

WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

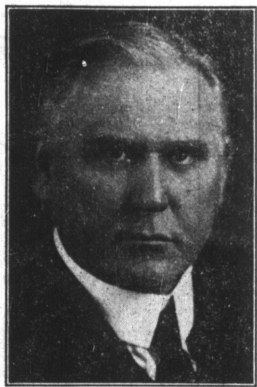
Vol. 13

ABILENE, TEXAS, DECEMBER 24, 1936

No. 4

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING

From the President and General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance



DR. GEORGE W. TRUETT

To Our Fellow Baptists Throughout the World:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In the deepest and most inward sense, we wish you all a happy New Year! May it be a season of growing love and peace and power, sustained by the living Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude to God, as we recall our fellowship with you in many lands, and the evidences of faith and zeal that crowded upon us as we met many thousands of our Oriental fellow-believers. New chapters of the Acts of the Apostles are written in the Far East. We have been privileged to read some that cover a century or more of missionary witness. How much it means that in the East our churches already number well nigh half a million members! In India and Burma, China and Japan, the word of the Cross has won multitudes whose loyalty, self-sacrifice, courage and consecrated gifts are an earnest of larger conquests to be won. It was a high privilege to be to them spokesmen of our world-community, and to hear their assurances of loving solidarity with those of their faith and order in every land. Our Lord has mightily acknowledged the witness of our people in the Orient, in Africa, in South America, in continental Europe, and elsewhere. Vast are the opportunities open to us, if (Continued on page 3)

CALLAHAN ASSOCIATION RENDERS GOOD PROGRAM WITH THE CLYDE CHURCH

The Callahan Workers Conference met with the Clyde Baptist Church on the 15th, with one of the best programs we have had for some time. At 10:00 o'clock we had a song and praise service led by Brother Joe Mayes, pastor at Baird, with Mrs. Robt. Webb of Potosi at the piano. Prayer by Rev. J. F. Wood. At 10:15 Brother F. A. Hollis discussed the Mission of the Church. The following program was rendered:

10:40—Song, "Trust and Prove Me"
10:40—Rev. Joe Mayes discussed "The Condition of the Churches in the Callahan Association."

11:10—Rev. J. D. Brannon discussed the subject, "God's Plan of Supporting His Church."
Prayer and thanks for the dinner by Brother Brannon.

After dinner we had a song service and went in to business session. Brother Joe Mayes was elected chairman. It was decided to have a joint meeting of the B. T. U. and the Sunday School at the Baptist Church at Baird on the first Sunday in January before the Callahan Association, and let me urge every one who can possibly do so to attend this meeting.

Our next conference will be at Cottonwood on the 19th of January.

2:30—Inspirational address by Brother Blair, district missionary from the Cisco Association, and it was a treat to hear this address. We are always glad to have Brother Blair come our way. Come again, Brother Blair. Brother Blair is not only a preacher but he is also an evangelistic singer. He sang a solo after his address.

One thing that made a lasting impression on me was, after the noon hour the conference took time out to offer a special prayer for Rev. Geo. B. Ely of Clyde. Brother Ely is 97 years old. He preached the Gospel for more than a half of a century. When he was a young man he was a Texas Ranger. He not only opened the way for us who come on later, but for more than half a century has been trying to lead people to a better land.

Rev. J. F. Wood, who was Brother Ely's pastor about 20 or 25 years ago led the prayer. Brother Wood has also been preaching near the half century mark, too. I have been knowing Brother Wood for 43 years and he was preaching at that time.

When these old soldiers of the Cross get to praying for one another it seems to take you where you can almost see over into the Promise Land. E. N. McCoy.

The Incarnation

J. E. Skinner, Jackson, Tenn., In Western Recorder
"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). "And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us' (Mat. 1:21-23). 'Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost' (Mat. 1:18).

"And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were, in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not; behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord' . . . 'And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men' (Luke 2:7-14)!"

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him (The Word); and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life (from the beginning); and the life was the light of men' . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-14, 14).

"Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, 'Sacrifice and offerings thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.' Then said I, 'Lo, I came to do thy will, O God' (Heb. 10:5-7). "God, who at sundry

times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:1-3). "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist" (Col. 1:16-17).

The only explanation I have to offer for beginning this discussion of the Incarnation with this array of Scripture is, (1) I am not concerned about a theory, but a fact. (2) I am not interested in a mere sermon, but a real message from God. (3) I have no desire even to argue the question in this connection, but to present the Truth upon the subject and let the Holy Spirit do His own arguing, if argument is needed. And in the foregoing Scriptures the fact of the incarnation is clearly stated, a message from God is distinctly proclaimed, and the Truth is so clearly revealed that only the unbeliever in the authority of the Holy Scriptures can question it for a moment.

Although mysterious beyond human comprehension, the Fact of the Incarnation of the Son of God is forever settled in the mind and heart of every genuine believer in Jesus—in his mind by the fully accepted testimony of Holy Writ, and in his heart by the witness of the Holy Spirit Who has written it there in a vital Christian experience, which he knows for himself and not another. When the Word of God declares it in unmistakable terms, not once, nor twice, but by every writer of the Old Testament and the New—although once for us would have been sufficient—our minds are forever at rest; and when the Holy Spirit takes "the things of Christ" which have been written in the word of God, translates them by His own testimony and power into a living personal experience with Christ, our hearts are forever at rest upon (Continued on page 4)

TEXAS BAPTIST PLAN FOR ALL-STATE REVIVAL CAMPAIGN

ENTHUSIASTIC OFFERING IS MADE TO SEND GARDNER TO EUROPE

H. H. Hargrove, Vernon

Mr. J. Earl Mead expressed the feeling of many at the State B. T. U. Convention at Abilene that Dr. T. C. Gardner, State B. T. U. Director, should be sent to the World Baptist Youth Conference in Zurich, Switzerland, next August. With spontaneous enthusiasm seldom seen in a public offering those assembled gave in cash pledges \$924.25 to do this worthy deed. The feeling was unanimous that he must go in behalf of Texas B. T. U. What a blessing he will bring back to Texas Baptist Youth from such meeting! What a blessing Texas Baptist Youth will give to such meeting by sending T. C. Gardner! This enthusiastic offering is a worthy tribute of love and appreciation to one who has given himself without stint to Texas Baptists as a whole and especially to their Youth.

The statement was made before the convention and heartily endorsed by those present that Mr. Gardner should be sent also. She has constantly been by the side of her husband in serving the Texas Baptist Training Union. Her unselfish love and devotion for Baptist Youth make her eminently worthy of such an expression. It is hoped that all will remember this in making their gifts and paying their pledges to this fund. Some who desire to give were not at the convention. We hope that such individuals and leaders of Associational, District or local B. T. U.'s will take the matter up soon and have a part in this splendid movement. Those who made pledges should take up the matter of paying them as soon as possible and lead others to join in the gift as well as make such increases themselves as is possible.

Please send remittances direct to the writer who is chairman of the committee for the fund: H. H. Hargrove, Vernon, Texas. All remittances will be receipted, and a list of all individuals and organizations having a part in the movement will be displayed at the State B. T. U. Convention in Beaumont next fall.

PRESENT WORK OF THE HOME MISSION BOARD

In all departments and fields of its work, the Home Mission Board has 308 missionaries and workers, and is maintaining 811 mission stations and preaching places.

Foreigners
Home Mission work among foreigners includes, first, those people who were born in other lands and their children—Mexicans, Italians, Cubans in the United States, Europeans, and Chinese; and, second, native Americans who speak another language, chiefly the French-speaking people of Southern Louisiana and the Spanish-speaking people of New Mexico. These are fields of great magnitude, challenging us to the task of evangelizing more than 5,000,000 people.

In this field, the Board has 100 missionaries who supply 206 churches and mission stations. The missionaries opened 25 new missions last year, baptized 738 converts, and distributed 4,210 Bibles and 127,639 tracts.

Negroes
Rev. and Mrs. Noble Y. Beall, general missionaries, and Dr. J. K. Hair, teacher in the Bible Department of Benedict College, Columbia, S. C., are our white workers among the Negroes.

This board co-operates with the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention in the employment of 12 other missionaries. These workers last year baptized 535, organized seven churches, and preached regularly in 80 churches and mission stations.

Missions in the Mountains
Two years ago the board began in a small way the tremendous task of evangelization and cultivation of areas in the mountains where little progress in religious life has been made for generations. Six missionaries are now at work, supplying 20 mission stations. Last year 97 were baptized and two churches were organized.

Mission Schools
Missionaries of the Home Mission Board are operating three schools in the homeland, not counting the eight (Continued on page 4)

As a result of steps taken at the recent meeting of the Executive Board of the Baptist World Alliance at Dallas, Texas, plans are being made for a state wide evangelistic campaign which will not only reach all the Baptist Churches in the state, but every school house community in the state.

In his department in the Baptist Standard last week Dr. R. C. Campbell, executive Secretary outlined the plan as follows:

A matter of great significance coming before the Board in its recent annual session was the plan for an intensive state-wide evangelistic movement for next summer. The report was made by Rev. C. E. Matthews, chairman of the committee previously appointed to study and formulate plans for this significant movement. It received hearty and unanimous approval.

In brief the plan is this: Every church that will do so is asked to co-operate to the fullest extent in seeking, praying for and following the leadership of the Holy Spirit, looking to a great sweeping revival throughout our borders. It is believed that if all our churches and pastors will unite their prayers, their interests and their efforts, looking to the Lord for leadership, that great armies of indifferent Christians will be awakened, sinners will be convicted and converted and the tidal wave of wickedness will be turned back.

The state will be taken by districts. The most suitable time will be found for each district. Several districts will have revivals going at the same time, even out to the school-house communities where there is no church.

In preparation for such meetings a simultaneous week of prayer in every church will precede the meeting. Personal workers will be trained, a religious census taken, and house-to-house visitation will be made; then the first week in June, May 31st to June 4th, all the pastors of Texas will be called together on Seminary Hill to pray, teach, preach and study evangelism. A program will be arranged that will warm all our hearts and rekindle our compassion for lost souls. From this meeting we will go back to our various churches and communities to begin our revivals. In some districts June 13th will be the beginning date. One hundred thousand lost people can and should be won to Christ during this campaign.

Since the incipency of this movement pastors and educators have said, "This is an answer to our prayers. We have been praying and longing for a great revival, and we believe this will be a means to that end."

Will not every pastor and every member of our 3,153 churches pray daily that the Lord will give us at least one hundred thousand souls for Him, and that all of our churches will be revived? This will set forward the Lord's work as no other movement can.

Here is the recipe we want to follow: "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."—II Chron. 7:14.

KILLING THE PREACHER

Dr. L. O. Lawson, scholar, preacher for over fifty years, speaks:

A church known to me once buried its pastor, and on the following sabbath held a memorial service in his honor. A large congregation overflowed the house. One speaker told us of his worth as a preacher, another of his tender ministrations as a pastor, others spoke of him as a citizen, thought of him as a neighbor, father. Finally, they called on me to speak. I said, "All you have said of my dead brother is true. He was a man out of the ordinary and gave his remarkable powers to your service without stint or reserve. But if you had, while he was yet alive, filled these pews as you have today, and said of him and to him what you have just said, he would not now be dead. Empty pews broke his heart, and he did not know of the love of which you have been speaking. He died for lack of the things you have today so beautifully said and done." And it was true.

More About the Country Church

West Texas Baptist:

I am thankful to you for publishing my piece containing the resolutions asking recognition, and some equal spiritual assistance for the country churches. All the brethren who spoke out on it said they were for it. But?—That the resolution committee did not get it in time. We have heard that several times in

J. Mat Harder

forty-six years of going to our conventions.

It is all right. I love all of the brethren with all their sins and mine thrown in.

Some other reasons for the renewing our energies and putting more effort to the country churches:

1. Other religious people are leaving the country to us.

2. It is the field for recruits. In a discussion of the value of Rural Churches by Dr. J. W. Gent, given to me by our own G. S. Hopkins, I find in a survey of 50 of our large churches, the following:

Fifty-seven per cent of our city ministers were converted, and called to preach in rural churches.

Seventy-five per cent Sunday School Superintendents.

Sixty-six and two-thirds per cent B. T. U. Directors.

Ninety-three per cent W. M. U. Presidents.

Fifty-three per cent Chairmen of Boards of Deacons.

Sixty-two per cent of Officers and Educational Teachers.

Fifty-seven per cent of City Church Members were converted in country churches.

Country preachers preach to sixty-four per cent of our church members.

If you will examine fifty rural or country churches you will find ninety-four per cent of all Baptist preachers came from country churches, and something like eighty-five per cent of all other workers and church members come from rural churches.

At Waco State Convention our beloved Dr. B. H. Carroll took a stand. (Continued on page 4)

Christmas is Here

"Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, for unto you is born a Savior." So sang the angel. We grow weary of other tales. They wear out. But we never tire of "The Old, Old Story." We never become so old and wooden but that we listen to it with quickened pulse and flashing eyes.

"On this wise" it begins, and we are impatient if the smallest detail be omitted. The weary travellers, the unwelcome announcement "No room in the inn," the shelter among the lowing kine, the Babe's faint cry—how the swiftly moving drama clutches at our heart strings. The shepherds on the hillside, the angelic choir, the star of wonder and of might, the coming of the Wise Men from the misty east on their swiftly padding camels—not one incident can we spare. It seems that it must have happened but yesterday and in our very midst, so fresh and thrilling does the story come home to our hearts each Christmas time.

Yes, Christmas is here. "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." In the hearts and homes of some there is great joy today because the Savior has come. Bright faced children are happier today because the Babe of Bethlehem brought into the world a new tenderness for the frailty of childhood. Loye between friend and kinsman is deepened because God so loved that He gave His Son. There is gladness and music and the giving of loving gifts in homes innumerable.

But to how many hearts has the angel song not come; to how tragically many million joyless people in vast areas of earth have we failed to proclaim the glad tidings? Even in our own land, even in our own midst, yes at our very doors we count not by units but by thousands the cheerless hearts and homes that have not Him.

Christmas is here—here again with a fresh challenge to all of us who truly love and trust the Lord Jesus. It is a challenge to rededicate ourselves to the great task of making Him known to all men everywhere, of proclaiming His power to redeem and bring new life and hope.

Yes, Christmas is here once more with its appeal to us to be more faithful witnesses, to promote peace on earth and good will to men, to inspire that great and abiding joy and peace which none of the misfortunes and sorrows of life will be able seriously to disturb.

"The Lord bless thee . . . and keep thee . . . and make His face to shine upon thee . . . and be gracious unto thee. . . The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace."—Numbers 6:24-26. —Frank R. Elder.

HER EASY CHAIR

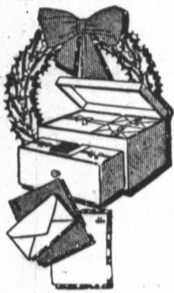
A woman in humble circumstances, says the Record of Christian Work, the mother of four children, was suddenly bereft of her husband. She took up her burden with calmness and patience, toiling early and late that her children might obtain an education. A friend said to her one day, "Do you never get tired or discouraged?" "Oh, yes!" was the reply, "but when I think I can go no further, or do no more, I go and rest in my easy chair." "Easy chair?" questioned her friend, looking around the bare room. "Yes; would you like to see it? Come with me." She led her into a small, scantily furnished bedroom, and taking her by the hand, knelt by the bedside, and the toilworn, burdened woman prayed as if she were face to face with God. Rising, she said: "Now I feel rested and am ready for work again. Prayer is my easy chair." There is no life so bare or destitute that it cannot have the easy chair of prayer.

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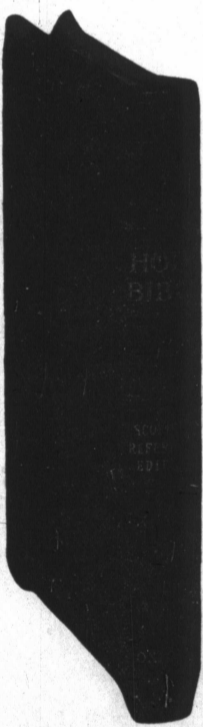


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SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY'S SECOND SEMESTER

January 11, 1937, marks the opening of the third quarter (second semester) of Southwestern Seminary's current session, with more than 500 resident students enrolled thus far. The thirty-two faculty members and their helpers, all splendidly trained, fine spirited men and women, are a guarantee that you will get the work you need in the fields of theology, religious education, and sacred music.

The beautifully landscaped thirty-acre campus, overlooking the city of Fort Worth, on which are located three spacious, well-equipped buildings, surrounded by a growing community, is the guarantee offered for your physical care.

The lack of tuition, and low costs of fees, house rent, room and board, and other necessary monetary expenditures for a student are allies to the purses of those in attendance.

If it is at all possible for you to take this next half-year's work, surely you could not figure how it would be profitable, either to you, or Kingdom interests not to take it. Correspondence courses are provided at nominal costs for those deprived of the privileges of class attendance.

For further information, write President L. R. Scarborough, D. D., LL. D., Seminary Hill, Texas.

Miss Gladys Keith has recently been appointed director of the Good Will Center in New Orleans by the Home Mission Board. Miss Keith has been a student of Blue Mountain College for some time.

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING

(Continued from page 1)

we abide in Him "without whom we can do nothing." Nor would we withhold thankful praise for all we have seen and heard of evangelical advance, beyond our borders. "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

We are facing times of stern testing. Avowed atheism has become aggressive, and in some lands religion is assailed as "dope." As Christians and citizens we must seek to confound such assaults by the quality of our life and service. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Materialism abounds, and its subtlety appears even in the churches of Jesus Christ. It can be met only by the sacrificial spirit of Him who taught that "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth."

Christian moral standards, and even elementary decencies, are ridiculed; they can be vindicated only by the holy life which carries the evidence of its own worth and through which the Holy Spirit "will convince the world of sin."

The peril of war is grave, and it is for the servants of the Prince of Peace to pray and labour for the removal of the political and social and economic causes of ill will, and above all for the winning of men and women the world over to Him, the fruit of whose Spirit is peace.

Religious liberty is imperiled in wide-scattered regions of the earth, and we are thankful that the Baptist World Alliance has, by its intervention, enlarged freedom in some lands, and preserved it in others. But we must be prepared to meet a serious and growing menace to the doctrine which is among the most distinctive and precarious elements of our Baptist heritage.

"He must reign 'til He hath put all enemies under His feet."

There is the firm foundation of our confidence. Rooted and grounded in Him, let us all—the millions who are banded together in the Baptist faith and order—resolve to comfort the multiple challenge of our time with a renewed and deepened consecration. We must pray more earnestly: we have not exhausted the "unsearchable riches of God." Must we not believe that He who in the course of a century has multiplied our numbers twenty-three times over, making the Baptist communion the largest Free Church fellowship on earth, will that the churches He has called into being shall play a worthy part in the extension of His Kingdom? The opportunities are boundless; may 1937 find us by His grace faithful to our high calling!

Yours in the love and service of Jesus Christ,

GEORGE W. TRUETT,
President, B. W. A.,
J. H. RUSHROOKE,
General Secretary.

Think On These Things

G. C. Andrews, Baird, Texas

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

The finite man cannot contemplate the beauty and glory of heaven and heavenly things.

But in a measure they are revealed unto them." That love God, by his Spirit."

"For the things of God knoweth no man, but (by) the Spirit of God."

We have received with salvation "not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit is of God."

Paul was "caught up to the third heaven, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for man to utter."

Jesus told his disciples that "I go to prepare a place for you."

Then he followed this promise with another: "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

In this world we have sorrow, disappointment, pain and death, but then and there, "God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Devotional Thoughts

THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME

The name of Moses brings to mind statesmanship, generalship and law making. The name of David makes one think of music and sweet songs. The name of Socrates and Plato remind one of philosophy. The names of Demosthenes and Cicero stir the soul with the emotions of being swept with mighty eloquence. The names of Caesar and Napoleon make the blood curdle with thoughts of the horrors of war. The names of Paul and Spurgeon and Wesley give exaltation to the spirit as one thinks of powerful Gospel preaching. But there is a name which is above every name in heaven above or on earth below or beneath the earth. The mention of this name brings thoughts the highest and holiest and sweetest and purest and best and noblest and finest that the brain of man can command.

This name is a divine name, a human name, the name of a God-man. He is called the Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God With Us, Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star, the Rose of Sharon, Water of Life, Bread of Life, the Light of the World, and over two hundred other titles in the Scriptures in an effort to convey to human thought the matchless meaning of His pulsating personality and glorious character.

Whosoever shall call upon this name shall be saved. And there is no other name under Heaven among men by which we may be saved.—M. E. Dodd, in Christian Index.

LORD, SHOW US THE FATHER, AND IT SUFFICETH US

There is something pathetic in the very words of this prayer, suggesting the natural desire of the human heart to enter into conscious relations with God, to see the Father. Philip may have wanted some visible manifestations, some apocalypse of glory. He gives expression to the common thought that surely something more worthy and more unmistakable might have been done to bring God near to us than has been done. "Show us the Father; it sufficeth us" is the cry of the human, both in its instinctive need for God and in its slowness to understand spiritual revelation. It was a devout and sincere wish, but in a disciple of Jesus it was a very disappointing one; for it put the emphasis on the wrong thing. It asked for some startling outward revelation that would convince every observer, without thinking how little such a revelation was worth. The revelation that Jesus was making was one of God's nature and character and essential being, not an outside attestation of His existence which from the point of view of religion meant nothing. It was not unbelief that prompted Phillip's difficulty. It was slowness of understanding, defective spiritual apprehension, obtuseness, ignorance.—Hugh Black in Listening to God.

SALVATION OF LOST SOULS

One of the most urgent needs of the churches today is a deepened interest in the salvation of lost souls. Evangelism should be our watchword. The church that ceases to be evangelistic has forfeited its right to exist. "Jehabod" is already written over the front of it. Orthodox Baptist churches could make no better answer to the rising tides of Modernism, infidelity, skepticism, Communism and Social Gospelism than to give themselves to earnest, faithful evangelistic effort "publicly and from house to house." "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to preach and teach Jesus Christ."—Carroll Hubbard.

BARE CUPBOARDS

"I have nothing to set before him."—Luke 11:5-10.

Old Mother Hubbard's bare cupboard is to be found in many homes. We are forgetting the grace of hospitality. Unexpected guests throw us into a panic. In the old days the careful housewife made it a point of honor always to have an abundance of good food ready to set before friend or stranger, but today we furnish ample precedents for the neighbor of Christ's parable. Hospitality has almost ceased even to be named among the Christian graces.

There is also a hospitality of the mind and spirit which is quite as important as hospitality of the front door and the dining-room table. How often our friends come to us for the refreshment and enlightenment of their souls and we have nothing to set before them. We are living lives so pinched and parsimonious that we hardly keep our own minds and spirits together, and have no surplus for strangers. Our letters copy the style of the telegraph office. Our conversation copies the style of the stock exchange. Our head cupboards and our heart cupboards are bare.—Amos R. Wells.

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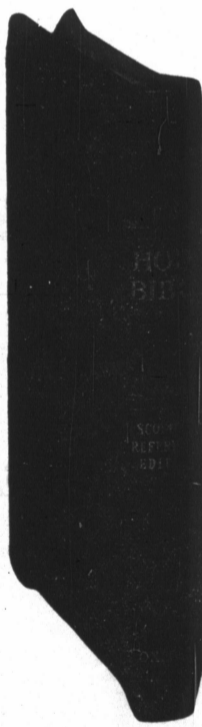
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SOUTHWEST'N SEMINARY'S SECOND SEMESTER

January 11, 1937, marks the opening of the third quarter (second semester) of Southwestern Seminary's current session, with more than 500 resident students enrolled thus far. The thirty-two faculty members and their helpers, all splendidly trained, fine spirited men and women, are a guarantee that you will get the work you need in the fields of theology, religious education, and sacred music. The beautifully landscaped thirty-acre campus, overlooking the city of Fort Worth, on which are located three spacious, well-equipped buildings, surrounded by a growing community, is the guarantee offered for your physical care. The lack of tuition, and low costs of fees, house rent, room and board, and other necessary monetary expenditures for a student are allies to the purses of those in attendance. If it is at all possible for you to take this next half-year's work, surely you could not figure how it would be profitable, either to you, or Kingdom interests not to take it. Correspondence courses are provided at nominal costs for those deprived of the privileges of class attendance. For further information, write President L. R. Scarborough, D. D., LL. D., Seminary Hill, Texas.

Miss Gladys Keith has recently been appointed director of the Good Will Center in New Orleans by the Home Mission Board. Miss Keith has been a student of Blue Mountain College for some time.

A NEW YEAR'S GREETING

(Continued from page 1) we abide in Him "without whom we can do nothing." Nor would we withhold thankful praise for all we have seen and heard of evangelical advance, beyond our borders. "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

We are facing times of stern testing. Avowed atheism has become aggressive, and in some lands religion is assailed as "dope." As Christians and citizens we must seek to confound such assaults by the quality of our life and service. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Materialism abounds, and its subtle taint appears even in the churches of Jesus Christ. It can be met only by the sacrificial spirit of Him who taught that "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth."

Christian moral standards, and even elementary decencies, are ridiculed; they can be vindicated only by the holy life which carries the evidence of its own worth and through which the Holy Spirit "will convince the world of sin."

The peril of war is grave, and it is for the servants of the Prince of Peace to pray and labour for the removal of the political and social and economic causes of ill will, and above all for the winning of men and women the world over to Him, the fruit of whose Spirit is peace.

Religious liberty is imperiled in widely-scattered regions of the earth, and we are thankful that the Baptist World Alliance has, by its intervention, enlarged freedom in some lands, and preserved it in others. But we must be prepared to meet a serious and growing menace to the doctrine which is among the most distinctive and precarious elements of our Baptist heritage.

"He must reign 'til He hath put all enemies under His feet."

There is the firm foundation of our confidence. Rooted and grounded in Him, let us all—the millions who are banded together in the Baptist faith and order—resolve to comfort the multiple challenge of our time with a renewed and deepened consecration. We must pray more earnestly; we have not exhausted the "unsearchable riches of God." Must we not believe that He who in the course of a century has multiplied our numbers twenty-three times over, making the Baptist communion the largest Free Church fellowship on earth, wills that the churches He has called into being shall play a worthy part in the extension of His Kingdom? The opportunities are boundless; may 1937 find us by His grace faithful to our high calling!

Yours in the love and service of Jesus Christ,

GEORGE W. TRUETT,
President, B. W. A.,
J. H. RUSHROOKE,
General Secretary.

Think On These Things

C. C. Andrews, Baird, Texas

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

The finite man cannot contemplate the beauty and glory of heaven and heavenly things.

But in a measure they are revealed unto them." That love God, by his Spirit."

"For the things of God knoweth no man, but (by) the Spirit of God."

We have received with salvation "not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit is of God."

Paul was "caught up to the third heaven, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for man to utter."

Jesus told his disciples that "I go to prepare a place for you."

Then he followed this promise with another: "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

In this world we have sorrow, disappointment, pain and death, but then and there, "God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Devotional Thoughts

THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME

The name of Moses brings to mind statesmanship, generalship and law making. The name of David makes one think of music and sweet songs. The name of Socrates and Plato remind one of philosophy. The names of Demosthenes and Cicero stir the soul with the emotions of being swept with mighty eloquence. The names of Raphael, De Vinci and Murillo bring before the eye the blending of beautiful colors in matchless masterpieces of art. The names of Caesar and Napoleon make the blood curdle with thoughts of the horrors of war. The names of Paul and Spurgeon and Wesley give exaltation to the spirit as one thinks of powerful Gospel preaching.

But there is a name which is above every name in heaven above or on earth below or beneath the earth. The mention of this name brings thoughts the highest and holiest and sweetest and purest and best and noblest and finest that the brain of man can command.

This name is a divine name, a human name, the name of a God-man. He is called the Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God With Us, Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star, the Rose of Sharon, Water of Life, Bread of Life, the Light of the World, and over two hundred other titles in the Scriptures in an effort to convey to human thought the matchless meaning of His pulsating personality and glorious character.

Whosoever shall call upon this name shall be saved. And there is no other name under heaven among men by which we may be saved.—M. E. Dodd, in Christian Index.

LORD, SHOW US THE FATHER, AND IT SUFFICETH US

There is something pathetic in the very words of this prayer, suggesting the natural desire of the human heart to enter into conscious relations with God, to see the Father. Philip may have wanted some visible manifestations, some apocalypse of glory. He gives expression to the common thought that surely something more worthy and more unmistakable might have been done to bring God near to us than has been done. "Show us the Father; it sufficeth us" is the cry of the human, both in its instinctive need for God and in its slowness to understand spiritual revelation. It was a devout and sincere wish, but in a disciple of Jesus it was a very disappointing one; for it put the emphasis on the wrong thing. It asked for some startling outward revelation that would convince every observer, without thinking how little such a revelation was worth. The revelation that Jesus was making was one of God's nature and character and essential being, not an outside attestation of His existence which from the point of view of religion meant nothing. It was not unbelief that prompted Phillip's difficulty. It was slowness of understanding, defective spiritual apprehension, obtuseness, ignorance.—Hugh Black in Listening to God.

SALVATION OF LOST SOULS

One of the most urgent needs of the churches today is a deepened interest in the salvation of lost souls. Evangelism should be our watchword. The church that ceases to be evangelistic has forfeited its right to exist. "Ichabod" is already written over the front of it. Orthodox Baptist churches could make no better answer to the rising tides of Modernism, infidelity, skepticism, Communism and Social Gospelism than to give themselves to earnest, faithful evangelistic effort "publicly and from house to house." "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to preach and teach Jesus Christ."—Carroll Hubbard.

BARE CUPBOARDS

"I have nothing to set before him."—Luke 11:5-10.

Old Mother Hubbard's bare cupboard is to be found in many homes. We are forgetting the grace of hospitality. Unexpected guests throw us into a panic. In the old days the careful housewife made it a point of honor always to have an abundance of good food ready to set before friend or stranger, but today we furnish ample precedents for the neighbor of Christ's parable. Hospitality has almost ceased even to be named among the Christian graces.

There is also a hospitality of the mind and spirit which is quite as important as hospitality of the front door and the dining-room table. How often our friends come to us for the refreshment and enlightenment of their souls and we have nothing to set before them. We are living lives so pinched and parsimonious that we hardly keep our own minds and spirits together, and have no surplus for strangers. Our letters copy the style of the telegraph office. Our conversation copies the style of the stock exchange. Our head cupboards and our heart cupboards are bare.—Amos R. Wells.

LAUGHTER'S FUNERAL HOME AMBULANCE

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Stationery Company

The Incarnation

(Continued from page 1)

the two-fold witness to the incarnation.

We know that such an experience of "Christ in you the hope of glory" would have been forever impossible if He had not been the Eternal Son of God—the only begotten of the Father, Immanuel . . . God with us. Our approach to the subject is not in "the wisdom of the world," but "in the power of God," and when Isaiah and Matthew tell us that "a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son," and that "His name shall be Immanuel, God With us," it is in perfect accord with our experience with Him; and when they tell us that "He was begotten of the Holy Ghost," the same chord is struck within the soul by the Holy Spirit and there is perfect harmony there.

Why should it be thought a thing incredible that the Creator of the universe should create for Himself a human body and soul in which to reveal Himself to His prodigal world of mankind? And why should the mind of a rational creature be staggered at the miraculous conception of the Son of God when any miracle is but natural in the presence of the Creator? Every other revelation of Himself to His fallen creatures had failed and is still failing to bring them back to Him. Why should He not "in these last days have spoken unto us by His Son," the Eternal "Word made flesh?" "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him," and there is no other way of knowing God but through the meditation of His Son, for He is the "one Mediator between God and men."

Alas, alas, for those who seek to know Him in any other way! And yet the burning words of old Simon are as true of the present generation as in the days of His earthly ministry, of thousands of Gentiles as well as of the Jews who "stumbled" at the incarnation of the Son of God. "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against" (Luke 2:34).

Mark the words: "THIS CHILD"—"A Son" who was "begotten of the Holy Spirit"; a Son who was born of "a Virgin" mother—the "Only Begotten Son of God." Millions have "risen" with Him to the sublime heights of eternal sonship in the family of God, while other millions have "fallen" over the "mystery of godliness" as revealed in the Incarnate Son of God. "Who was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on, in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tim. 3:16). Let it be forever remembered that to reject "THIS CHILD," as "The Only Begotten Son of God," is to reject God Himself, and the "Good Tidings of Salvation," and salvation itself, for everything in Christianity rests upon THE FACT of the Incarnation.

Let us come now to search our own hearts as to whether or not we have heard God's Message concerning His Son, and through His Son to our own hearts. Let us again make our journey back to Bethlehem, "the city of David," behold the scene enacted there over nineteen hundred years ago as though it were today, and with bowed heads, and reverent hearts what God has to say about what is happening there. We shall not have time to hear it all, for forty years of earnest listening and pondering finds this poor scribe only a little child still lingering at His feet to hear more. But we may hear enough of what He says to determine whether or not we have heard with a living faith. There they are—"The Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in the manger; Mary, the mother, and Joseph. Is the scene real to you? If it isn't, you may as well be excused from the scene. If it is real to you, then stand right close to me as we listen together for it is perfectly real to me, and I want to hear God talk to us about it.

Listen: "Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 1:18). "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him" (Matt. 17:5). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall

He come forth unto me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

All this is He saying to us, and a thousand times more, both in the Old Testament and in the New—by the voice of the prophets, through the tongues of angels, by the apostles, who "were eye-witnesses of His Majesty" and heard the voice of God" from the excellent glory. "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased" (2 Pet. 1:16-17). If this vision is real to us, and the words of God are faithful and true as to its meaning; and if the Christ, concerning Whom God has so abundantly spoken, has, through faith in His atoning merits, been admitted to His rightful place in our hearts as Saviour and Lord, then we have the additional testimony of the Holy Spirit, "bearing witness with our spirits that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16), for "he that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" (1 John 5:10).

Each must accept or reject God's message for himself. I have borne my own witness, that to me, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. "But the witness of God is greater. . . . And he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son" (1 John 5:9-10).

III

Whether it has been pleasing to us or not, the Truth concerning the Incarnation of the Son of God has been presented as He Himself has declared it. And whether we know it or not, every other Truth of Holy Writ rests securely or insecurely upon this foundation. Destroy this foundation and you have nothing left upon which to stand. The Word of God itself it at stake, for He declared it times without number. It is nowhere argued in the Word of God, but is everywhere taken for granted as fundamental to all other Truth of Divine Revelation.

It is clearly assumed that if Redemption is a necessity, God Himself must come to the rescue; that if reconciliation between a thrice Holy God and His sinning creatures is needed, a Mediator must come between, and that such a Mediator must represent both God and man, and do so with the PERFECT nature and understanding of both. It follows as an inescapable conclusion that such a Mediator is at once both God and Man—combining in Himself the nature of Perfect Humanity—"Son of God" and "Son of Man"—"IMMANUEL"—"GOD WITH US."

Painful and severe as it may seem, to reject this Truth is to reject all, and reduce in one's thinking the whole of Christianity to a mere philosophy of life, and place it upon a common level with the Pagan religions of the world. To all such thinking man is not a hopeless sinner if a sinner at all; God is not offended at man's sins and no reconciliation is needed; man is his own redeemer—if redemption is needed—and the work is to be accomplished through self-correction and self-development. If it takes the form of the lower levels of Paganism and a sacrifice is needed, it is within the power of the sinner to offer it, but in principle, it is the same from top to bottom—man is his own Saviour, if a Saviour is needed.

To all such thinking "A NEW CREATION" is not needed, because the old creation can perfect itself through a natural process of spiritual evolution; the New Birth is not an individual necessity, and there are no "NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST JESUS" (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10); "as Paul seemed to think in this day." "The Second Adam" is not "A Quickening Spirit," nor "THE LORD FROM HEAVEN" (1 Cor. 15:45-47), but like "the First Adam," was "of the earth, earthly."

And thus the rejection of the Truth of the Incarnation of the Son of God is at once the rejection of all that is vital in Christianity to the human soul, and the cry for the Bread of Life is answered only by the gift of a stone. How dark must be the approaching night of death to those who, even in the day time, have no "Light" from "The Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us!" (Jno. 1:1-14).

But to those who "Behold His Glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father," "there is no night there," for "the Lamb is the Light thereof" (Rev. 21:23-25). And even now, we may "Walk in the Light as He is in the Light . . . and the blood of Jesus Christ HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN" (1 John 1:7). God has spoken to us. His message has been delivered. His truth has been heard. Let us walk therein.

The Forest Church, in the Portales Association, recently adopted a budget of \$575.00.

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES SERVING WEST TEXAS OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

The West Texas Utilities Company, soon after declaring preferred stock dividends totaling over \$109,000, observed its Silver Anniversary recently, choosing the Christmas season for the event.

This pioneer utility organization had its origin 25 years ago—1911—at Abilene. It has since expanded to include 160 communities in 49 counties, stretching across Central West Texas from Kimple county on the south to Dallam county in the Panhandle. General offices are in Abilene; district offices are located in McCamey, San Angelo, Ballinger, Cisco, Stamford, Quanah and Dalhart, as well as in Abilene.

Publication of an anniversary souvenir in the form of a newspaper magazine section is one of the main features planned by the company to celebrate the birthday. Over 50,000 copies were sent out to customers and stockholders in the 55,000 square mile territory.

President Price Campbell announced that intensified efforts will be made during the forthcoming years to multiply the uses of electricity, and spread the benefits to more users, declaring that "the greater the benefits, the greater the consumption, and in turn the lower the steps in unit costs of electric service thereby all four interested parties profit (1) this "Land of Opportunity" West Texas territory, (2) the customers, (3) the employees, and (4) the stockholders.

He reminded the quarter million people served by the company that "average rates have been lowered 70 per cent during the last 15 years—never raised." The recent dividend, he said, was declared in the face of government interference and increased taxes, amounting the last three years to 1.7 times—nearly twice as much for government tax expenditures as has been paid to all shareholders—owners of the company. This preferred stock dividend was made possible by unusual operating economies and intensive new business efforts of the organization. No earnings are yet possible for the common stockholders and none have been for five years.

While gross revenue remains 30 per cent below 1929's peak figures due to rate reductions and sale of gas property, kilowatt-hour sales have reached a new all-time peak during the last 12 months, he announced. Large increased industrial power usage, together with some increased domestic service usage was credited with the hike. This dividend, equivalent to quarterly requirements of \$1.50 a share, is the first full dividend basis since July, 1933, partly paid then from reserves, and the stock is now \$9.50 per share in arrears. Seventy per cent of preferred stockholders are West Texans.

The West Texas Utilities Company has been a consistent advertising patron of the West Texas Baptist, and we are glad to give recognition to its unusual achievements.

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Quiet

"Be still and know that I am God"—Psalms 46:10.

"Study to be quiet."—1 Thess. 4:11.

Silence

"The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him."—Habakkuk 2:20.

Reverence

"Ye shall keep My sabbaths, and reverence My sanctuary."—Lev. 19:30.

Meditation

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night."—Psalms 1:2.

Prayer

"In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."—Phil. 4:6.

WORK OF MISSION BOARD

(Continued from page 1)

mountain schools which are being run by local boards of trustees in property owned by the board. These schools are great evangelistic agencies.

Anglo-Mexican Institute, El Paso, Texas.—Professor A. Velez, missionary-pastor, is superintendent. He is assisted by Miss Lillie Mae Weatherford, Miss Gladys McLanahan, and Miss Gloria Ruiz. This school reports 154 students and 29 baptisms the last year. Four mission stations are carried on from this center.

Acadia Academy, Church Point, Louisiana.—Dr. Alfred Schwab, superintendent, is assisted by six cultured Christian teachers. The school reported 126 students the past session, many of whom, under the direction of the teachers, were engaged in definite mission work.

Sunday School Lesson

(Continued from page 2)

sections dire, churches, aggregating a membership supposed to be at least 100,000, were established in many cities of the Roman Empire—in western Asia from the Euphrates Valley to the Aegean Sea, in north Africa as far up the Nile as Ethiopia, and in southern Europe from Scythia on the Caspian Sea to Spain on the Atlantic Ocean.

Gold in the Golden Text

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11:15. The reality of the "kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ" are veritable at the present moment, for he is on his throne and the scepter is already in his hand.

The universality of that kingdom is divinely forecast. For a time the kingdom of this world will decline to yield to or coalesce with the kingdom of God. But one bright day the conquest of the world will be complete and the heavenly Kingdom will be all-embracing.

The eternity of the kingdom of God is as certain as the power of God. He shall reign without a rival and without release for ever and ever.

Daily Readings

Monday—The Danger of Drifting. Hebrews 2:1-4.

Tuesday—Heroes of the Faith. Hebrews 11:32-40.

Wednesday—"Looking Unto Jesus." Hebrews 12:1-4.

Thursday—"Fear Not, Little Flock." Luke 12:31-34.

Friday—The Growth of the Kingdom. Matthew 13:31-32.

Saturday—The Nations Evangelized. Micah 4:1-4.

Sunday—The Reign of the Messiah. Isaiah 11:1-10.

SOME MORE ABOUT THE COUNTRY CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)

ing vote as to where and how many city and country preachers had discovered America. Four hundred and thirty had the smell of the country to three the perfume of the city. This was the year of the Whitsett affair at Lexington, Ky., where at the Southern Baptist Convention Dr. B. H. Carroll made the greatest defense for Baptist doctrine and principles in that two hours that I believe has ever been made in the United States of America. God bless his memory.

Now, Why?

1. Because the country mothers desires children, and prays for her boy to be a preacher or a Christian worker. You take a woman, even if she is a mother, who shingles her hair, runs to a beauty parlor two or three times a week, paints and powders two hours a day, cuts her dress off at each end all the law allows her, attends forty some-odd parties, dances a little at home, sleeps two or three hours each evening, sending the child in the back alley, could not possibly raise nine preachers.

2. Next, the father—not so important as the mothers—but, a great factor, has a better chance to control a boy—works him, uses a little hickory tea, stays at home a little more.

3. The air, the hills, the rocks, mountains, the trees, the horse, the cow, the swimming hole, make fine environment for the country boy. I had mustache before I ever saw a bath tub, door bell, or a carpet. Oh, the country is a good ground to grow a sturdy, husky boy. He gets his throat and lung training there calling hogs and cows, and talking to his boy friend half a mile away.

God was wise calling John the Baptist from the country. I wonder how he would look at our conventions. Jesus was wise enough to get some country boys for preachers.

I am for every phase of our great work to strengthen them and help them. That's why I am so interested in looking at the country harvest fields. I thank God for the West Texas Baptist that is not afraid to publish a country preacher's thoughts and resolutions. The West, yes, we are for you.

Paul C. Bell, missionary of the Home Mission Board, recently made a survey of a section including parts of four counties in Texas in which he says that there are 12,000 Mexicans, who have no church of any kind.

Rev. W. E. Henson recently preached each evening at Hassell, the week following November 8. There was a good attendance at all of the services.

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS OF WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

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Pastor Buffalo Gap and Stith Churches

Roy O. Young
Pastor Immanuel Baptist Church, Abilene
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On Taking My Office as Sheriff of Taylor County, January 1st, I Wish You a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year

Sid McAdams

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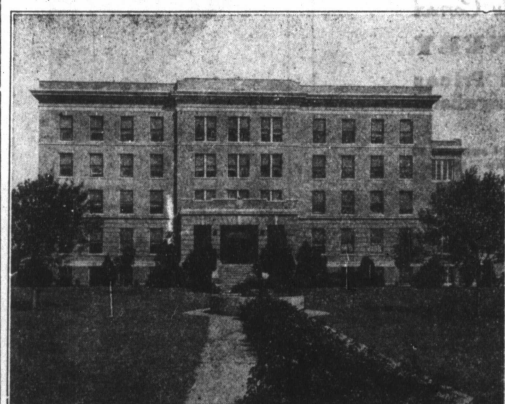
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Hendrick Memorial Hospital

(FORMERLY WEST TEXAS BAPTIST SANITARIUM)

Controlled By Texas Baptist General Convention



The Hendrick Memorial Hospital is the only Baptist or Protestant Hospital West of Fort Worth. It is strictly modern in every detail, has the highest rating given by the American College of Surgeons, maintains a first class Nurses' Training School, and has the largest body of medical workers in West Texas to serve you.

Rates: Wards \$3.00 per day, Private Rooms \$5.00 to \$8.00 per day, Maternity Cases \$50.00 for ten days. Average Hospital costs for Appendicitis Cases \$65.00. Oxygen Tent \$5.00 per day plus oxygen, and reasonable Laboratory and X-Ray charges.

The Hendrick Memorial Hospital is owned and controlled by the Baptists of Texas, dedicated to God and the relief of suffering humanity, not operated for profit, ready to serve sick and injured humanity, regardless of race, creed, or color.

E. M. COLLIER, Superintendent.

The Incarnation

(Continued from page 1)

the two-fold witness to the incarnation.

We know that such an experience of "Christ in you the hope of glory" would have been forever impossible if He had not been the Eternal Son of God—"the only begotten of the Father," Immanuel . . . God with us. Our approach to the subject is not in "the wisdom of the world," but "in the power of God," and when Isaiah and Matthew tell us that "a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son," and that "His name shall be Immanuel, God With us," it is in perfect accord with our experience with Him; and when they tell us that "He was begotten of the Holy Ghost," the same chord is struck within the soul by the Holy Spirit and there is perfect harmony there.

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Alas, alas, for those who seek to know Him in any other way! And yet the burning words of old Simeon are as true of the present generation as in the days of His earthly ministry, of thousands of Gentiles as well as of the Jews who "stumbled" at the incarnation of the Son of God. "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against" (Luke 2:34).

Mark the words: "THIS CHILD"—"A Son" who was "begotten of the Holy Spirit"; a Son who was born of "a Virgin" mother—the "Only Begotten Son of God." Millions have "risen" with Him to the sublime heights of eternal sonship in the family of God, while other millions have "fallen" over the "mystery of godliness" as revealed in the incarnate Son of God. "Who was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tim. 3:16). Let it be forever remembered that to reject "THIS CHILD," as "The Only Begotten Son of God," is to reject God Himself, and the "Good Tidings of Salvation," and salvation itself, for everything in Christianity rests upon THE FACT of the Incarnation.

Let us come now to search our own hearts as to whether or not we have heard God's Message concerning His Son, and through His Son to our own hearts. Let us again make our journey back to Bethlehem, "the city of David," behold the scene enacted there over nineteen hundred years ago as though it were today, and with bowed heads and reverent hearts what God has to say about what is happening there. We shall not have time to hear it all, for forty years of earnest listening and pondering finds this poor scribe only a little child still lingering at His feet to hear more. But we may hear enough of what He says to determine whether or not we have heard with a living faith. There they are—"The Babe" wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in the manger; "Mary, the mother, and Joseph. Is the scene real to you? If it isn't, you may as well be excused from the scene. If it is real to you, then stand right close to me as we listen together for it is perfectly real to me, and I want to hear God talk to us about it.

Listen: "Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 1:18). "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him" (Matt. 17:5). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall

He come forth unto me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

All this is He saying to us, and a thousand times more, both in the Old Testament and in the New—by the voice of the prophets, through the tongues of angels, by the apostles, who "were eye-witnesses of His Majesty" and heard the voice of God" from the excellent glory. "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased" (2 Pet. 1:16-17). If this vision is real to us, and the words of God are faithful and true as to its meaning; and if the Christ, concerning Whom God has so abundantly spoken, has, through faith in His atoning merits, been admitted to His rightful place in our hearts as Saviour and Lord, then we have the additional testimony of the Holy Spirit, "bearing witness with our spirits that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16), for "he that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" (1 John 5:10).

Each must accept or reject God's message for himself. I have borne my own witness, that to me, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. "But the witness of God is greater. . . . And he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son" (1 John 5:9-10).

III

Whether it has been pleasing to us or not, the Truth concerning the Incarnation of the Son of God has been presented as He Himself has declared it. And whether we know it or not, every other Truth of Holy Writ rests securely or insecurely upon this foundation. Destroy this foundation and you have nothing left upon which to stand. The Word of God itself it at stake, for He declared it times without number. It is nowhere argued in the Word of God, but is everywhere taken for granted as fundamental to all other Truth of Divine Revelation.

It is clearly assumed that if Redemption is a necessity, God Himself must come to the rescue; that if reconciliation between a thrice Holy God and His sinning creatures is needed, a Mediator must come between, and that such a Mediator must represent both God and man, and do so with the PERFECT nature and understanding of both. It follows as an inescapable conclusion that such a Mediator is at once both God and Man—combining in Himself the nature of Perfect Humanity—"Son of God" and "Son of Man"—"IMMANUEL"—"GOD WITH US."

Painful and severe as it may seem, to reject this Truth is to reject all, and reduce in one's thinking the whole of Christianity to a mere philosophy of life, and place it upon a common level with the Pagan religions of the world. To all such thinking man is not a hopeless sinner if a sinner at all; God is not offended at man's sins and no reconciliation is needed; man is his own redeemer—if redemption is needed—and the work is to be accomplished through self-correction and self-development. If it takes the form of the lower levels of Paganism and a sacrifice is needed, it is within the power of the sinner to offer it, but in principle, it is the same from top to bottom—man is his own Saviour, if a Saviour is needed.

To all such thinking "A NEW CREATION" is not needed, because the old creation can perfect itself through a natural process of spiritual evolution; the New Birth is not an individual necessity, and there are no "NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST JESUS" (2 Cor. 5:17, Eph. 2:10), "as Paul seemed to think in this day." "The Second Adam" is not "A Quickening Spirit," nor "THE LORD FROM HEAVEN" (1 Cor. 15:45-47), but like "the First Adam," was "of the earth, earthly."

And thus the rejection of the Truth of the Incarnation of the Son of God is at once the rejection of all that is vital in Christianity to the human soul, and the cry for the Bread of Life is answered only by the gift of a stone. How dark must be the approaching night of death to those who, even in the day time, have no "Light" from "The Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us!" (Jno. 1:1-14). But to those who "Behold His Glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father," "there is no night there," for "the Lamb is the Light thereof" (Rev. 21:23-25). And even now, we may "Walk in the Light as He is in the Light . . . and the blood of Jesus Christ HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN" (1 John 1:7). God has spoken to us. His message has been delivered. His truth has been heard. Let us walk therein.

The Forest Church, in the Portales Association, recently adopted a budget of \$575.00.

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES SERVING WEST TEXAS OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

The West Texas Utilities Company, soon after declaring preferred stock dividends totaling over \$109,000, observed its Silver Anniversary recently, choosing the Christmas season for the event.

This pioneer utility organization had its origin 25 years ago—1911—at Abilene. It has since expanded to include 160 communities in 49 counties, stretching across Central West Texas from Kimble county on the south to Dallam county in the Panhandle. General offices are in Abilene; district offices are located in McCamey, San Angelo, Ballinger, Cisco, Stamford, Quanah and Dalhart, as well as in Abilene.

Publication of an anniversary souvenir in the form of a newspaper magazine section is one of the main features planned by the company to celebrate the birthday. Over 50,000 copies were sent out to customers and stockholders in the 55,000 square mile territory.

President Price Campbell announced that intensified efforts will be made during the forthcoming years to multiply the uses of electricity, and spread the benefits to more users, declaring that "the greater the benefits, the greater the consumption, and in turn the lower the steps in unit costs of electric service thereby all four interested parties profit (1) this "Land of Opportunity" West Texas territory, (2) the customers, (3) the employees, and (4) the stockholders.

He reminded the quarter million people served by the company that "average rates have been lowered 70 per cent during the last 15 years—never raised." The recent dividend, he said, was declared in the face of government interference and increased taxes, amounting the last three years to 1.7 times—nearly twice as much for government tax expenditures as has been paid to all shareholders—owners of the company. This preferred stock dividend was made possible by unusual operating economies and intensive new business efforts of the organization. No earnings are yet possible for the common stockholders and none have been for five years.

While gross revenue remains 30 per cent below 1929's peak figures due to rate reductions and sale of gas property, kilowatt-hour sales have reached a new all-time peak during the last 12 months, he announced. Large increased industrial power usage, together with some increased domestic service usage was credited with the hike. This dividend, equivalent to quarterly requirements of \$150 a share, is the first full dividend since July, 1933, partly paid then from reserves, and the stock is now \$9.50 per share in arrears. Seventy per cent of preferred stockholders are West Texans.

The West Texas Utilities Company has been a consistent advertising patron of the West Texas Baptist, and we are glad to give recognition to its unusual achievements.

IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Quiet

"Be still and know that I am God"—Psalms 46:10.

"Study to be quiet."—1 Thess. 4:11.

Silence

"The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him."—Habakkuk 2:20.

Reverence

"Ye shall keep My sabbaths, and reverence My sanctuary."—Lev. 19:30.

Meditation

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night."—Psalms 1:2.

Prayer

"In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."—Phil. 4:6.

WORK OF MISSION BOARD

(Continued from page 1)

mountain schools which are being run by local boards of trustees in property owned by the board. These schools are great evangelistic agencies.

Anglo-Mexican Institute, El Paso, Texas.—Professor A. Velez, missionary-pastor, is superintendent. He is assisted by Miss Lillie Mae Weatherford, Miss Gladys McLanahan, and Miss Gloria Ruiz. This school reports 154 students and 29 baptisms the last year. Four mission stations are carried on from this center.

Acadia Academy, Church Point, Louisiana.—Dr. Alfred Schwab, superintendent, is assisted by six cultured Christian teachers. The school reported 126 students the past session, many of whom, under the direction of the teachers, were engaged in definite mission work.

Sunday School Lesson

(Continued from page 2)

sections dire, churches, aggregating a membership supposed to be at least 100,000, were established in many cities of the Roman Empire—in western Asia from the Euphrates Valley to the Aegean Sea, in north Africa as far up the Nile as Ethiopia, and in southern Europe from Scythia on the Caspian Sea to Spain on the Atlantic Ocean.

Gold in the Golden Text

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11:15. The reality of the "kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ" are veritable at the present moment, for he is on his throne and the scepter is already in his hand.

The universality of that kingdom is divinely forecast. For a time the kingdom of this world will decline to yield to or coalesce with the kingdom of God. But one bright day the conquest of the world will be complete and the heavenly Kingdom will be all-embracing.

The eternity of the kingdom of God is as certain as the power of God. He shall reign without a rival and without release for ever and ever.

Daily Readings

Monday—The Danger of Drifting. Hebrews 2:1-4.

Tuesday—Heroes of the Faith. Hebrews 11:32-40.

Wednesday—"Looking Unto Jesus." Hebrews 12:1-4.

Thursday—"Fear Not, Little Flock," Luke 12:31-34.

Friday—The Growth of the Kingdom. Matthew 13:31-32.

Saturday—The Nations Evangelized. Micah 4:1-4.

Sunday—The Reign of the Messiah. Isaiah 11:1-10.

SOME MORE ABOUT THE COUNTRY CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)

ing vote as to where and how many city and country preachers had discovered America. Four hundred and thirty had the smell of the country to three the perfume of the city. This was the year of the Whitsett affair at Lexington, Ky., where at the Southern Baptist Convention Dr. B. H. Carroll made the greatest defense for Baptist doctrine and principles in that two hours that I believe has ever been made in the United States of America. God bless his memory.

Now, Why?

1. Because the country mothers desires children, and prays for her boy to be a preacher or a Christian worker. You take a woman, even if she is a mother, who shingles her hair, runs to a beauty parlor two or three times a week, paints and powders two hours a day, cuts her dress off at each end all the law allows her, attends forty some-odd parties, dances a little at home, sleeps two or three hours each evening, sending the child in the back alley, could not possibly raise nine preachers.

2. Next, the father—not so important as the mothers—but, a great factor, has a better chance to control a boy—works him, uses a little hickory tea, stays at home a little more.

3. The air, the hills, the rocks, mountains, the trees, the horse, the cow, the swimming hole, make fine environment for the country boy. I had mustache before I ever saw a bath tub, door bell, or a carpet. Oh, the country is a good ground to grow a sturdy, husky boy. He gets his throat and lung training there calling hogs and cows, and talking to his boy friend half a mile away.

God was wise calling John the Baptist from the country. I wonder how he would look at our conventions. Jesus was wise enough to get some country boys for preachers.

I am for every phase of our great work to strengthen them and help them. That's why I am so interested in looking at the country harvest fields. I thank God for the West Texas Baptist that is not afraid to publish a country preacher's thoughts and resolutions. The West, yes, we are for you.

Paul C. Bell, missionary of the Home Mission Board, recently made a survey of a section including parts of four counties in Texas in which he says that there are 12,000 Mexicans who have no church of any kind.

Rev. W. E. Henson recently preached each evening at Hassell, the week following November 8. There was a good attendance at all of the services.

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS OF WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

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Pastor Buffalo Gap and Stith Churches

Roy O. Young
Pastor Immanuel Baptist Church, Abilene
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On Taking My Office as Sheriff of Taylor County, January 1st, I Wish You a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year

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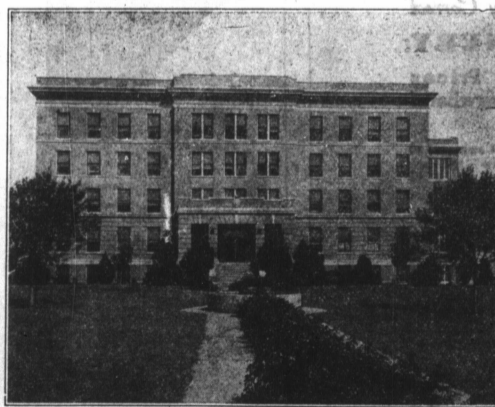
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The Hendrick Memorial Hospital is owned and controlled by the Baptists of Texas, dedicated to God and the relief of suffering humanity, not operated for profit, ready to serve sick and injured humanity, regardless of race, creed, or color.

E. M. COLLIER, Superintendent.