

WEST TEXAS BAPTIST

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No. 23

MISSIONARY

ESSAYS



DISTRICT 9 MISSIONARY GETS LOST IN CANYON

By J. LOWELL PONDER,
1209 Oakland, Plainview

Monday night Dimmitt began a Sunday School study course. They have one of the best little educational plants anywhere. Pastor A. F. Russell is doing a good work. He has a place of confidence in the hearts of his people.

Workers' Conference for the West Plains Association met with the YL church Tuesday. It was an excellent meeting. The discussions were built around the revival theme. There was a spirit of prayer and deep concern. It was a high day.

Wednesday afternoon stopped in to on A. E. Barnes at Hereford. Hereford has as fine physical equipment as there is in the land. That coupled with able pastoral leadership and a gracious people means a fine work there. Incidentally we had fried chicken with him at the parsonage about noon.

Wednesday afternoon stopped in to see Bro. Hicks at Canyon. He is a mighty sick man. It was an inspiration to be with him for a visit. As we prepared to leave we said, "Well, I must go." He replied, "I have my bags packed and I'll be going soon, down the long, long road." We thank the Lord for the life and work of such valiant soldiers. He has done a magnificent piece of work at Canyon building a program for two to three hundred Baptist students in attendance at West Texas State College in Canyon.

Thursday was Workers Conference at Calgary, in Dickens Association. Got lost in the canyons, but we finally found it. A good program and a good day. Wayne Grizzle is pastor and doing a good work. Had lunch under a brush arbor. That is an oddity in this district.

Friday night we began a week-end revival with A. L. Hicks and his church at Pool, northwest of Brownfield. Preached Sunday night at Forrester, Brownfield Association.

Pastors, what about gifts to Cooperative Program in your church? Don't be the one to keep this District toward the bottom of the list in churches giving to missions. We want to rank above twelfth place in the (Continued on page 4)

DISTRICT 16 MISSIONARY GIVES REPORT FOR MAY

June 1, 1940.

District Executive Board, District 16.

Dear Brethren:
Please find partial report of my work during May as follows:
Pastorless churches preached to or contacted, 6. Talpa, Burkett, Menard, Mason, Eola Pearl Valley, Eureka. Other fields contacted, 27.

Attended Evangelistic Conference at Seminary Hill, May 13-16.

Workers' Conferences attended, 4: Rock Springs, Hopewell, Mercers Gap, and Bangs.

Collected on District Missions: Jones Chapel, \$5.25; Grosvenor, \$7.50.
Half time mission appointments by Howard Payne preachers are: Algrita, McMillian School House, Fairview, China Creek, Wallace Creek, Cowboy, Holt, Milburn, Rattler Creek, Ebony, West Point, Union, Shive, Democrat, Pompey, White's Chapel, Indian Creek, Fife, Waldrop, Ledbetter, Live Oak, Fort McKavett, Bethel, Ranch Branch Gritt, Streeter, Neighbors Creek, Mukewater, South Bennett, Love Hill, Line and Deer Plains.

Financial sponsors for the above missions per month are as follows: First Baptist Church, Dr. Daugherty's Sunday School class, \$4.00; Brotherhood, \$3.00; San Saba First Baptist Church, \$4.00; Hamilton Association, \$4.00; Mills County, \$4.00; Brady First Baptist Church, \$4.00; Coleman First Baptist Church, \$3.00; Santa Anna First Baptist Church, \$3.00; Eden First Baptist Church, \$3.00; Rochelle, \$1.00; Camp San Saba, \$1.00; Dr. W. A. Todd, Brownwood is the treasurer.

Many have already expressed their appreciation of the fine work done by the young preachers of the mission work in these needy fields. They will organize Sunday Schools and hold revivals and win the lost to Christ. Surely we will all pray for them.

Sincerely,

Julius King,

Dist. Missionary, Brownwood, Texas.

BUSY MAY IN DISTRICT 8 REPORTS W. C. HARRISON

This month started off with a "bang". The first day we started to Waco, for Training Union meeting, which was well attended by folks from my district, six cars in all. This was a constructive meeting.

May 5th. Began a meeting at Smith's Chapel, Rev. L. A. Blair, pastor and we were assisted by Rev. C. T. Aly, pastor First Baptist Church, Wink. Had a good meeting. We needed to go on for a few more days but pressing engagements forced us to close.

Left Sunday night of the 12th for Fort Worth, and ate breakfast 13th with the District Missionaries and remained for a meeting till noon. After lunch we attended a meeting with the District Brotherhood presidents. Dr. R. C. Campbell and R. A. Springer presiding over these meetings.

Then, to the Seminary for the Evangelistic Conference. This was a great meeting and was well attended by the preachers from District 8, more than thirty being present. Our pastors can never be the same after being inspired as they were in these meetings.

Left home again Saturday 18th and contacted four churches and pastors in Big Spring Association. Found that Lees had called Rev. W. F. Smith as pastor for half time, hence a dormant church revived. Brother Smith has a fertile field in which to work and we predict for him a good year.

Went to Fairview, Gaines county, for morning service Sunday, 19th. Found a nice crowd and a fine people. Received offering for Cooperative Program. Rev. W. H. Burns is the efficient pastor. Went to Pride where Rev. W. M. Draper is the aggressive pastor but was called away before service on account of illness of my Mother at Seymour. There was a good crowd gathering for service in their beautiful well arranged new building. These churches are in Lamessa Association.

My mother rallied and I remained for a Workers Conference, 21st, at Union, Mitchell - Scurry Association. Had good meeting. Left that meeting and went to Seymour and found my mother improved so I could leave Saturday for my field. She has been a member of Baptist churches for seventy years.

Spoke at Bethel and Champion, Mitchell-Scurry Assn., Sunday, 26th. Rev. Alvin Swearingin and Rev. Cone Merritt, pastors respectively. Contacted eleven churches during remainder of the week.

Our churches are busy in V. B. S. and looking forward to Revivals.

Our daughter, Louise, is to be married to Ernie Helm Saturday, June 1st, in the first Baptist Church, Odessa.

Sunday we will start out to see what we can do in June.

—W. C. Harrison.

BAPTISTS GREATEST NEED

Won't you let me say a few words through your paper to the Baptists who read your paper? I think sometimes in our zeal to carry on our denominational work, we leave the most important thing undone. I am for every cause dear to Baptists, and have been every day of my life. I hope we will win and baptize many this year. But I do not believe number is our greatest need as Baptists. We have more now than are at work for the Lord. I also hope we raise more money for our Cooperative Work than we have been raising. But I do not believe more money is our greatest need. I rejoice that we are becoming an educated people; and as badly as education is needed that is not Baptists' greatest need.

When Jesus was leaving his disciples to carry on his work he told them in effect that they were not ready even to begin. He commanded them to tarry in Jerusalem until the power of God should come upon them. He had given them the greatest task ever given to man, and he knew they could not do it in their own power. So do Baptists have the greatest opportunity, and the greatest responsibility of any people in the world today, I believe. But we are not sufficient for the task alone. We must have the help of the Lord. If we will pay the price for power, and dedicate our lives to God this is our day. God grant we shall do so.—J. C. McKenzie, Missionary District Ten.

'PREXY' HONORED IN HSU COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

In the first Hardin-Simmons commencement exercises in 31 years without the presence of Dr. J. D. Sandefer, his spirit pervaded the entire occasion.

The baccalaureate address by Dr. John L. Hill, book editor of the Southern Baptist Sunday School board, Bequest, and the commencement sermon by Dr. Fred Eastham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, had for a text the favorite scripture of the late president, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."

Dr. Hill paid tribute to the recent biography issued by the Broadman Press, "Jefferson Davis Sandefer, Christian Educator," by Inez Woodward Sandefer, his daughter-in-law.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters was conferred upon Dr. Hill and the Doctor of Divinity

HONOR GRADUATE



Mary Louise Johnson

upon Dr. Eastham, an alumnus of H-SU. There were seven M. A. degrees conferred and three others who completed their requirements last August were recognized. The 1940 classes receiving the B. A., B. S. and B. Mus. degrees numbered 149.

Dr. Olsen Present

Honor student of the class was Mary Louise Johnson of Roscoe who received not only the Julius Olsen medal, top honor in scholarship, but also the Friley medal for excellence in natural sciences and the Atwell medal for the best essay on "Lights That Never Fail."

An ovation was tendered Dr. Olsen, the entire audience rising and cheering when he entered the auditorium on the arms of Mrs. Olsen and their son, Julian to present the honor medal. He has been confined to his home since an apopleptic stroke last Thanksgiving.

Other Awards

Pauline Judd of Elmdale was a close competitor for the coveted top honor and Mrs. Tate May of Hamlin was the third to be graduated with the summa cum laude honor, given only to those with an average grade above 95.

Seniors who were graduated magna cum laude included Mary Anna Campbell, Abilene; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dean, (Continued on page 3)

STUDENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER EVANGELISM

Replying to a request for information, a number of Hardin-Simmons students have announced that they will be available for evangelistic work during the summer. All of these young men have had more or less experience in evangelism. Some of them have part-time pastorates, some are not preachers at all but are gifted singers.

Among the preachers are Douglas and David Crow, Saragosa, Texas; Abe Hester Jr., Route 2, Stamford; Harvey C. Allbright, Vera; and the following from Abilene: Milford Howell, Route 4; A. R. Posey, 2428 Simmons; Omer E. Hyde, 2025 Swenson; and Joe Allison, H-SU.

Preachers who are also song leaders include these with an Abilene address, Robert Turner, 2025 Orange; Alvin Hutton, Route 4; Winfred Harper, 1125 Hickory; and Carl V. Willis, Box 31, H-SU.

The following are experienced revival singers: C. H. Foley Jr., 1510 Garfield, Wichita Falls; Roy Lee Williams, Putnam; Dexter Riddle, 325 Hickory, Abilene; and Jack Dean and Connell Taylor, H-SU.

Hardin-Simmons Board Recommends Affiliation With the Convention

Passing a resolution recommending that Hardin-Simmons university be placed in affiliation with the Baptist General convention of Texas, the university trustees, in their annual meeting, June 3, presented the matter for ratification by the Sweetwater association, governing body of the institution, at its meeting in September and by the convention, which meets in Houston in November.

SANDEFER MEMORIAL HALL PLANNED BY H-SU EXES

A movement to erect a building on the Hardin-Simmons Campus as a memorial to the late President J. D. Sandefer, was launched at the annual alumni banquet at Abilene Saturday night. A record attendance at the alumni meeting voted to support the plan for a memorial building.

In acknowledging the tribute to the memory of her distinguished husband, Mrs. Sandefer pledged "half the proceeds of an insurance policy, at his express direction, as a gift to building fund."

Plans for the observance of the Semi-Centennial celebration in 1941-1942 were discussed and approved by the ex-students. Jubilee plans include a series of pilgrimages and gatherings during the anniversary year.

Dr. C. E. Adams, chairman of the semi-centennial commission, was master of ceremonies. Dr. Truett Walton of Ranger was toastmaster and Mrs. H. A. Pender, president of the ex-student body, was one of the principal speakers.

Mrs. Pender was re-elected to lead alumni for the third year. Dr. Walton was chosen first vice president; Thelma Andrews, Abilene second vice president; Solon R. Featherston, Wichita Falls, third vice president; Mrs. W. P. Palm, Abilene, fourth vice president; Mildred Caldwell, Abilene, secretary; J. T. Haney, Abilene, treasurer; and J. Henry Littleton, Abilene, chaplain.

MANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN DISTRICT 7

By J. A. KIDD, Missionary

In a revival May 5-12 in the McGuffin Ave. Church, El Paso, the pastor Bro. Pat Johnson did the preaching in which 65 came forward either rededicating their lives or confessing Christ, 41 united with the church, 27 for baptism.

WINK: There were between 20 and 30 additions to the church in the revival conducted by Bro. W. M. Turner of Pecos, the most of those coming were grown people. Bro. C. T. Aly and people made much of prayer in their preparation and during the revival.

IRAAN: The revival in the Iraan Church in which Bro. A. A. Watson of Kermit did the preaching and Bro. Dexter Riddle of Abilene, the singing, resulted in 10 additions by baptism and 3 by letter.

The Iraan church has made a remarkable record under Bro. C. G. Goff's ministry and their missionary gifts stand at the top in the District. They have a fine departmentalized Sunday School Building and their Sunday School has been Standard since the second year of its history. The church was organized April, 1929.

OZONA: The Ozona Church has specialized this year in Sunday School training and they have attained the Standard.

WICKETT: Bro. Geo. Rickles assisted by Bro. A. L. Leake of El Paso, had a good revival with the largest attendance ever enjoyed by the church. Twenty or more united with the church, the majority on profession of faith. They are following the revival with a Vacation Bible school, assisted by Bro. Edwin Kraemer and Mrs. Kraemer, also Mrs. Medders of Oklahoma who will assist Dr. H. D. Bruce in his Vacation Bible school in Midland.

TEMPLE CHURCH: This church and pastor Lester Kirkpatrick has had a good revival, Bro. Geo. Brooks doing the preaching, in which a number made profession of faith and united with the church.

BARSTOW: This church was revived in their meeting in which Bro. Aubrey Smith did the preaching. There was one addition for baptism with others to come later it is hoped. Bro. Kraemer, pastor, feels the church

(Continued on page 4)

Hardin-Simmons university, founded as Simmons college, "the School of Christ's Love," developed from the appointment of a committee by Sweetwater association in 1890 to propose the founding of "an associational school."

At that time, the association embraced most of West Texas from Ranger and Breckenridge to El Paso. With the settlement of the West in the ensuing 50 years, other associations were formed until only portions of Taylor and Nolan counties remain in the body.

Although the title to the more than a million-dollar property and approximately a million and one-half of endowment has been vested in the association, the trustees chosen have been approved in recent years by the state convention and the present membership includes residents of our states and many counties in Texas.

A noteworthy feature of the university charter prohibited the trustees from creating any lien or mortgage whatever upon the property. In the half century since that provision was first written, it has been found necessary at times to go in debt to keep the school open, but though such indebtedness was a moral obligation upon the churches of the association and the friends of the institution, it was a legally binding personal debt of the members of the board who signed the note.

In the "Foundation Agreement," with Dr. James B. Simmons of New York in 1891, some outstanding provisions were stated. Those provided that "Christianity shall be the confessed and formative principle of the whole organization"; that the Bible shall be taught "as interpreted by Missionary Baptists"; that the faculty shall be chosen in sympathy with these views. These provisions have been religiously maintained throughout the years.

Gib Sandefer Resigns.

Among matters considered by the board were the annual report of the executive vice-president, Dr. Rupert N. Richardson, and of J. T. Haney, secretary-treasurer.

The resignation of Gilbert B. Sandefer, business manager of athletics, the Cowboy band and concert manager, was presented. Under "Gib's" skillful management the band has achieved international fame, the football team has earned a nation-wide reputation and many famous artists and lecturers have been brought to the campus.

BROWNWOOD PASTOR COMMENDS MISSIONARY

Rev. Louis V. Hanna, returned missionary from Palestine, now residing at 1605 Third Street, Brownwood, is available for revivals, schools of missions or other work with churches, writes Dr. Karl H. Moore, pastor of Brownwood First Church.

Rev. Hanna holds an A. B. from Howard Payne, A. M. from Baylor and Th. M. from Southwestern Seminary. For more than ten years the Hannas did a remarkable work at Nazareth where a \$9,000 church was erected with money given to the Hannas by a Presbyterian woman.

Due to the war and to Mrs. Hanna's health they have not been able to return to the Holy Land and Dr. Moore urges that churches use the opportunity to hear this brilliant missionary.

LORAIN, A DRY TOWN

In the recent beer election in Mitchell county, Loraine voted 10 to 1 against beer, furnishing enough votes to offset anti majorities and keep the county dry for its thirty-sixth year.

Loraine likely has the largest per cent of church attendance of any town in West Texas, perhaps in the state, the attendance at Sunday School equalling about half of the population. This fact likely explains the large number voting against beer. More churches, less beer joints; more beer joints, less churches.

- ### EVENTS TO COME
- June 3—48th Commencement, Hardin-Simmons U.
 - June 4—Summer session registration, H-SU.
 - June 12-16—Southern Baptist Convention, Baltimore.
 - June 19-27—Student Retreat, Ridgecrest.
 - June 24-28—R. A. and G. A. camps, for District 7. Paisano.
 - June 24-30—West Texas Assembly, Camp Lueders.
 - July 2-12—Texas Baptist Encampment, Palacios.
 - July 8-10—Girls Camp, Lueders.
 - July 9-19—Ruidoso Encampment, Ruidoso, N. M.
 - July 9-17—Menard Baptist Encampment, Menard.
 - July 9-12—District 9 R. A. Camp, Ceta Glen.
 - July 10-12—Boys Camp, Lueders.
 - July 14-19—Southwide Sunday School Conference, Ridgecrest.
 - July 21-26—Southwide Training Union Assembly, Ridgecrest.
 - July 29-August 6—Paisano Assembly, Paisano Pass.
 - August 20-23—District 9 G. A. Camp, Ceta Glen.
 - August 24—Close of Hardin-Simmons summer school.
 - September 2-4—Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association, Seminary Hill, Texas.
 - September 4-7—B. S. U. Retreat, Seminary Hill.
 - November 12-15—Baptist General Convention of Texas, Houston.
 - November 21-23—Texas Baptist Training Union convention, Dallas.

West Texas Baptist

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R. E. DUDLEY Editor

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THE SONGS OF A PEOPLE

The announcement comes out of Germany, obscured in a welter of war bulletins and a smoke-screen of propaganda, that the religious hymnology of the nation is to be revised, removing all songs in a minor key and including only the "dominant German major." All the familiar hymns of Martin Luther are to be deleted, even "Ein Feste Burg"—"A mighty fortress is our God," and of course a number so simple and sentimental as the beloved Cradle Hymn.

This brings to mind the old aphorism, "Let me choose the songs of a people and I care not who makes their laws." Germany is already a vivid illustration of that proverb.

There was a Germany of dainty china, intricate wood-carving, whimsical fairy tales and kindly good humor. The poets of that Germany were romanticists and lyrics. Among their galaxy of truly great musicians were Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Schubert.

Then came Wagner with the "dominant German major," roaring of forgotten gods and demons. In his train followed the Bismarck of "blood and iron," Nietzsche and the philosophy of the superman; Kaiser Wilhelm seeking his "place in the sun," and finally Hitler's neo-paganism and blitzkrieg. These associations are no coincidence and have a positive relation to each other.

Let historians and philosophers settle whether the music reflects the spiritual state or the spirit gives key to the music. The fact remains that the lovable, creative Germans of simple faith have been welded into pagan automatons. And the end is not yet.

Let us grow self-righteous, we might look to the songs and the music of our own land and generation and ask, "Whither America?"

"SECURITY AND CONFUSION"

Security has loomed large in the thought of American people in recent years, but, in spite of a decade of strenuous efforts to provide a man-made security, the very foundations of civilization are shaken today as they have not been since the collapse of the Roman empire some 15 centuries ago.

In such a time, it is comforting to have from one of ripened thought and mature experience the assurance that Dr. John L. Hill voiced Monday, in addressing the graduating class of Hardin-Simmons, when he declared, "There is such a thing as security amid confusion."

He reminds us that the Fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John is not primarily a funeral message, but a comforting assurance in which we may sing a hymn and go out to face any crisis which may confront our lives. He recalls that we may join the aged and imprisoned Paul in saying, "I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

In the years when the land revelled in prosperity while men believed in lasting peace and goodness through education, talk of the heavenly home passed out of style. Heaven was expected to take up its abode on earth.

In our bewilderment today, we realize how impermanent and unsatisfying are the foundations of our civilization and we yearn for the assurance of a city "whose builder and maker is God." We begin to feel the need of an abiding place where we can have shelter from economic disaster and mechanized warfare. If we have such assurance we may face the present with the calm of a Paul.

"Let not your heart be troubled."

A TIME FOR REPENTANCE

One of the most hopeful indications of these tumultuous times is the widespread, yet unconcerted appeal from men in positions of religious leadership as they call their people back to repentance and to God.

For some four years there has been a growing evangelistic spirit in the Southwest, the influence of which has been felt in other states and abroad. There has been a very definite increase in various forms of religious activity. A marked growth in the number of conversions and baptisms has been noted. For all that, there has been lacking a widespread repentance and change of life among professing Christians who have fallen into ruts of world-conformity and unspiritual living.

From day to day and hour to hour we see disaster upon disaster befall nations and peoples which are perhaps, in many ways, better than we, and we come to the realization that we are, indeed, no chosen people, but men who must fare as other men.

There is a conviction coming to many as they realize what a sinful people we are and with Isaiah they cry, "Woe is me, for I am undone." If this sense of conviction and spirit of repentance continues to spread among our people we may find that the revival of which we have talked and for which we have prayed may indeed come to pass.

One wonders if, perhaps, we have not spent too much of the energy of our evangelistic efforts in urging church members to undertake a soul-winning task for which they feel no personal call, when they need to become conscious of their own sins and of the distance which they have strayed from God. People cannot be made into soul winners when there is a deep-seated feeling that they are not right in their own lives. But they can be called to repentance. "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

NEWS NOTES

During the first six months and 23 days of this convention year, 52,191. Training Union awards have been issued by the Dallas office.

Rev. Clyde Campbell, Abilene, will preach in an evangelistic meeting at Tye, beginning July 11, announces Pastor F. A. Porter. Harvey McGraw of Trinity Church, Dallas, will lead the song service.

Rev. W. C. Taggart, who is working in the interest of the Baptist Standard this summer, supplied at Putnam, June 2. A boy of 12 was converted in an after service in the evening.

Dr. I. L. Yearby preaching at First Church, El Paso, Sunday morning, conducted the first religious service heard over the new radio station, KROD.

Rev. John Abbott, missionary to the Mexicans in Pecos and Big Bend associations, reports 21 conversions during May. Members of Brotherhoods and others have raised over \$200 to assist him in buying a much needed car.

Dr. Geo. W. Truett will preach again at the Paisano encampment. He is requesting pastors to bring as many unsaved as possible to the camp.

A series of discussions on "Christian Education, Today and Tomorrow," will be given over the NBC Red network at 10:30 Central time Wednesdays, by Dr. L. W. Smith of the American Baptist Publication society.

Mrs. W. E. Montgomery, pianist and teacher, can be secured for work in revivals, training schools or Vacation Bible schools. She is a graduate of teachers college, has had four years teaching experience and fifteen years in church activities. She may be reached in care of her father, Scott W. Hickey, Colorado City.

The Mitchell-Scurry Association will hold its monthly workers' meeting with the Plainview church, five miles south of Colorado City. Rev. G. W. Parks is the moderator and C. F. Woodward the clerk.

Dr. Rupert N. Richardson of H-SU is teaching in the history department of the University of Oklahoma this summer and doing research work. He was accompanied to Norman by Rupert Jr. and Mrs. Richardson.

Sunset Church, Abilene, had three additions for baptism June 2, in the opening service of the revival with Pastor C. N. Gilbert preaching. Rev. J. A. Lunsford, arrived Monday to assist in the two weeks' meeting.

The evangelistic efforts of Pastor C. D. Owen at Temple Church, Abilene, will be backed by a recently organized soul-winning band.

First Church, Lubbock, launched a "Cornerstone Fund" June 2. The money is the beginning of a building fund and the names of donors will be inscribed on a scroll to be placed in the cornerstone.

Rev. Jones Weathers, Eastland pastor, has been in Waco recently on account of family illness.

Young men of Temple church, Abilene, have organized a softball team, which requires players to attend preaching services three times during the month. They have been winning a string of victories.

A. J. Ballard, 89, died at Bowie last week. He was a veteran teacher who had lived 65 years in Texas. Mrs. Fred A. Porter was a daughter.

Approximately 100 persons, representing 11 churches attended a Vacation Bible school clinic at First Church, Abilene, last week. The day was given to demonstrations and conferences with lunch at the church. J. D. Riddle, district leader in this work, acted as superintendent and Missionary J. Henry Littleton brought the devotional message.

Pastor Sam. E. Brian reports two baptisms at Wilmett. The church is growing. Recently they have organized a W. M. S. and Training Union and the church is beginning a Vacation Bible school June 17. The Sunday School has set a goal of reaching the standard.

Rev. S. F. Marsh, Fort Stockton, is leading in Vacation Bible school work in District 7. Many schools are planned among the churches and the Mexican missions.

J. D. Riddle was the principal speaker in a program on church music at the monthly meeting of the University Church Brotherhood Friday night. County School Superintendent, Tom McGehee, illustrated the program with a projection machine which is capable of throwing any photograph or printed matter on the screen.

AN EVENT YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS

By J. Earl Mead

There are a few sights and events in life one cannot afford to miss. The Fiftieth Anniversary Training Union Convention, which meets in Dallas, November 21, 22, 23, 1940, is one of these. These three days hold more than any like event in our history of the past fifty years. Here are some samples:

15,000 messengers in attendance.

R. G. Lee, John L. Hill, M. E. Dodd headline speakers.

Glorious congregational singing with special groups from many of our colleges.

Statewide contest eliminations. 200 Training Union experts heard in conferences.

Buckner Orphans Home, Baylor Medical University and Hospital, Baptist Book Store and Baptist Headquarters side trips.

50th Anniversary downtown parade outstanding spectacle.

Adoration and praise, testimonies of victorious achievements, and dedications to new tasks.

It Holds the Best for the Most in Everything

Pardon the superlatives for I am really excited about the Fiftieth Anniversary Convention. So excited, in fact, that I can scarcely keep my feet on the ground and I want to share my feelings with you who, because of your position of leadership, exercise a wide influence in the Training Union world. I want you to join us in making the coming Convention the outstanding event of the century.

A green leaflet can be secured from T. C. Gardner, 708 Burt Building, Dallas, Texas, telling about reduced pre-registration rates for churches and associations. The same leaflet will give you suggestions for organizing F. A. C. (Fiftieth Anniversary Convention) Clubs in your Training Union which will assure an interest at "fever heat" and a big attendance.

Tarrant County is joining Dallas County in their combined strength of 161 churches and 20,294 Training Union members in planning to receive all of you with hearty handclaps and will try to entertain you in royal style.

Come on! Our arms are open to receive you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL ACTIVE IN H-SU

The first Council of Religious Education to be organized in a Baptist college has been functioning in Hardin-Simmons University during the spring semester. The body is composed of students who are planning to give their lives to work in the educational features of Baptist churches. There is a similar organization in Southwestern Baptist Seminary.

At bi-weekly meetings visiting speakers have discussed various phases of religious education and members have presented and discussed problems which they have met in practical work.

First guest speaker of the organization was Dr. T. C. Gardner, secretary of the Training Union of Texas, who was very enthusiastic about possibilities of the body. Other visiting speakers have been J. D. Riddle, president of the Texas Training Union; Dr. Millard A. Jenkins; and Mrs. Samuel S. Hill, young people's leader of First Church, Abilene.

Officers for the spring semester were Dexter Riddle, educational director of First Church, Haskell, president; C. H. Foley, vice-president; and Leta Rue Riddle, secretary. Officers elected for the fall semester are: Connell Taylor, president; Bobbie Copeland, vice-president; Doris Wayne O'Brien, secretary.

FIRST CHURCH BROTHERHOOD PLANS UNUSUAL PROGRAM

An unusually interesting program is planned for the monthly meeting of the Brotherhood of First Church, Abilene, announces Julian H. Pace, president. The program will be a discussion of church music and will be interspersed with congregational singing. The meeting will be at 7 Tuesday evening, June 11, preceded by a fellowship hour.

Peace is more honorable and less horrible than war.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for June 9, 1940

By Hight C. Moore

EZEKIEL TEACHES PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Read Ezekiel 33:1-20

Study Ezekiel 33:7-16

Personal responsibility to God is taught by Ezekiel. He declares that the watchman can deliver his soul only by faithfulness to duty and that everybody whether righteous or wicked is accountable to the Righteous Judge of all the earth.

1. Personal Responsibility of the Prophet

THE WORD OF WARNING must be given by the prophet who is personally responsible for its proclamation. (1) The call of the watchman is personal and specific. God speaks to him directly as a son of man in thorough sympathy and common touch with his fellow men. His position is indicated. He is stationed as a watchman whose business was to watch and to warn. And his special charge was the house of Israel. (2) The message to the watchman was also explicit. He must with attentive ear listen to the word that came to him from the mouth of Jehovah. From no other source must he receive instructions. (3) The duty of the watchman was to transmit to his people the warnings direct from Jehovah. No false warning should be given. No false assurance should dull them to sleep. When there was danger they should be told of it. (4) The failure of the watchman would be doubly disastrous. The warning which divinely came to him would not be sounded to those in danger. In consequence they would suffer and die. But let not the watchman think that under such circumstances he could escape. His blood would be required for the blood of the victim of his unfaithfulness to duty. (5) The faithfulness of the watchman was commanded and expected. It was his duty upon being divinely warned to sound the trumpet of alarm. He must also urge those in danger to turn from their evil ways. If, however, they deliberately disregard his faithful voice and go down to their death, the watchman is guiltless and his soul is delivered of an ypenalty.

2. Personal Responsibility of the People

THE MESSAGE OF MERCY must be given to the people who are personally responsible for its acceptance or rejection. (1) The object of mercy is sinners who feel their guilt and depravity. They do not now shift upon their fathers the responsibility for their sufferings. Yet in their despair they inquire the way of life. (2) The assurance of mercy is not lacking in such a dark hour. God solemnly avers that he not only has no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that it is his wish and joy that the wicked should turn and live. Indeed, he pleads with infinite patience and persuasiveness that they repent of sin which ends in death and find the joy of endless life. (3) The availability of mercy is graciously revealed. Grant that one is righteous as a rule; yet his righteousness cannot save him when he sins. Grant that one is wicked through and through, yet his wickedness shall not destroy him if he turns away from it with sorrowing soul. So the righteousness cannot trust in his goodness, for if he commits iniquity as certainly he will, his good deeds will be forgotten since he must perish as a sinner. Yet every one must be saved, if saved at all, by the mercy of God. (4) The acceptance of mercy is necessary to avoid the sentence of death pronounced upon the wicked. There are two simple things required: The first is to turn sin in penitence and in faith; and the second follows, for we must bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Proofs of a change of heart through the acceptance of divine mercy are indicated by the prophet. The new convert will restore to the owners the pledge of garment or other necessity for his comfort. He will make restitution for any moneys or goods taken by thievery or fraud. We will walk according to the standards of upright living. He will abandon evil habits and strive to commit no iniquity. (5) The reward through mercy is glorious. The saved sinner escapes the penalty of death. The guilt of no sin stands against him upon the divine ledger. He shall surely live, not only a bare existence but the abundant life of spiritual power and peace and prosperity.

Gold in the Golden Text

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:12.

God is sovereign. He is the head of the moral government of the universe. Every being in his limitless domain is subject to him. No one can dispute his power. None will dare deny his right to rule.

We are stewards and subjects on this little planet that belongs to his infinite dominion. We are not grouped as a speck of the solar system, nor in continental or racial groups, nor by states, counties, and towns. We are individuals exposed to the ceaseless gaze of the All-seeing Eye.

We must give account to him of all the deeds in the body. His Word declares that we are accountable. Our heart assert it in terms unmistakable. We know that we must appear before the judgement seat of Christ. God help us to be ready for that supreme hour.

Daily Bible Readings

June 10—Call to Build God's House. Hagai 1:2-12.
June 11. The Builders Encouraged. Hagai 2:1-9.
June 12. Offerings for the Tabernacle. Exodus 25:1-9.
June 13. Dedication of the Temple. 1 Kings 8:22-28.
June 14. Keeping God's House in Repair. 2 Chronicles 34:8-13.
June 15. Longing for Public Worship. Psalm 84:1-4.
June 16. Let Us Go to Church. Psalm 122:1-9.

A DEACON PRESENTS TIME SAVING SUGGESTION

Editor West Texas Baptist:

In view of the fact that soon the revival meetings will be on in our Baptist churches, to conserve time and add to efficiency, I am passing on through your paper a suggestion as to procedure that I think will be novel as well as helpful, to wit:

Here is what usually happens: The local pastor with many and fulsome words proceeds to introduce the visiting preacher, he says that he had rather work with this man than with any other; that he is safe and sane; that he stands four-square for all the denominational interests, and for many minutes recounts the virtues and abilities of this man and so on and so on.

Then the evangelist comes to the front, and with many words extols the virtues of the local preacher; he has heard of his work before, what a great work he is doing here and how fortunate the church was to secure his services and the suggestion is veiled that he is not appreciated as he should be, possibly, and there are several churches that have their eyes on him, and so on, and so on.

Now this takes up several minutes and as the church has heard this same thing yearly I have this suggestion:

The entertainment committee secure two handsome bouquets from the local florist, let them be real handsome ones, then at the beginning of the initial service hand one each to the pastor and the visiting preacher and have them advance to the center of the stage, exchange bouquets and take a bow. I think it would not be a bit amiss for the congregation to give them a nice hand.

M. W. ROGERS, M. D.

FISHER COUNTY ASSN. TRAINING UNION RALLY

Roby Baptist Church, Friday evening, June 7, 7:45 o'clock.

7:45 p. m. Song Service, conducted by Ernest Smith.

7:55 Intermediate Sword Drill—One representative from each Intermediate Union in the Association.

8:10 Department Conferences—Programs arranged.

8:40 General assembly—Reports—awarding of banners.

8:55 Quarterly Associational Social. This social will be conducted by the different departments. Each church is to prepare at least one stunt. Each individual is to bring cookies. The Roby Training Union will furnish the drinks. However, all will agree that the Sylvester Training Union should have the right-of-way in the dish washing contest since they failed to show up Monday evening at the Officers Conference where they were supposed to furnish the drinks.

Come to these meetings an dgrow in grace and knowledge.

Mrs. C. C. Rister, wife of Dr. Rister of the University of Oklahoma faculty, has been a patient in Hendrick Memorial hospital. They are leaving for Colorado in a few days where Dr. Rister will teach during the summer.

Worship in Music

By Mrs. Lola Gibson Deaton,
Professor of Voice and Choral Music,
Hardin-Simmons University

Some expression of music has been associated with every form of religious worship in every age and by all races of men. Today, as for centuries past, as far back as the Old Testament worship, singing has been a significant and essential factor of religious worship. Approximately one-third of every service of worship in the Protestant churches is given to music, and it is tragic too often, the sacrifice of the offerings and the attempts to "fill in" this time, that is so vital to the creation of the atmosphere of worship.

The man who heads a great business enterprise gives serious thought from time to time to the why and how of every process of manufacture and distribution that goes on in his business and considers how these may be improved. The pastors, choir directors, organists—yes even the administrative board of the church cannot afford to do less, and yet how seldom do we find this attitude toward this vital part of the church service.

True worship is a commingling of devotion, adoration, reverence, awe, a sense of mystery, and a feeling of aspiration. Those who participate in worship must be moved by these fundamental emotions, or it is not true worship. Where these are lacking, congregations feel a sense that something is wrong or inadequate, though they may not be able to express or understand just the reason.

Every choir is under obligation to its pastor and the pastor is under obligation to his choir. If either fail to work together harmoniously, it is largely due to a failure to realize their mutual relations and obligations.

When we weep, sing or pray, we permit no wall of prejudice to separate us from one another. Christian experience, with all of its wealth of color, and all of its variety of expression, finds its fullest expression and revelation in song. The Psalms of the Old Bible and the hymns of the New Testament, as were sung by Paul, are eloquent with the voices of humanity speaking of experience too deep for prose and too universal for any dialect, save the language of the soul. Music is the Universal Language, attaining heights and reaching depths that only God, can estimate. This is also true of the Hymnology of the church. Hymns refuse to be denationalized. When the church of Christ sings, there is unity. Who would desire to extract from any hymn-book "Jesus, the Very Thoughts of Thee, with Sweetness Fills My Breast" or "Lead, Kindly Light" because of Roman Catholic authorship? "Nearer My God To Thee" has lifted millions of souls to the very heart of the Father and it was written by a Unitarian. When Charles Wesley wrote "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," he was more than a Methodist—he was divinely inspired and followed in the train of him who sang, "The Lord Is My Shepherd."

For many decades the Christian world has sung "Blest Be The Tie That Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love"—this was written by an humble Baptist minister and neither the local obscurity of the preacher nor the limitations which marked the birth of



Mrs. Lola Gibson Deaton

the hymn could prevent its expression of sacred Christian fellowship and its universal appeal to the human heart, in the form of song. Its universal note lifted it above all sectarian prejudices and gave it a tone so enriched that it lifted all who sang it to the presence of a sympathetic and loving Father.

We have to join with a Universalist in singing "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," with a Presbyterian in "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go," with an Episcopalian in "Onward, Christian Soldiers," a Congregationalist in "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee," and a Quaker in "We May Not Climb the Heavenly Steeps." When Matheson sang:

"O Cross that lifeth up my head,
I dare not ask to hide from Thee,
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be."

He gave in the language of the heart an entire volume of systematic theology without any of its static tones. Poetry is the language of the soul and the hymns are cast in this language, rich with human interest and perspective. Love which is the energy of a steadfast will, bent on cresting fellowship, dictated our hymns.

Music is becoming increasingly a feature of sanctuary services. Every pastor who has a heart of flesh realizes his dependence upon it. It is the supremest of arts, for it is the only art that is recognized as playing a part in the life of the Heavenly Home. It expresses what neither prose nor poetry can express. Addison says: "Music strengthens devotion and advances praise with rapture."

We lay too light an emphasis on music. We need it in all of its phases, in the church—but we need music whose compositions have been as divinely inspired as the authors of our words that we employ when we sing. The Church would be the center of greater spiritual force if music of a finer quality could be employed there, without its being lifted above the appreciation and understanding of the average congregation. In order to do that there must be more general music training and more opportunity for the mass of people to hear a better grade of music—"Harmony harmonizes." There is in it such a breadth, that all people, all types of thought, and all the varying dispositions can find themselves comfortably associated within it. "Music never disintegrates, preaching sometimes does."

It is a bond of union in the home, its power to strengthen family life and counteract the outside amusements and distractions should be considered, for the development of home life, has a bearing upon the church itself. Then too, in real music there is no discordant note, and whatever it may be, whether the organ with its powerful notes, or the orchestra with its many participants, the choir lifting its many voices in unison and in harmony, or the soloist—its main function is to lift people's minds away from the humdrum of life, and its material limitation.

Auerbach said: "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Shakespeare said "I am never weary when I hear sweet music" and also "The man that hath no music in himself, and is not moved by the concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treason, stratagem and spoils! Let no such man be trusted."

American history opens with the singing of a Christian hymn. On September 25, 1492, one of Columbus' companions saw what he believed to be land lying to the west. From all three ships, Columbus tells in his diary, rose the old "Gloria In Excelsis Dio" (Glory to God In the Highest), though it was not yet America, still over those strange waters rang out the first greeting to America, and when on October 12, they saw a light glimmering on the shore of a new world, again the Old World greeted

Prexy Honored—

(Continued From Page 1)

El Paso; June Frost and Nell Gee, Abilene; Lem Paul Hemslee, Anson; Edith Lewis, Baird; Emily Newman, Merkel; Rupert Richardson, Jr., Abilene; Charles Tarrance, Aspermont; Finis Williams, Moran; Wayne Evans, Hereford; Mrs. Harold Russ, Abilene; Margaret Williams, Abilene and Wanda Fox Young, Abilene. Macon Summerlin, Roby, had highest average among bachelor of music degree candidates.

Other special awards today were those to Lotta Ubben, winner of the A. M. Carpenter art medal; Mildred Young, winner of the Suella Lacy art medal; Joe Millsap, winner of the C. M. Presley medal for the best four-year Cowboy band record; Mary Alice Brooks, winner of the C. M. Presley art medal.

Karl Bonneaux, Trent junior, won the Alpha Psi Omega award for best actor's role of the year, for portraying the stage manner in Our Town. Edith Lewis, for her role of Emily in Our Town, and Ruth Ann Hall, Lorraine, for the role of Delia in The Old Maid shared the best actress award. The annual award—a dictionary—offered by the Julius Olsen chapter of Alpha Chi to the freshman with the best record went to Jeanne Hay, Abilene.

The annual Minter medal award, for the first time in some years was shared by Mrs. May and Rupert Richardson, Jr. son of Dr. and Mrs. R. N. Richardson. Theirs were the best scholarship records of the current school year.

Members of Alpha Chi, national honorary scholarship fraternity, were 16 seniors: Miss Campbell, Dean, Evans, Henslee, Margaret Higgins, Abilene; David Hull, Newcastle; Miss Johnson, Miss Judd, Miss Lewis, Miss Newman, Helen Painter, Richardson, Margaret Rowell, Abilene; Miss Williams, Myra Samford, Peacock and Wanda Fox Young.

Annual B. S. U. awards, offered by A. M. Carpenter and Geraldine Hill, Dallas, went to Lem Paul Hemslee, Anson; Jewette Patton, Paint Rock; and Doris Wayne O'Brien, Stamford.

the new with a hymn of thanksgiving and praise. Who knows but that the solution of this great world crisis today when music and love have been forgotten, may be revealed to the deliverer of our present humanity through the medium of music heard through prayerful meditation.

Martin Luther was very musical and in the evenings it was his custom to sing with his friends. He said "I am not of the opinion that the arts should be suppressed by the gospel. I should like to see all of the arts, and music foremost, in the service of Him who has given it to us." Again Martin Luther said: "Music is a splendid, beautiful gift of God. Music is the art of the prophets—the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul and bring it into immediate connection with Divine things. "Such were the progressive and farsighted views of the great religious leader on Music and its Influence for God."

Henry Ward Beecher said "Music cleanses the understanding, inspires it and lifts it into a realm, which it would not reach if it were left to itself. As there is no law that hath sovereignty over love, so there is no heart that hath rule over music, but music subdues it."

Thomas Fuller said "Music is nothing else but wild sounds civilized into time and tune—it stoopeth so low as brute-beasts, yet mounteth as high as the angels." Music is a thing of the soul—a rose-lipped shell murmuring of the eternal sea, a strange bird singing songs of another shore." Music means Harmony, Harmony means Love and Love means God.

In the words of the poet, let us realize the place music deserves in our world of sorrowing turmoil and endeavor to use this beautiful art for the cause of Him who gave it and ordained it for His own ministry.

"We are the music-makers and we are the dreamers of dreams, Wandering by lone sea breakers, and sitting by desolate streams, World losers and world forsakers, on whom the pale moon gleams, Yet we are the movers and shapers of the world forever it seems."

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HPC STUDENT PREACHERS REPORT MISSION PROJECT

Ser.—means sermons; MS.—morning service average; ES—evening service.

Group No. I. Sponsor—San Saba First Baptist. Pay \$5.00 per month.

1. Elmo Letbetter—No report.
2. I. B. Williams—McMillian school house—Ser. 10; MS. 36; ES. 54; total 90.
3. Hermon Robbins—Fairview—Ser. 10; MS. 37; ES. 54; total 77.

4. Glenn Bridges—China Creek—Ser. 8; MS. 45; ES. 45; total 90.
5. Jimmie Hardin—Wallace Creek—Ser. 8; MS. 35; ES. 40; total 75.
Personal contacts, 212. Homes visited, 92.

Group No. II. Sponsor—Dr. Jewel Daugherty. Pay \$4.00 per month.

1. Elmo Letbetter—No report.
2. Glen Purvis—Bowser—Ser. 8; MS. 30; ES. 65; total 95.
3. Glenn Smith—Shiloh—Ser. 6; MS. 30; ES. 30; total 60.

4. Lewis Burt—Holt—Ser. 3; MS. 40; ES. 100; total 160.
5. Howard Shumake—Milburn—Ser. 8; MS. 40; ES. 45; total 85.
Group No. III. Sponsor—J. P. King.

1. J. C. Ware—Rocksprings—no report.
2. W. T. Lewis—Ebony—Ser. 4; MS. 35; ES. 30; total 65. Once per month.
3. Hoyt Welch—Regency—just getting started.

4. Otis Holliday—Neighbors Creek—Ser. 8; MS. 30; ES. 35; total 65.
Personal contacts, 108. Homes visited, 58.
Group No. IV. Sponsor—Hamilton Association—\$4.00 per month.

1. Raymond Drews—Shive—Ser. 8; MS. 25; ES. 27; total 52.
2. Glenn Bridges—Democrat—Ser. 8; MS. 25; ES. 25; total 50.
3. Truman Caldwell—Union—Ser. 6; MS. 8; MS. 25; ES. 48; total 83.

4. Garrett Nalley—West Pt.—Ser. 6; MS. 36; ES. 42; total 63.
Personal contacts, 56. Homes visited, 36.
Group No. V. Sponsor—Eden Baptist Church—pays \$6.00 per month.

1. Dewey Barlow—Ft. McCavitt.
2. Rev. Purvis—Live Oak. Group just started. No report.
Group VI. Sponsors—Coleman, Santa Anna, and Rockwood—pays \$5 per month.

1. Pat Adams—White's Chapel—Ser. 8; MS. 35; ES. 40; total 75.
2. A. L. Eubanks—Indian Creek—Ser. 8; MS. 12; ES. 17; total 29.
3. Homer Connley—Bowen School.

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Book Reviews

Missionary Illustrations, edited by Joe W. Burton. Home Mission Board, Atlanta. Pages, 128. Price 35c.

Pastors, Sunday School teachers, W.M.U. leaders and others who make devotional or missionary talks will find these gripping stories of recent experiences of Home Board missionaries to be most helpful. One story tells of a man at a service for the deaf who felt constrained to give his last dime, which he had intended for carfare home. Walking the long distance home he found a dollar bill on the way.

The brief stories are grouped topically, illustrating New Life, Consecration, Influence, Needy Fields, Answered Prayer, Loyalty, Stewardship, Courage, Faith, Reverence, Providence, and World Missions.

House—Ser. 8; MS. 25; ES. Stamps singing.

Other appointments are being added to this group. Personal contacts, 66. Homes visited, 54. Two conversions.

Independents Missions:
1. Hoyt Welch—Dear Plain—Ser. 1; MS. 10; ES. 20; Just started.

2. Alva Kelley—Barnett—Ser. 3; MS. 30; ES. 35; total 65.
3. Jean Stephens—Anderson School House—Ser. 6; MS. 28; ES. 65; total 93.

4. Caldwell—Fife. 5. Kelley—Waldrop. 6. Bryan Teague—Line.

There are 28 preachers, average attendance 54 per preacher. Grand total per Sunday, 1,452. Other mission points in rural districts are being made as rapidly as possible. The above is not a complete report, but will give you an idea of what is being done by the various preachers. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,
J. P. King, Dist. Missionary.
A. V. Bradley, President
of Howard Payne College
Ministers' Council.

MISSIONARY MESSAGES

(Continued from page 1)

Brother W. A. Reed of Oklahoma supplied for the church at Trent Sunday. We understand they are to call this coming Sunday. It will be a good day when all our churches have pastors.

Brother Tierce is starting in a good way at Knox City. He had a severe case of flu and it is taking a good while to get over it.

We will mail out the program for the Encampment this week. Things are about ready down there. If you will bring as many as fifteen from your church we will sell each one a meal ticket for \$3.50. If we do not get a large number eating at this price the Camp will lose. We are anxious that many come this year and are going to try to make the expense so small that everyone can take advantage of it. We are offering a rate of fifteen cents per meal if they eat the three meals per day. I do not see how any pastor can miss the Encampment. Remember the date: June 24-30. Laymen night, Friday night. We want 500 men present. Talk the encampment to your people.

Carbon Church Has a High Day

Carbon Church had a full and glorious day, Sunday, June 2. Many visitors from over the state were present. There was one conversion at the morning service and three additions, two for baptism. Nine were baptized at an afternoon service.

Monday evening, June 3, a Training Union study course was begun to continue through the week with instruction in each department.

When our men accept and practice the Bible plan of giving, our churches as well as the givers, will prosper spiritually. A consistent tither is nearly every time, a consistent Christian and soul-winner. The same is true of a church as a whole—missionary in spirit and giving, evangelistic and soul winning.—J. A. Kidd.

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E. M. Collier, Superintendent

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War and Sin in Our Day

By L. A. Doyle

Many people are distressed about the present world conditions and are asking, "How can a God of love and mercy permit an ungodly, ruthless man like Hitler to destroy people more righteous than he?" Many are saying that God has deserted his people.

The trouble is deeper than appears on the surface and must be understood in the light of history and God's Word. Every great godless nation that has risen to power has done so in a time of great world sin. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome all illustrate this fact. God has never permitted any nation to be overcome and destroyed until there was sin (flagrant sin) in the lives of the people. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," is also true of nations. God would not permit even his chosen nation to possess Canaan until the nations of that land became very sinful. "The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full," was God's reason for delaying Abraham's possession of the promised land.

Again and again, in the period of the "Judges" God allowed a heathen nation to come in and destroy great numbers of his people because of their national sin. The great slaughter of our own civil war was caused by sin even as the seventy years of slavery in Babylon was caused by sin concerning which God had warned his people.

Let us look at the world today and the cause of the trouble is evident. Europe has discarded God's day and made it a holiday. Few people use God's day as a time for worship but for pleasure and business. Sexual impurity has become the rule and purity the exception. Churches have been closed in much of Europe and religion a superstition of another day. France that gave Calvin to the world ridicules Christianity today while she lives in a cesspool of moral iniquity. England that has had the sunshine of God's blessings for so many centuries has allowed sin, greed and moral stagnation to sap her very spiritual life. Italy knows only the false teaching of Catholicism while Germany in her wild desire for world power has literally driven God out of her national life. Russia has outlawed God, and is superior to his ways.

But what of our own country? We live in the most Godly nation in the world. The South is the home of the most spiritual churches of the day. We boast that our church is the one that Jesus started when he was on earth. Our section is supposed to be the best in the Southern Baptist Convention, yet look at our churches.

The preachers are too busy attending places of popular and often questionable amusement to pray and visit the sick. Last Sunday's S. S. lesson shows God's rebuke for the false prophets. Many of our preachers today are not only silent on the matter of sinful practices but engage in them along with the people. Preachers are responsible to God for their preaching and practice.

Deacons are so busy with civic clubs and societies that they have no time to do the service of the church. Not more than fifty per cent on an average are in the Sunday morning services. Seventy-five per cent do not attend the Sunday night service. Ninety per cent do not attend prayer meeting and ninety-nine per cent have not won a soul to Christ this year. Yet they are the best group of men in the world.

Let's look at the Sunday School workers. Fifty per cent of them never stay for the morning preaching service. They are simply not interested in the night preaching service and few churches even pretend to have a Wednesday night meeting of the officers and teachers. Great numbers of our workers are more interested and more regular in their attendance upon their clubs than on church services. Book reviews of such books as "Grapes of Wrath" (a book that uses such indecent language that a man would be arrested for using it on the streets) are more popular than Bible study courses or religious literature.

Let's be honest with ourselves. Can you tell the difference between a church member and a man of the world by what they say and do? Not more than twenty-five per cent of our Southern Baptists are enough different from the world in manner of living to attract the unsaved. Only about half ever attend any services and only one-third give with any regularity to the support of the work at home or abroad. Only twenty-five per cent can be counted on to take places of responsibility.

What about the future of America? Will they get their punishment along with the rest of the world? "If my people who are called by my name

will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, will forgive their sins and heal their lands." II Chron. 7:14. America is likely to get in trouble unless there is deep repentance and humility in the church. There are two possibilities. First an invasion of this country is not impossible. Second, there is grave danger of an economic collapse. "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."—I John 1:9.

We need repentance and deep consecration on the part of the preachers. They are God's ordained leaders and are responsible for leading the church into close fellowship with God. Second, we need for the deacons and church leaders to leave off many things that keep them from having time to serve the Lord and make him first in their lives. Third, we need for all the church to know that God will not tolerate sin in the Christian life, but will chastise and break when we are disobedient. The God of love and mercy is also a God of judgment and wrath. Prepare to meet thy God. After God has used Germany to chastise the nations he will destroy Germany.

MANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN DISTRICT SEVEN

(Continued from page 1)

has been greatly helped by the meeting.

PENWELL: We are glad to learn that this church which was organized by the Missionary several days ago, has recently enjoyed a gracious revival. Pastor McAuley baptized 28 people.

MONAHANS: We are glad to hear of their progress with their new building, which they hope to complete this summer. They are in a good Vacation Bible School and will follow it with a revival assisted by Brother Aubrey Short. We are requested to join them in praying for a revival that will reach the entire town.

FORT STOCKTON: Bro. S. F. Marsh used for his sermon Sunday, May 26, the Book of Habakkuk, and 4 young men united with the church, 3 on profession of faith, and 6 were baptized in the afternoon in San Solomon Springs in the presence of many witnesses. The work there is making fine progress. Bro. and Mrs. Marsh and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Alexander will attend the Baltimore Convention.

McCAMEY: The church after hearing a number of pastors, plan to call soon. They will have a two weeks Vacation Bible School beginning on June 10.

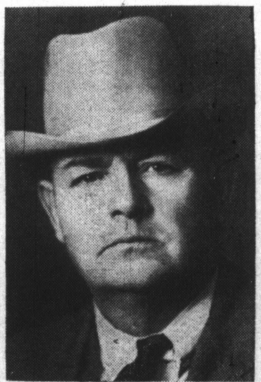
CRANE: Pastor Brown and Mrs. Brown will attend the Baltimore Convention in company with Rev. J. C. and Mrs. McKenzie. The Missionary will supply for him on June 16. They plan to have their Vacation Bible School.

RANKIN: Judge Roy Priest has given the church a Mission Library in memory of his little son, Tommie. This is a fine gift and a forward one for other churches and individuals to follow. Bro. Wilson Aikens and wife are doing a fine work in Rankin.

ALPINE: The Alpine Church will be assisted by two young men students from Howard Payne in their Vacation Bible School beginning June 3rd. They will have evangelistic services in connection with the school.

GRANDVIEW: El Paso, Rev. J.

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DISTRICT NINE MISSIONARY

(Continued from page 1)

next report. If it isn't in the budget, take an offering Sunday for missions. One third of our churches have not given a cent all year. See to it that your people have an opportunity to make an offering. Somebody in every church wants to do it, if given an opportunity.

Every pastor in District Nine will get the West Texas Baptist from now on. How about dropping the missionary a note about happenings in your church? It is hoped that this will keep all posted about events in the District. Facts and figures will be given from time to time. Pastors, we have everything that any other section has to make it a better district. Let's not play second fiddle to anybody. That's fine.

Be sure and mark up the dates of the camps in Ceta Glen. The Royal Ambassadors convene July 9-12. The Girls Auxiliary date is August 20-23. Excellent programs for both camps are in the making. Begin making plans now.

E. H. Dickerson resigned as pastor at Sudan last Sunday. He will move this week to Van, his new field. He will be missed. Resolutions are being drawn by West Plains Association and addressed to his new work. Our prayers attend him.

Our first month as your District Missionary has been a busy one. Have contacted 22 churches, spoken 24 times, and drove 4958 miles.

Fred Cole, Pastor, is going forward in spite of many obstacles on their fine building to take care of the Sunday School and Church needs. The basement windows and walls are up, and they hope to begin on the second story soon.

MONAHANS: Rev. L. L. Frazier, Pastor, is rapidly going up with their new brick veneer building, which they hope to enter sometime this summer. It will be not only beautiful but useful and much needed to take care of their every growing crowds.

VALENTINE: This small church has recently completed a Sunday School building affording room for two departments and the men's Bible Class. Brother D. H. Joiner hopes to have a good revival there soon.

YSLETA: Bro. Mark Reeves has worked hard on the building of several much needed Sunday School rooms which they are now using and appreciating. The BTU in this church has a large enrollment.

FORT HANCOCK: The pastor, Bro. L. W. Hardcastle, is erecting largely by his own hands, a nice parsonage close to the church, which when finished will be a comfortable home for the pastor.

MARFA: The Marfa Church, pastor H. O. Malone, has raised \$200.00 over their budget in a recent month. An average of \$78.94 of this has come each Sunday through the S. S. and church plate offerings. They are making headway with their proposed new building.

A total of 660,847 tracts were distributed by Home Board workers last year.

Emmette Chandler

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ABILENE, TEXAS

SINGERS ORGANIZING FOR BETTER MUSIC CONTESTS

Intermediate Trios To Sing At State Convention

The intermediate members of the Training Union are being organized to sing in trios, sextets, octets and choruses from one end of the state to the other.

It is the wish of the Better Music Committee, composed of R. H. Coleman, I. E. Reynolds and Paul Counts, that intermediates be encouraged to form four distinct groups as they plan to enter the Better Music Contest. These four groups are: Trios, sextets, octets, and choruses.

The Baptist Training Union Convention of Texas has started many interesting and far-reaching projects, but it is my opinion that this convention has never started anything that is more significant than the Better Music Contest. All age groups are interested in good music. The age groups of the Training Union that may participate in the State contest are: Junior boys and girls, 9 to 12 years of age; Intermediate young people, 13 to 16 years of age, and Young People, 17 to 24 years of age.

Now is the time to begin training the various groups to participate in the State Contest.

Purpose of Contest

The purpose of this contest is threefold as indicated below:

To inspire a church music program that will stand the test of music requirements fostered by the music departments of our Baptist denominational schools.

To encourage young people to sing standard hymns and worthy gospel songs.

To challenge our Baptist young people, from the Junior Department through the Young People's Department to develop their God-given musical talent with a view of taking a worthy part in the extension of the gospel of Christ.

The 1940 Better Music Contest rules may be secured from your State Baptist Training Union Department, 708 Burt Building, Dallas, Texas.

Elmdale Church Ordains Deacons

In an impressive and spiritual service Sunday afternoon May 26 at the Elmdale Church, four fine men of the church were ordained as deacons. Those being ordained were: J. A. Conway, J. W. Howle, Ray Antilley, and Hiram Foster.

The ordination council was composed of the pastor and deacons of the Immanuel, Eula, Colony Hill, Potosi, and Elmdale churches.

Rev. S. L. Tidwell, pastor at Potosi, led in the questioning of the candidates. Rev. Clyde Campbell charged the deacons after the ordination prayer led by Rev. T. J. Dubose, and the laying on of hands by the entire council. Rev. D. G. Reid delivered the ordination sermon. Rev. H. H. McGregor gave the benediction. The pastor, Rev. Byron Bryant, was moderator, and Ralph Antilley was clerk.

F. H. A. LOANS

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CHURCH BULLETIN SECTION

SARDIS

T. H. Alcorn, pastor.
Meeting dates, 2nd and 4th Sundays.
Sunday School, 10 a.m., J. S. Woodson, superintendent.

Training Union, 7:45 p.m., E. S. Keisler, director.

W. M. S. Mondays, 2:30 p.m., Mrs. Cecil Parks, president.

Brotherhood, 7:45 p.m. Friday after 2nd and 4th Sundays, J. F. Upshaw, president.

Teachers and prayer meeting, Wednesday, 7:45 p.m.

R. A.'s and G. A.'s meet every Monday, 7:45 p.m.

Home coming all day, dinner on the ground, 5th Sunday in June.

ELMDALE

The Vacation Bible School will begin Monday, June 10. All parents are urged to cooperate with their children and the school in seeing that all children of the community get to attend. The school will be a great blessing to the child, home, church, and community.

Sunday School—10:00 A. M., Frank Antilley, Superintendent.

Training Union—7:30 P. M., Ralph Antilley, Director.

Preaching Services—11:00 A. M. and 8:30 P. M., Sunday. Byron Bryant, Pastor.

CROSS ROADS

Over 130 were enrolled in our Vacation Bible school, with around 100 average attendance. This school is in cooperation with Sardis Church. Last week we met at Sardis and this week we meet at Cross Roads. The Sunday service on June 2 was at Cross Roads and will be at Sardis on June 9. Joe R. Mayes, Pastor.

O. K. CHURCH

Sunday is our preaching day. Let us be praying that God will give us a good day. Let us also be thinking about our Vacation Bible school which we must have soon.

Sunday School at ten; Training Union at 8 P. M.

Sam Brian, Pastor.
Joe Snellgrove, S. S. Supt.

SUNSET

Located at South Fifth and Sunset Drive, Abilene.

Sunday School, 9:45, W. Baker, Supt.

Training Union, 7:00 p. m., Leona Hitt, Director.

Rev. J. A. Lunsford will preach at both morning and evening services. You are invited to attend our revival.

PRAIRIEVIEW

We live at Fairview. Our church is Prairieview. The membership is many but working members not so plenty. In the church we need you.

Sunday School on Sunday, Church on Second and Fourth Sundays, W. M. S. Second and Fourth Mondays, Brotherhood meets the third Monday; why not let us count you every Sunday.

A Vacation Bible school we hope to have in June. The W. M. S. is sponsoring it. It's good for young and old, don't put it off, start now. The harvest is ripe and ready; the membership should keep steady.

Mrs. Edgar Johnston.

WILMETH

We had a record day Sunday, with 103 in Sunday School and a \$40.00 offering. Come to church and Sunday School and watch our work grow. Come June 16 and help us have 150 in Sunday School. We can have that many if you will come.

Our Training Union meets at 7:45 Sunday evening. Our Vacation Bible School begins June 17. All children are invited.

Sam E. Brian, Pastor.
John Henry, S. S. Supt.

COLORADO SECOND BAPTIST

Missionary W. C. Harrison will be with the church on Monday night, June 10, to teach the course in stewardship for the B. T. U. and give the examination Tuesday night. The class has been meeting for four weeks on Monday nights.

Rev. A. D. Leach is to deliver the Father's Day message on Sunday morning and the pastor will preach at night on "Miracles." The pastor's father, 86 years old, will sing at both services.—Scott W. Hickey, Pastor.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATE LEGISLATURE

Joe Humphrey, Abilene

SHERIFF, TAYLOR COUNTY

W. T. McQuary, Abilene

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR,

TAYLOR COUNTY

R. S. Walker, Abilene

COUNTY CLERK, TAYLOR CO.

Miss Vivian Fryar, Abilene

Clarence Darden, Abilene

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DR. R. A. COLLINS

Summer Session Director

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