gospel ministry and are now proclaiming the Word. We attribute much of the deep abiding effectiveness of the revivals of the year to the altar prayer services of the people of God. May we say with Paul, "God forbid that we should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified upon me, and I unto the world."

Our pastor friends have been loyal and true, sympathetic and kind. Our hearts go out to the faithful ministers of the Word. We have been this year with many of God's own "under shepherds" and we love them and realize our deep indebtedness to them and their good churches. Many of them have already invited us back for return dates.

The offerings have been satisfactory in almost every case. We have been able to provide for our families and give a goodly "Tithe and offerings" to the causes of the Lord thru the denominational channels. We have no kick nor quarrel with any in all this world. Our prayer is for the whole fabric of our great denomination. As to the amount of souls brought to the Lord thru the revival efforts, we shall wait until at that final hour when we shall hear the last great report of the evangelistic program announced by Him whose movement it has been. We do not try to keep any record of our own, as we feel that we are utterly unable to measure the success or failure of our labors this side of the great consummation, when the round-up of glory shall be finished. We however verily believe that we have not gone this year to a revival but that the Lord has wrought out the work for which He called us. Many have been saved and joined our churches. We have had from 40 to 350 answer our calls in our two weeks campaigns. We praise the Lord and take courage and ask the prayers of our friends for a greater year in 1926.

Rev. L. B. Wilkinson of Buffalo Gap is in a meeting with his church at Hawley, this week. The meeting will continue for several days.

THE EVANGELIST AS CALLED OF GOD. J. A. Derrick, Pastor Central Baptist Church, Italy, Texas (the Convention Church).

And he gave some Apostles, and some Prophets, and some Evangelists, and some Pastors, and some teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Eph. 4:11-12.

The thing true in Paul's day is still true in the day that we are upon. Any people that turn aside from God's plan for perfecting His Church will suffer great loss and will finally become extinguished.

The God called Evangelist must be subservient to one and only one Master and that the Lord and King of the Church. A word of warning to those that seek to set in judgment over the Evangelist, "Why judge ye the servant of another: to his Master he stands or falls." Yea the God of heaven will establish him. No department or staff in the Baptist ranks has the right to order the doings of the local church or her servants. Good, bad, or indifferent the local church will finally adjust her affairs to please the Lord, her Supreme Master. There is a fact indelible as we deal with our fellow man: "He that seeks to destroy another will himself be destroyed. If this office and these men be of God be careful, lest you be found to fight against God, and if it be not of the Lord it will come to naught."

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GENERAL REPORT OF THE WINSETT EVANGELIST PARTY Bless the Lord oh my soul; Bless His Holy Name; He hath redeemed our iniquities; He hath healed all our diseases; We shall not forget all His benefits. The song on our lips is and shall be "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow." The Lord hath been our stay in the year of our greatest and hardest labors. He hath blessed the words of our mouths and directed the messages of our hearts to the salvation of souls, praise His most excellent name.

1925 has been a year of great experiences and exploits with the Holy Spirit with us and the Devil doing all in his malignant power against us. We have bucked the line hard and made many fast friends and as we went along we made bitter enemies. Where we have found sin in the hearts of "the brethren" we have not spared but have "cried loud" for as Paul says, "woe is me if I preach not the gospel." We are glad to say we love our friends but we are not looking for friends where we have to sacrifice the standards of gospel preaching to get them. Our meetings have been so attended by manifestations of the Holy Spirit of Power that many have "cussed" and we are always happy at this good sign of the effectiveness of the meeting. It is a poor revival and powerless that does not make some old skate "cuss."



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THEY OFFERED UNTO HIM GIFTS

A Message From the President of the W. M. U.

Last September a plea was made that the Lottie Moon Offering be so large and so compelling as to arrest the attention of the denomination and be the supreme gift in the history of our organization, truly glorifying God. We face such an hour. It is eminently the time for our organization to offer a love gift so large, so unselfish, so worthy that angels will sing with. We can do this. "If God writes Opportunity on one side of the door He writes Responsibility on the other side."

The Christmas-tide is a time of gifts, for God gave His only begotten Son to become the Light of the World. Wise men offered to the new-born King gifts—gold, frankincense and myrrh. We can still bring to the King gifts of gold. We will find joy in bringing His gifts first. In love He tells us, "I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by My name. Thou art Mine. I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Let our gift express our gratitude. Let every woman give herself in prayer, not only daily but in constant prayer, that the Christmas Offering clear the debt. Prayer is powerful. We honor God when we ask for big things. Impossibility carries with it a challenge when it is God's work. "Prayer is the golden chain that binds the world about the feet of God."

By visits, by public announcements in church bulletins and press let us seek to enlist every Baptist woman in our Southland in the clearing of this debt. Each holiday season we purpose that next year we will not give useless and promiscuous gifts. This Christmas season we have a divine inspiration to true giving. Some have decided to send no engraved cards of holiday greeting this year. Others are denying themselves accustomed luxuries that their gifts

may be larger. How can you increase your gift?

If every Christian home gives as much to the Christmas Offering as it pays for Christmas presents, the new year will dawn upon a debt-clear board.—Mrs. W. J. Cox, W. M. U. President.

A WORD FROM MISS BLANCHE ROSE WALKER

Dear W. M. U. Sisters: What dear, delightful things Jesus does for us all the time!

There was no money for a "love offering"—only a debt hanging over, but anyway He led me to ask for \$100.00 for my own love-offering then far into one night He caused me to know that I had some treasures that might be converted into "gold frankincense and myrrh for Him."

I immediately took them to you hoping you would know of individuals who would buy them and lo! you, as a body of God's dear ones, in a short moment, all unknown to me, contributed just \$100.00 to buy my treasures and return to me.

You knew nothing either of my prayer for \$100.00! Wasn't He "wonderful" that hour?

As much as I thanked you for the return of my treasures I truly could not take them back again; I had given them to Him so they were afterwards sold and \$50.00 was added to the \$100.00 for our "love-offering" to the One altogether lovely. How we thank Him for this!

Blanche Rose Walker.

FAIR AND UNFAIR

At a recent State Convention one of the presiding officers at the women's missionary meeting was arrayed in a kingfisher-blue satin frock trimmed with white medallions and wore a lovely metallic lustre hat. Her costume was most appropriate for a bridge party or a club reception. She is a fine executive manager, has a

charming personality and wonderful flow of words. As is the custom now—the richest standardized churches—the chair-woman occupies most of the time. When she began her talk the women assumed an attentive attitude, some to admire, others criticized. One whispered: "Queen Tut." There were two insignificant quietly dressed foreign missionaries on the platform. They were allowed ten minutes each, to tell of their strenuous work for our Lord and Master. They believe, as did the Apostles of old, that Christ meant what he said, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Of course they have been among heathen for several years, are now in the United States on furlough, with the probability of not being sent back on account of lack of money in the treasury of the Foreign Mission Society. One of these missionaries has been working most effectively for years in China, is heart and soul wrapped up in the work. Nobody in that audience or any other envied her or wanted her job. In the few minutes allotted her to speak she tried to tell of the great need in China, ended by begging to be sent back to work, sat down with a heavy heart and tears in her eyes, fearing she cannot go back to dirty, unsanitary places and sacrifice the rest of her life. At the end of her earthly pilgrimage our Saviour will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." But it seems a shame for us to be slackers and not help her while she is living on this earth! One of the ushers went up the aisle carrying a large lovely bunch of chrysanthemums, for the gracious presiding officer, not for the missionary.—E. B. Q.—Watchman-Examiner.

A JOYOUS POUNDING

We are living in a day of lawlessness. Our papers are filled with assaults, robberies, and holdups of various natures. So it is well for all

of us to go well armed and ready for any emergency that might arise in an unguarded moment. Some of you have heard the missionary tell of being stopped on the road one dark night about ten o'clock, as he returned from a night service. One man in a car and two standing by halted him but immediately let him go without telling why they stopped him. But a short time since he got the pounding of his life while I looked on. I dared not open my mouth nor bat my eyes, lest the great joy that was then ours should overcome me and I should be forced to give expression by the freely flowing tears. It is an unspeakable joy to know that the great throng of loving, throbbing, hearts of the brethren and sisters of our association beat in sympathy and love for the missionary in the work they have him engaged to do. We find unbounded joy in thanking God for your friendship, your fellowship and the many kind remembrances to us. Were we able to do so we would call your names one by one to the last brother or sister in the association, as we remember you when we pray. Let us one and all ask God that the terrific storm of sin and doubt and unbelief that darkens the skies of our best people may be dispelled by righteousness, and assurance and faith, and the Light of His blessed face shall illumine our way through the entire year.

Mrs. F. A. Pope, Anson, Texas.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY HAS INTERESTING MEETING

The following interesting and instructive Missionary program from the subject, Children of Other Lands, was given at the College Heights W. M. S. Tuesday afternoon by the Y. W. A. Girls.

Hymn—"He Lives on High," led by Miss Opal Haralson.

Devotional, Luke 2:8-20—Miss Ruby Hatton.

Prayer—Mrs. Luther Webb.

The Child from the Glory Land and Children Always—Miss Ruby Hatton. Common Characteristics—Miss Ethel Shaw.

Distressing Differences—Miss Gertrude Isaacs.

Angel's Announcement and Heavenly Hymn—Miss Ruth Rosser.

Solo—"Silent Night, Holy Night," sung by Miss Opal Haralson, accompanied on piano by Miss Hazel Hatton, and on violin by Miss Ruby Hatton.

Closing Prayer—Mrs. A. B. Collins.

This program, which was well rendered, was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience of fifty-four members and nine visitors.

At the conclusion of the program, Mrs. Webb called Miss Oattie Dabbs to the front, telling her that an express package had been left there for her—upon opening it, Miss Dabbs discovered that the package, a gift from the W. M. S., contained many useful articles for beginners in house-keeping.

A barrel of cookies and a valuable box—the exact value will be given later—were packed for the Orphans' Home at this meeting.—College Heights Messenger.

SIMMONS UNIVERSITY NOTES.

Ferguson Hall, the new men's dormitory has just been completed and will be ready for the beginning of the winter term which begins January 4th. The building was erected at a cost of above \$160,000, the larger part of which was given by W. P. Ferguson and sons of Wichita Falls. The building, which is one of the very best in the entire state will be dedicated during the first week of the winter term.

Work was started this week on the new gymnasium, made possible by a gift from the senior class in Simmons. The building will be used primarily as a basket ball court and will seat 1,500 people. The contract calls for the completion of the building by the last of January.

Final examinations for the fall term were completed on Tuesday of this week and the students have departed for their homes to spend the holidays with friends and loved ones. The enrollment for the term was the largest of any fall term in the history of the institution.

CHAMPION CHURCH

Dec. 13th was another "Best" day for Champion Church. The Saturday evening and Sunday morning hours were used by the pastor, Rev. W. G. Tankersly; he delivering a good ser-

mon each hour. But the Sunday evening service was perhaps the climax of the series of services. The church at that hour enjoying some extra good, soul feasting talks by Rev. Vesta Boyd and wife, and the Misses Verna Thomason and Ethel Shaw, all members of the Volunteer Missionary Band, Abilene. Miss Nettie Tisdale, whom the church sent as a delegate to the B. Y. P. U. Convention at Waco, brought to the church a fine account of her trip to the convention. Miss Mittie Wiman of Wastella, formerly of Champion church, told briefly of her trip to the B. Y. P. U. Convention.

The church has recently installed a Delco lighting system of which she is extra proud.

SWEETWATER ASSOCIATION

Most all the pastors and workers of this association attended the Convention at Mineral Wells. Most all reported that they very very well pleased with the work of the Convention as a whole.

We have two or three preachers living in Abilene who have had a broad experience as pastors and missionaries. These men are capable and should be put to work by some church.

The Mount Olive church called Rev. E. T. Powers, a student in Simmons University and it is understood that he will accept the call. It is the prediction that the Lord's work will be carried on there in a great way this year.

The church at Shep will put on a Training School beginning Monday after the first Sunday in January. The Pastor, Brother E. D. Dunlap, the missionary and one of the members of the church will do the teaching. They are to have the Sunday School Manual, Senior and Intermediate B. Y. P. U. courses taught.

The people at Ovalo are happy over the fact that Brother W. A. Foster has decided to be their pastor. Brother Foster is one of the best pastors in Simmons University.

There are only two churches in the association without a pastor and they

are doing their best to find God's man.

The Walnut Street Baptist Church, Abilene, called Rev. R. H. Williams back as their pastor. Brother Williams resigned some time ago. We do not know what his decision will be.

The writer was with the Blackwell church last Sunday at both morning and evening services. There was a good spirit manifested on the part of the church. The church gave the missionary a hearty invitation to hold a meeting there beginning the second Sunday in January. Brother Henry Morgan of Abilene will lead the song services.

Brethren W. F. Drury, Virgil M. Hailey, and Dr. E. L. Compere all of the Lower Rio Grande Valley were in Abilene on their way home from the Convention at Mineral Wells. The next meeting of the Sweetwater Association Workers Meeting will meet with the Live Oak Church at Nubia. Brother R. M. McGinnis, the pastor, is planning to take care of the meeting in a great way.

Mr. Wendell Foreman, educational director of the College Heights Church, Abilene, and Miss Cora Gooch were married at the College Heights Church on Wednesday evening of this week, the pastor, Rev. C. A. Powell, officiating.

The Norton church in Runnels County will have watch night services at the close of the year and the pastor, Rev. Scott W. Hickey will preach through the balance of the week in a special evangelistic effort.

The Grape Creek, Water Valley and Mereta churches in Concho Association have recently called Rev. J. B. Adams as pastor.

The greatest path in the world is the path from your door to the door of the church. If all of us faithfully used that path and were guided by its radiant influence, the nation would be safe, crimes subside, business prosper, and all hearts have peace. For this path was made by the Son of Man for the sons of men, that walking humbly into His Holy Presence in the Church, they might afterwards walk together as brethren in the world. Are you using the greatest path?—Exchange.

JUDGE CALDWELL AND DR. SALLEE VISIT ANSON FOR MISSION CAMPAIGN

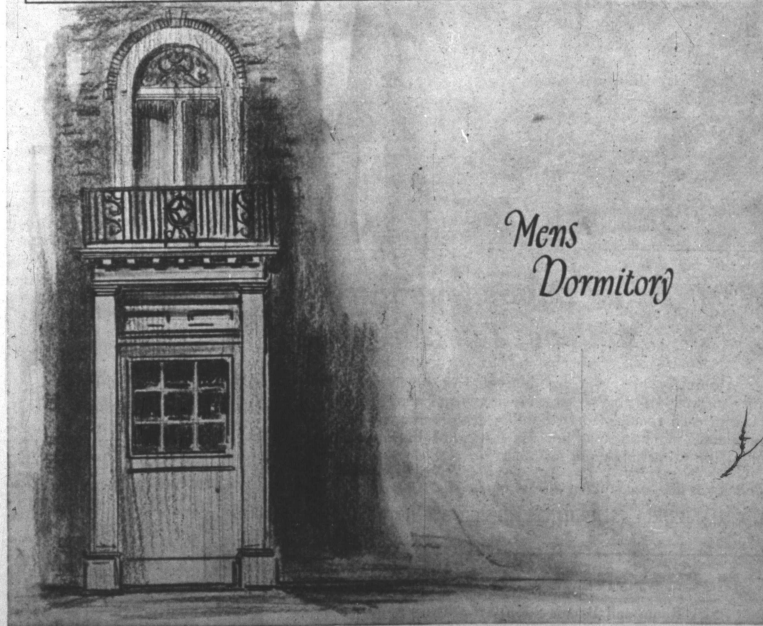
Last Sunday snowed some gains along various lines at the Baptist Church. 216 in Sunday School with \$129.42 offering in classes. The largest congregation for morning service during the fall season. There were more than fifty men present. It speaks well for any town for its men to give themselves to the worship of the Lord at His house. A live church in a community is one of its greatest assets. May more of the men of Anson find their places in the Sunday Schools and places of worship. Aimless street crowds on Sunday morning constitute a serious indictment against any city, large or small.

A splendid crowd heard two visitors at the evening hour. Judge C. M. Caldwell of Abilene spoke words from the layman's point of view, relative to his church duties, Bible study, tithing, and general citizenship responsibilities. Following his remarks Dr. Sallee, missionary to Interior China, brought a message on his experiences, observations and work in China for the last twenty-two years. He has spent almost half of his life as missionary and expressed his unflinching devotion to this phase of our Lord's work. The growth of Baptist Missions in China is marvelous, however, our progress now is not in keeping with our ability.

Rev. J. Ben Oliver, of Abilene, pastor of the Cottonwood and Goldboro churches will spend the holidays with the Cottonwood brethren.

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Above is a picture of the new \$160,000 men's dormitory which is being completed this week on the Simmons campus. It will be opened the first week in January with a dedication service. The hall will be in charge of Douglas Carver and Frank Kimbrough, two seniors, and will be managed on the honor system, according to an announcement made by President Sandefer Thursday.

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TEXAS

THE ABOUNDING GRACE

(By J. O. Heath)

"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

The offence of which the apostle speaks is the first sin that was ever committed. The apostle goes back to that tragic hour when through transgression Eden's fair garden was blighted, man's moral nature was corrupted, and his spiritual understanding darkened. But in this connection Paul makes another arresting statement, for he says "the law entered that the offence might abound." The law to which reference is made is the holy law of Mount Sinai and it entered that sin might appear exceedingly sinful. In fact sin was in the world before the law came, but the law was given that in the perfect righteousness the offence might abound.

Certainly the offence has abounded. Of this distressing truth we have local and universal proof. No one will doubt that sin has reigned unto darkness, disaster and death. It has defied God, flagrantly violated His just law, and raised against His beneficent government the black flag of revolt. Sin has filled the earth with unrequited sorrows, doleful lamentations and fearful wastes. It has produced depravity and crime, ignorance and bondage. It has dominated courts and held sway in legislative halls. Sin has caused bitter conditions, broken honorable treaties, and instigated cruel and destructive insurrections. It has blasted hope, withered faith, profaned love, and rendered the human heart impervious to the persuasive appeals of the gospel. It is sin that makes shadowy paths through the soul and then moves over them to devastate the life of man.

The Bible not only represents the offence as abounding, but presents sin in colors that are dark and in consequences that are horrible to contemplate. For sin is a malignant disease and its appalling results are grim realities in the observations of men. Sin is a poisonous dagger whose infectious wounds exude a deadly contamination. Sin is such a terrible perversion that its moral contortions exhibit the world's awful degeneracy. Sin is a devouring gulf whose wild and ceaseless ragings would alarm us if we seriously reflected upon what it destroys. It destroys health, happiness and material substance. It brings the prodigal to poverty, the widow to penury, and the orphan to want. It consumes the spiritual vision and burdens the blind and impoverished spirit with ignoble desires. It increases woes, multiplies desolations, and assures the anguish of the quenchless flames to all who are enthralled by its unbelief.

But the scriptures affirm that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Now to this abounding grace, we are to give some consideration. According to God's determinate counsel, grace came to lustrate our souls, to mollify our bruises, and to heal our putrifying sores. We were in affliction and reproach, for we were laden with iniquity, yet through the riches of this grace we had the forgiveness of our sins. We were in the gaul of bitterness and our sins were ever before us, but an abounding grace removed them and cast them into the depths of the sea. When we were without strength, in due time Christ did by the grace of God taste death for every man. In that hour Christ spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in his cross, and because he was victorious, Paul could say that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

It is a pleasing and inspiring thought that grace abounds to give us peace with God which passeth all understanding. Jesus said in the world ye shall have tribulation and our own experiences attest the correctness of the forecast. Here we are in the midst of sin and the trials which it occasions. We are in the world and its industrial wars, its social upheavals and its political disturbances toss us about, yet through this abounding grace, peace abides in our hearts. Then there are seasons when we are in sore trouble and the angry waves of the world's unrest beat violently against the shores of our tranquility, but as the covenant of peace is not withdrawn, therefore, we can rest in the Lord and wait patiently for the subsiding of the stormy periods. It will banish fear and enable us to pass serenely over the billowy waters of the world's commotions, if we will keep in mind that Jesus said, "peace I leave unto you." Enriched and strengthened by such a priceless gift we can endure in calmness of spirit the tumults that come in like a flood, for a continuing peace is ours through the justifying grace of Jesus. I am thinking now of the depth and height of that glorious peace the apostle mentions in his oft repeated salutation to the churches. And this wonderful peace has come to us through an abounding grace and its radiant and copious realities afford us light, joy and

peace. In this mortal life we are environed by a pretentious materialism; in fact we are constantly confronted with some if its dismal perplexities, but we must not allow them to make the present gloomy or the future somber or permit them in anywise to disturb that deep and gracious peace which is the gift of God's grace to us.

Again, it is through this abounding grace that we pass from under the domain of sin. This is an achievement worthy of profound consideration. The apostle exultingly calls it freedom from the law of sin and death. In the marvelous transaction which grace wrought effectually in our behalf, we were also made free from those carnal ordinances that had been imposed upon us. In other words, it means that by reason of death we were made free from sin and from the law with its fleshly commandments and are become the servants of righteousness. Once the believer was alive in sin, but through grace he died to sin and thus passed beyond its potent and extensive dominion. That the believer has put off the old man who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and that in the transition he put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, is one of those liberating truths that Paul insisted upon the churches accepting. "How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" is the apostle's pertinent question to the church in Rome. Also, the apostle tells the Roman brethren that they are to reckon themselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Then he encourages them with the statement, that sin shall not have dominion over them; for they are not under the law, but under grace. Thus it is seen that though sin abounds, yet through a more abounding grace, we have freedom from its polluting and oppressive dominion.

SERMON OUTLINE

A CONQUERING CHURCH Text: Matt. 16:18.

Note—The following is the first of a series of sermon outlines to be contributed by Rev. John W. Newsom, Missionary of the Sweetwater Association. Other preachers in this section are invited to make contributions to this department.—Editor.

I. A Conquering Church Has Unity of Purpose:

1. To Carry the Message to All the World.

- a. All Are Equally Responsible.
- 2. To In Every Way Honor God.
- a. By Living Surrendered Lives.
- b. By Keeping Our Lives Unspotted From the World.

II. A Conquering Church Conquers Through Its Inner Life Principles.

- 1. This Is a Principle of Sacrifice.
- 2. This Is a Principle of Truth.
- 3. This Is a Principle of Conquering Faith.

III. A Conquering Church Has Christ As Its Base.

- 1. The Base of Supplies Governs the Campaign.
- a. A Base Where There Is Plenty.
- b. Where There Is No Fear of Exhausting the Supply.
- 2. The Base of Supplies Govern the Range of Work Done.
- 3. The Base of Supplies Governs the Character of Work Done.
- 4. The Base of Supplies Governs the Morale of the Workers.

Jan. W. Newsom.

Dr. W. F. Fry of the Bible department of Simmons assisted in the dedication of the Valley View Church in Runnels County. All-day services were held. In the afternoon Pastor Swindell of Ballinger and Judge Parrish of the same place delivered helpful addresses. Brother M. C. Golden is pastor of the church.

At the last regular meeting of the Ministerial Council of Simmons University the following officers were elected for the next term: N. E. McGuire, president; Sam Morris, vice president; "Happy" Jordan, secretary; J. M. Sibley, critic and C. R. Campbell, parliamentarian.

THE HOLY NATIVITY

(Continued From Page One)

In the life of Christ we have the perfection of humility. Self-loving, self-centered man, exalts himself at the expense of others, and on their ruins often builds his fortune, reputation and position, but Jesus gives up all, that man may be rich, and make himself of no reputation that man may gain favor with his God. Man treads on others to exalt himself. Jesus suffers himself to be trodden

upon to exalt others. His love for us is surely past our finding out. There is no gauge by which to measure the depths of such humiliation, no means by which we may ascertain the height, depth, length and breadth of such love save the cross on which He died—the cross high as heaven, deep as hell, and broad as the whole expanse of the universe of God. How insulting to such a God, and how selfish and dishonoring is all human pride in the face of such incomprehensible love. God grant us humility! Pride and arrogance is accused of Him, but where there is an humble soul there the Most High dwells. "God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up."

Humility is the fruit of righteousness, the reflected image of the blessed Christ, the brightest star in the christian's crown, and the christian's bond of peace. Without this virtue, we rob the Saviour of the glory He would reveal in us, and unfit ourselves for His service.

The Heralds of the Birth. It was a custom in ancient times when a king made his appearance into a city or community, to send a messenger before him crying, "make way for the king" Jesus had sent His messenger before His face. The voice of one had been crying in the wilderness. Now He has come. The long looker for Christ has come to save the people from their sins. The King of all kings has come, and angels and archangels sweep over the plains of Bethlehem to make known the glad tidings.

Like the rising of the sun in the heavens the incarnation of the Son of God—which was the rising of the Sun of Righteousness in the spiritual heavens—broke silently over the earth.

"Out of the shadows of night,
A world rose into light;
It is day-break everywhere."

But men walked on in darkness not knowing that the true light had come. The priests arose that morning and kindled fires under the alters not knowing that the true Priest, of whom they were only types, was born; the one who should stand in earthly temples to burn incense, but should stand in the presence of the Father, and offer His own blood a sacrifice for many. Herod went on that day in the display of imperial splendor, not knowing that the true King of Israel was born in the little hill town near by.

But if our Saviour's birth was unnoticed on earth, it was noticed in Heaven. If it furnished no glorious scene to the people, it was not unnoticed by angels. "As the shepherds watched their flocks by night," they saw in the distant heavens a light. It grew brighter. It came nearer. Brighter! Brighter! Nearer! Nearer! What can it be? What is its meaning? The shepherds tremble and are afraid. But soon it bursts upon them in its full significance. There shines out a central glory before which all that had seemed transcendent faded into comparative eclipse. An angel stepped forth with the message: "Fear not, for behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." And the choir of heaven right there on the plains struck up the song: "Glory to God in the highest! on earth peace, good will to men."

"Ah! Bethlehem was grander,
That hour than paradise;
And the light of earth that night eclipsed,
The splendors of the skies."
Shepherds Afraid. When the angels appeared to the shepherds, the shepherds were afraid. when right at that moment God was doing more for them than he ever before had done for mortal. We are often times frightened at those things which afterwards prove to be eternal blessings. We fear the flames of the fire furnace forgetting that Jesus will walk with us there. We dread the lions' den forgetting that our God hath power to lock the lions' jaws. Tossed on the sea of trouble, of affliction, of disappointment, we are almost shipwrecked. We pray for the Deliverer to come, but when He comes walking on the waters we think Him a ghost and are afraid. These clouds that darken our sky, are but the shadows of angel's wings, and the thunder's rattle but the music of heavenly spheres. As Mr. Spurgeon once said: "God often sends His love letters to His children in black envelopes." Dost thou fear O child of God? Listen. "Fear thou not for I am with thee. Be not dismayed for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yes, I will help thee; yes, I will uphold thee by the hand of My righteousness." Are you His child, and do you trust Him? Why fear? He will not suffer thy foot to be moved.

"The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

The Orchestra of Heaven. Great events are celebrated with music and banquet and oration. There was no banquet in Bethlehem when our Saviour was born. Joseph and Mary were too poor to give a banquet. But there was a banquet in heaven—a banquet of rejoicing, a banquet of hallelujahs; no Demosthenes or Cicero graced the scene with oration, but an orator more eloquent by far, came forth with the master piece of the ages. "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." No Beethoven or Handel or Jennie Lind or Florence Nightingale were there with immortal composition or captivating song, but the orchestra of heaven was there. When the great expostulation ended as after some grand recitative, there followed a burst of triumphant chorus sweeter by far than violin's not or dulcimer's string or clarinet or flute or cymbal or harp or all the notes of earthly music combined.

"Glory to God in the highest!
On earth peace,
Good will toward men."

A Contrast. But another thought claims our attention here, and that is the incarnation of our blessed Lord as compared with his second advent. He came to save the world but the world had no room for Him. From the first he was received as an intruder. Did he come in poverty? He shall come again in riches. Did he come in weakness? He shall come again in power. Did he come in dishonor? He shall come again in honor. Did he come born in a manger? He shall come again sitting on his throne of His glory. Did just one star acknowledge his birth? When he shall come again all the stars shall fall before his face. Did just one angel announce his birth? When he come again he shall bring all his hold angels with him. Did men reject him? Then every one shall bow and every tongue confess. Did men sit in judgment on him? He shall come the second time to judge the quick and the dead. The first advent will all unnoticed. The second advent will startle the world.

Beloved, that will be a great Day—the greatest of all days—a day toward which all others point—a day into which the interests of all other days shall be ushered and consummated—a day in which the christian's brightest hopes will all be realized—a day when God will deal out to every soul its just recompense of reward whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Glorious day! Welcome day! Speed it on! Speed it on! O, Jesus, the people await thy coming.

Salvation for All. Oh, lost soul, it was for your sake that Jesus came into the world. There is no mistake about His mission. The Prince of Wales came over to this country one time and no one knew for what he came. Some thought he came to look into our form of government, some, that he came to inspect our army and navy, some, that he came to see our country, but none knew. But when the Prince of Peace came to this world He made known His mission. "I am

come to seek and to save that which was lost." "I am come to call sinners to repentance." "I am come that they might have life." Our pitiable condition brought Him into the world. For you lost soul He died. He wants to save you. O, will you longer resist Him? Proud heart yield today and know the bliss of a Saviour's love.

Home at Last. Many years ago a man leaving his family in Massachusetts sailed from Boston to China to trade there. On the coast of China in the midst of a night of storm, he made shipwreck. He was driven upon the beach without a dollar. In the streets of Canton he had to beg to keep from starving. For two years there was no communication between himself and family. They supposed him dead. He knew not but that they were dead. He had gone out as captain and was too proud to come back as private sailor. But at last he chocked down his pride, got a position on a vessel and sailed for home. Arriving at Boston he took a train for the center of the State where he had left his family. Going up in front of the cottage in the bright moonlight he said the place looked to him like heaven. He rapped, and an affrighted servant let him in. He went into the room where his wife and child were sleeping. He did not dare wake them for fear of a sudden shock. Bending over to kiss the child, a hot tear fell on the dear wife's cheek and she awoke. He said "Mary", and she knew his voice. That scene of welcome and joy and thanksgiving to God, which followed, it were vain to attempt to describe.

I know that today many of you are seamen, and that you are tossed and driven on the sea of sin by a worse storm than that which came down on the coast of China that terrible night, and yet I pray God you may all get home. In the church dear ones await your coming. In the house of many mansions, loved ones are waiting there. Jesus with outstretched arms and pleading voice, waits to give you welcome. Escaped from the shipwrecks of sin. Through the rich grace of Jesus Christ, may we all get home.

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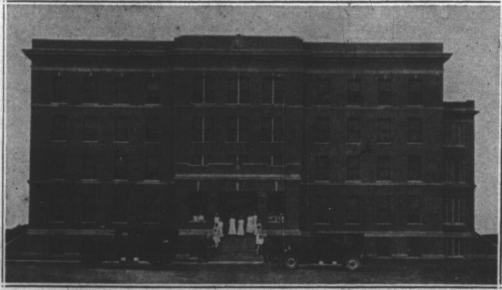
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