

The Commission

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May 1939

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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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AN EARNEST APPEAL

Present world conditions have caused the needs of our mission fields to be out of proportion to the income of our Foreign Mission Board. Large sums of money will soon be needed for the rehabilitation of our work in China.

Southern Methodists have launched a campaign for \$500,000.00 to rehabilitate their work in war-torn China, and the other major denominations are laying plans for such campaigns. Dr. O. P. Gilbert, Editor of the *Christian Index*, says in an editorial in the January 26th issue:

"Methodists are not waiting for China and Japan to sign a treaty of peace before beginning the work of restoration. A campaign to raise \$500,000.00 for the restoration of missionary plants in China was approved at a meeting of the General Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at San Antonio. Baptists, North and South, have lost much property in China because of the war, now in its second year. We are wondering if we shall do less than our Methodist friends."

In China, our property has been damaged to the extent of possibly three-quarters of a million dollars. Much of this property will never be repaired. We are not so much concerned about repairing the property as we are in reinforcing our missionary personnel, and making it possible for the poverty stricken people to reorganize their work and maintain preaching places where multitudes flock to hear the good news of salvation. Through the sufferings of war and disaster, the hearts of the people have been made responsive to the gospel message. We can win them for Christ if we will strike now. Our missionaries have given their all and have remained in the danger zones as true soldiers of the Cross. Many of them have lost all their earthly posses-

sions, but by heroic service they have won their crown.

Money is needed at once to rehabilitate our work in Chile, where the recent earthquake did great damage and killed more than 40,000 people. Many of our churches are in ruins and Chilean Baptists, in their poverty stricken condition, must have help.

In Spain a vast sum of money is needed, if our Baptist work in that war-torn land is to be saved. It is imperative that the work of rehabilitation begin as soon as this terrible strife is ended.

The question of how to secure the immense amount of money necessary to meet these needs in China, Chile, and Spain has caused us much concern. The money must be had, and where are we to get it?

It could be secured by a special campaign, and many have suggested that such a campaign be launched immediately. But a special campaign would disrupt, at least for a time, the organized work of Southern Baptists, and we do not want to see this done. Southern Baptists are making fine progress in developing a real Cooperative Program, and we should regret to see anything done that would hinder or retard that.

One wealthy Baptist lady said, in a recent conversation, "When the Board is ready to repair the damage caused by the war in China, I am ready to make a substantial gift." We are led to believe that her tribe is legion among Southern Baptists, and we appeal to men and women to whom God has entrusted money, that they share with our unfortunate brethren and sisters in these countries where disaster has befallen them.

We would make several requests of the friends of foreign missions:

1. We would appeal to our friends everywhere to pray earnestly that God will put it

into the hearts of men and women to provide this money.

2. We would appeal to those to whom God has entrusted money, that they consider the needs in these countries, and then seek to know what God would have them do.
3. We would urge that those who have money investigate our annuity plan, which insures an adequate income during their lifetime, and at the same time releases their capital for Kingdom work.
4. If your investments are such that you do not wish to disturb them by taking out an annuity, then place the Foreign Mission Board in your will for a substantial amount.
5. We would request pastors and other friends over the Southland to aid by sending us the names of anyone who might be interested in making a gift in cash, or taking out an annuity, or who would desire information as to the proper way to place the Board in their will.

May the constraining love of Christ prompt you to match, with a substantial gift, the sacrifices made by our missionaries, and in this way strengthen their hands in the blessed task of winning millions to Christ.

Howard Jenkins
Charles E. Moody
R. S. Jones

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THE COMMISSION

CHARLES E. MADDY, *Editor*

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THE COVER is the Baptist Hospital staff at Chengchow, China, on the opening day, May 5, 1936. Center: Dr. S. E. Ayers, Southern Baptist Superintendent, who, with his staff, has remained at his post of service through countless air raids during the past eighteen months. He has ministered to thousands of wounded soldiers and sick refugees.

THE COMMISSION

VOL. II

MAY, 1939

No. V

Oklahoma City, capital, geographical center and largest city of one of the youngest states in the union, came into dramatic existence with the boom of a cannon on April 22, 1889, and within the memory of those living, has grown from a village of Indian tepees to a metropolis with towering skyscrapers piercing the sun-kissed heavens of the great Southwest. Perhaps, no American city has had a more dramatic beginning or a more spectacular growth. The city's population is now estimated at 225,000.

On the morning of the government's land opening in 1889, there was only an unpeopled prairie to mark the site of the city; but before night-fall, ten thousand persons from practically every state in the union, utter strangers, had banded together to form a new city—Oklahoma City. They had raced to this city of destiny as a shouting horde, coming by horseback, wagon train, the one, lone steam line and on foot.

The history of Oklahoma City is an Aladdin-and-his-Lamp story, written by men of vision, staunch purpose and unbounded faith. Tents were replaced by wooden shacks. . . . In rapid succession brick and stone houses appeared. With unbelievable speed came modern city planning, beautiful parks, outstanding educational institutions, modern temples of worship and modern skyscrapers.



Oklahoma City's 32-story buildings flank either side of First Street at Robinson. The aviation beacon on top of the First National Building is visible for over 50 miles on a clear night

To the wealth of fertile soil and the livestock which made this one of the major meat-packing and market centers of the nation, was added the magic wealth of oil in almost unlimited quantities. Coming closer and closer within the city in almost a stone's throw of the state capitol building, are myriads of oil wells drawing their toll from the Mid-Continent pool a mile and quarter below the surface.

Culture has kept pace with the growth of transportation, industry and marketing. Musical organizations, literary and dramatic clubs exist in great numbers.

One of the ten major divisions of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce has been devoted to the cultural development of the city. Projects under this division are the museum of art, the construction of a new public library and the development of

Oklahoma City University.

Oklahoma City is the home of the University of Oklahoma Medical School, one of the highest rated medical schools in the nation, and of Oklahoma City University, a standard college offering four year courses and the usual degrees. It is strongly backed by the citizenship of Oklahoma City and its Fine Arts School is attaining an enviable reputation. The main campus of the University of Oklahoma is at Norman, only eighteen miles away.

(Continued to page 176)

Baptists to Meet In Oklahoma City

May 15-21

A LAYMAN'S APPRAISAL

L. HOWARD JENKINS,

*President, Foreign Mission Board,
Southern Baptist Convention*



L. Howard Jenkins

As Southern Baptists meet in their annual convention in Oklahoma City, I wish to call them to a greater devotion to foreign missions. In the aggregate we have done much; but when this is reduced to the individual effort, it seems that what we have done is pitifully small, and comes far short of meeting our responsibility and the pressing needs on the fields. It sounds big to say that we give about \$1,000,000 annually to foreign missions. We swell with pride when we look at that record. However, our pride is deflated when we consider that there are more than 4,500,000 members of Southern Baptist churches, and our interest in this great and sacred cause is expressed in a per capita gift of about twenty cents a year. This is nothing about which to brag. Does it really express our interest in and our love for a torn and bleeding world, whose wounds can be healed only by the Gospel of Christ?

We are considered a missionary people, and I thank God that many of our number are; but experience has taught me that comparatively few have any real and personal interest in what our Foreign Mission Board is trying to do. Many give because their church has a program, and it is the decent and respectable thing to support their church in its efforts. They do not take the time to find out the real needs. If they did, facing the situation honestly and fairly, we should come nearer

meeting those needs. As it is, too few of our members make any study of the work of the several agencies of the Convention, including the Foreign Mission Board. They give lump sums and are not particularly interested as to the application of the money they donate.

Some time ago, a pastor of a leading church said to me that he did not know of more than two or three laymen in his city who had any real knowledge of foreign missions, or who cared. That was a terrible indictment, but I am constrained to believe that it was not an exaggerated statement. The average layman has a passive attitude toward foreign missions.

Perhaps I am saying some unpleasant things which may seem pessimistic, but I think these statements cannot be successfully contradicted.

Being just a plain layman, I, perhaps, get a different slant on this subject. Laymen will say things to me they would not say to a minister. I find some indifferent, some lukewarm, and some even in active opposition to sending money abroad when there is so much to be done at home. There are also some shining examples of devotion to foreign missions, and for these we are grateful. But I am speaking now of the average members, men and women, who do not mind speaking the secrets of their heart to a layman, even if this layman does occupy an official position with the Foreign

Mission Board. Some seem to think this very fact gives them an opportunity to "air their views."

I have been asking myself, "Why do we so often have to be on the defensive, when we discuss foreign missions with members of missionary Baptist churches?" I merely raise this question. I shall not try to answer it. Frankly, I do not know the reply. It is raised for your consideration. Perhaps you can supply the answer. Why do we defend and support the doing of certain things at home, and condemn the doing of those same things across the seas?

In this country we do not have to defend the Christian enterprise. We know what it means for the welfare of the country and of the individuals composing our population.

We do not have to defend the local church and the preaching of the Word. We well know what it means to the community and to us personally. We should be poor indeed without its supporting influence.

We do not have to defend home missions. I have never heard anyone say a word against doing mission work at home. The need of home mission work is evident on every hand, in spite of the fact that, in some of our cities, churches are almost as numerous as filling stations and chain grocery stores.



Oklahoma City's Municipal Auditorium in which the sessions of Woman's Missionary Union and of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held, May 14-21

We do not feel it necessary to defend the establishing of hospitals. They care for our own ills and the ills of our loved ones and friends. Yes, we believe in hospitals.

We are not on the defensive when we mention the many fine schools and colleges in our midst. We see the value of these institutions in the training of our future leaders in religious and civic life.

We do not object to the distribution of Bibles and good literature, including our missionary magazines and denominational papers.

Indeed I do agree that we have a duty to our own country; but that does not relieve us of our duty to other lands far away. If we do not save them, we are likely to lose what we have. Never in the history of the world was foreign missions more needed than today. Christianity makes secure everything we have at home.

Then, I repeat, why is it necessary to be on the defensive when we discuss doing, in a strange land, these very things which we accept and welcome at home? Is it because

the need is not as great in these lands as in our own? No, a thousand times, no.

The subject has puzzled me, and for that reason I am taking advantage of this opportunity to raise this question. I hope you will try to find the answer. It is indeed strange that we readily support at home all the fine agencies I have mentioned, but as soon as we support such work in China, Africa and elsewhere, a question mark is raised by many, even members of our Southern Baptist churches. Is it because we do not believe that foreign lands need these things? The foreign mission enterprise includes all the things Christian people do at home. Your Board conducts churches, schools, and hospitals; Bibles and Christian literature are distributed, and the word of God is preached and taught to a benighted people. If this sort of thing deserves commendation at home, why is it that, when a similar enterprise is undertaken in a foreign land, many people immediately question and condemn and

even refuse to have a part in it?

A man may be a Christian without believing in foreign missions; but he cannot be an obedient Christian without helping in this enterprise, for Christ said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." There are no qualifications. Christ does not leave it to our discretion. There is no loophole whereby we may escape our duty. Our duty is as clear as the noonday sun. We must either go ourselves, or help someone else to go; either obey or not. There is no middle ground. Shall we obey Christ's command, or treat it with indifference or positive contempt?

The objections to foreign mission work are familiar and oft repeated:

"*There is so much need at home.*" I agree; there is a great demand here, but this can be multiplied a thousand fold in other lands. We have the means to meet that need at home if we want to, but poverty abounds abroad, and they require our assistance in combating it.

Yes, these foreign lands need us.

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Dr. W. R. White, Pastor First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

When Horace Greeley gave that classic admonition, "Go west, young man!" he must have been thinking about Oklahoma.

The youngest Federal judge in the United States was recently appointed in Oklahoma. Dr. John W. Raley was the youngest university executive in the United States when, five years ago, at the age of thirty-two, he was elected president of Oklahoma Baptist University. Dr. W. A. Criswell was called to the First Baptist Church at Chickasha, where the Oklahoma College for Women is located, before the ink was dry on his Louisville Seminary diploma. Young business men have made and lost a million dollars in oil in Oklahoma before they reached their first score and ten.

On the streets of Oklahoma, there are no statues of pioneers because, just as likely as not, the "pioneer" is filling prescriptions in the corner drug store or running the filling sta-

PIONEER — — —

William R. White of Oklahoma

PORTER ROUTH

tion down in the next block. Within the span of five years, a man can become a pioneer in this young state.

Visitors to the Southern Baptist Convention in Oklahoma City in May will be impressed with this newness. They will meet one of the "new pioneers" in the genial chairman of the reception committee, and the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City—Dr. William Richardson White.

That is, he was Dr. William Richardson White when he came to Oklahoma from Texas five years ago; but in the fast moving "Sooner State," handles and titles do not mean a great deal. Soon, from the Governor's mansion to the cross-roads preacher, he was plain "Billy White of Oklahoma," an old pioneer.

There is something about the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, the second largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, that calls for a pastor's deep concern in all phases of the denominational work. Carter Helm Jones, Henry Alford Porter, Lincoln McConnell, Samuel Judson Porter, and Dr. T. L. Holcomb, present executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, were all pastors of this church.

Dr. White is peculiarly tied up in his interest in the mission program. His mother and father died before he was four years old and he lived with his grandmother, a devout Christian who rarely missed a church service. Young Bill naturally took an interest in the activities of the church. Shortly after his conversion, he dedicated his life to God. He preached his first sermon at the age of fourteen, and was ordained the same year.

It was the coldest morning of the year when I went to see Dr. White in his study at the First Baptist Church. He was standing in front of the large fireplace behind his desk. He measures above the six foot mark, and his two hundred pounds are well distributed. A gold football hangs from his watch chain, a symbol that he is the permanent toastmaster for the Oklahoma Baptist University football banquet. His own athletic activity in college was limited because of illness.

Dr. White told me simply and directly the story of his struggle and disappointments as a young man. His health failed after his first year in Baylor University, and he moved to West Texas to fight his way back. He enrolled in Howard Payne at Brownwood and completed his bachelor's degree at that school. During his work at Howard Payne, he met Miss Edna Wood and during his senior year, she became Mrs. White.

The young preacher and his bride volunteered as missionaries to Russia. However, before he could complete his training in the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the World War had closed the door to all mission work in Russia. Then, he volunteered to go to Mexico, but this time Mrs. White's health would not permit.

Frustrated in his plans to go as a missionary, he turned to teaching Missions in the Southwestern Seminary where, from 1923 until 1927 he burned the fire of inspiration into many of our missionaries who are carrying His torch in foreign lands today. He continues to manifest a great interest in all mission activities. He has incorporated into

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Center: Dr. and Mrs. L. R. Scarborough banqueting with a group of Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil

FACING THE WORLD TASK

L. R. SCARBOROUGH, *President of the Southern Baptist Convention*

When Christ died, he did it with a world vision and a passion for all men. Every Southern Baptist and every Christian in the world ought to be a world citizen, and at work at the big task of winning the world to Christ.

Under the leadership of Secretary Charles E. Maddy and his co-operant secretaries, the Foreign Mission Board has, in the last few years, done a magnificent piece of work in missionary survey and review. All the missionary fields have been brought together by the Board. Our secretary, with remarkable spiritual statesmanship, has led the Board and the Baptists to take a close-up view of our missionaries, our fields, our forces, our opportunities, our obligations. While the needs have given to each of us a heartache, the opportunities have put a rainbow on the horizon.

This close-up view has helped everything missionary—helped us to pay our debts, helped to awaken souls—souls with large money, souls with small money. It has given our Baptist people a hopeful vision.

Another thing that has cheered us has been the encouraging reduction in debts and its consequent

curtailing of interest payments.

The two great missionary tragedies, the war in China and the persecution in Rumania, have induced prayer, encouraged humility, strengthened the Baptist backbone to fight for freedom of conscience and to strive toward the religious freedom of the world. The skirmish for a persecutionless world seems to be lost and some may feel discouraged, but the siege is still on. Since God gave us a free America, it encourages us to believe that He will yet give us a free world.

1. *We are not through with our battle in Rumania.* We must go on. With Baptist preachers in jail for conscience's sake, the world cannot be happy. The word "closed" on a Baptist church door is a world tragedy. Such a thing does not belong in predestination and God's plan of the ages. We must open these doors.

2. *The duty ahead in China challenges us.* Whatever the issues of the present war, the duty of Southern Baptists will not be changed. No matter which nation wins, both nations, without Christ, will still be lost, and will need the message of

our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our bombed schools and churches and hospitals must be rebuilt; and that will take money. More missionaries must be sent out, and multitudes must be trained now, that they may be equipped to go out later. All that requires money. To Southern Baptists, I would say, with blood in every line, "Let us pay quickly the Foreign Mission Board's debt and other debts, that we may get ready for a great day of advancement on all missionary fronts."

"Let us unceasingly pray the Lord of the harvest, that He may call the very best in our colleges and churches. Let us generously support the institutions that train them, and build the spiritual fires that inspire them. Let us establish, on the basis of Bible stewardship and tithing, the kind of churches that will support them. Let us have a great, south-wide, New Testament, spiritual revival, that the South may overflow the world with a hot-hearted, constructive evangelism, pleasing to Christ and glorifying to the Father. Let us see to it that foreign missions reaches its glorious objective this year."

FIELDS
AND FACTS

OKLAHOMA INDIANS DEEPLY RELIGIOUS

E. C. ROUTH, Editor of the Baptist Messenger



First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. Convention chairman, W. R. White, is pastor

A little girl who moved with her parents to Oklahoma had read about Indians but had never seen any until the family was located in the new home. She expressed surprise that, when she crossed the boundary line of the new state, there were no Indians garbed in blankets and feathers to meet the train at every station. Recently we heard of a woman, a transcontinental traveler on a pullman who, in a conversation with a cultured lady whom she had met that day, voiced her desire to meet a sure-enough Indian. She was surprised, not to say astonished, when she learned that her fellow-traveler who had every mark of refinement, was an Indian woman.

There are two or three misconceptions about Indians

which need to be corrected. Out in this new state, which is barely a third of a century old, many business and professional leaders have some Indian blood in them. Indians are no longer confined to wigwams and the most primitive environment. In Oklahoma, white people who have Indian blood in them are as proud of that fact as are Virginians who claim descent from Pocahontas.

Another misconception concerning Indians is that they have no sense of humor. They enjoy fun as much as anyone, although, until they become acquainted with a stranger, they may be more reserved than are white people. When you are received into the family circle of the Indians, you soon learn that they relish humor as much as do any people.

The Indian is deeply religious. Religion in some form has more to

do with determining the motives and deeds of the Indians than with white people. "Instead of the common acceptance that the Indian has no religion, every single act of his life carries with it some ceremonial function." However, the modern Indian is becoming affected by his associations with white people to the extent that religion does not play the same part in his life that it did with his ancestors.

The Indians have more decorum in their religious meetings than do the white people. In a typical Indian congregation there is less whispering and laughing than in white congregations. The Indians take their religious meetings more



Mrs. Aaron Hancock, Cherokee Indian



Oklahoma Indian Baptist School Boys and Girls

Rev. Aaron Hancock, Choctaw Indian



seriously and are more deliberate. Frequently Indians will spend three or four days camped on the grounds for their monthly meetings. They are in no hurry, and in business sessions much time is allowed for discussion. More emphasis is given to worship, to praying and singing in connection with preaching, than is usual with white people.

Baptist work among the Indians, in what is now Oklahoma, began with the Five Civilized Tribes shortly after the "Removal" from the old home east of the Mississippi. The first Baptist church was organized among the Creeks in Indian Territory, September 9, 1832, more than a century ago. Two months

later, a Cherokee church, which had been organized back in Georgia was "reopened" by the members, who had moved west with the pastor. Baptist churches were organized a little later among the Choctaws; and a quarter of a century later among the Seminoles and the Chickasaws. The Cherokees are leading the Five Civilized Tribes in the extent of work being done by Baptists. One of the most aggressive preachers in Oklahoma, a college graduate who turned away from business life to enter the gospel ministry, is a Choctaw Indian, Rev. Aaron Hancock, who is a missionary of the Home Board among the Choctaws

Congregation of Sac and Fox Indians of Onlyway Baptist Church, Oklahoma



Southern Baptist home missionaries baptized 95 Oklahoma Indians one afternoon

and Chickasaws. His wife, well-known as a gospel singer, is a Cherokee. Among the Five Civilized Tribes in the eastern and southeastern part of Oklahoma are several associations: Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Choctaw-Chickasaw, Old Choctaw-Chickasaw, and Muskogee-Creek-Seminole. The Oklahoma Indian Association in the central and northern part of the state is composed of the Osages, Pawnees, Poncas, Sac and Fox, Otoes, Kickapoos, Iowas, and one or two other smaller tribes.

The strongest church in this association is the Osage Church at Pawhuska, of which Rev. A. Worthington is pastor. One of the leading members of this church is Wakon Iron, and this church, in a territory where there has been much oil production, makes liberal gifts to missions.

Another church of considerable strength is the Pawnee Indian Church, of which Rev. Roe Beard is pastor. Numerically, the Chilocco Church, made up of students in Chilocco Institute, is probably the largest. Miss Gladys Sharp has done and is doing a remarkable work with these Indian students representing many tribes. Near Shawnee Rev. and Mrs. D. D. Cooper are doing good work with

the Kickapoos, which are among the most primitive of the Indian tribes in Oklahoma. Other Indian pastors in this association who might be named are Willie Sanderson, Sam Lincoln, Thomas Wamego, and Solomon Kent. The Creeks are contributing to mission work among the Florida Seminoles where Willie King and John Smith are rendering distinctive and fruitful service.

The record of the pioneer missionaries who labored among the Indians in the early days of mission work in Indian Territory constitutes one of the most thrilling chapters in the history of American Baptist missions. In the front ranks of these pioneers were Isaac McCoy, H. F. Buckner, J. S. Murrow, and G. Lee Phelps. Among the Indian preachers who laid enduring foundations were Jesse Bushyhead, Evan Jones, and Charles Journeycake. Jesse Bushyhead, who died while still a young man, about forty years of age, was Chief Justice of the Cherokee Nation at the time of his death. Charles Journeycake was the first Delaware baptized in the West. He and his mother were for some time the only Christians in their tribe. A granddaughter of Charles Journeycake, Mrs. Roberta Campbell, Tulsa, was president of

the Federation of Women's Clubs in America, 1935-1938.

In the immortal quartet of white missionaries to the Indians, we refer particularly to Rev. G. Lee Phelps, who was called Home last October. A short time before his death, he was elected to a place in Oklahoma's Hall of Fame by the Oklahoma Memorial Association. The story of his life as related in "Tepee Trails" has attracted the attention of missionary students throughout America.

The Home Mission Society of the Northern Baptist Convention has missionaries among the tribes in the western part of the state, Kiowas, Arapahoes, Apaches, Wichitas, Comanches, and Cheyennes. The Northern Baptists have a junior college, also, at Bacone, in the suburbs of Muskogee, which is the only Indian Baptist college in the world, with some forty-five tribes represented in its annual enrollment.

Indian Baptists join with their white brethren in welcoming Southern Baptists to Oklahoma. There are 100 churches, with a total membership of approximately 7,000, who will be glad for you to visit them and learn something about the triumphs of grace in the hearts and homes of the first Americans.

Welcome to Oklahoma City

The Men's Bible Class of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City extends a hearty welcome to all Baptists to attend the Southern Baptist Convention May 15-21.

This year is the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Oklahoma City. It is also the 50th anniversary of the First Baptist Church. In fifty years this church has grown so rapidly that it has over 5800 members and is the second largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Men's Bible Class is the largest class of its kind in Oklahoma. It meets in the main auditorium of the church and large crowds find their way each Sunday to our services. The world famous Keys Quadruplets sing each Sunday as the official class quartet and a concert orchestra of 25 pieces brings music of the highest quality.

Men in all walks of life are to be found among our number. The prominent and the humble meet on equal footing. There is one central thought and that is to magnify the name of Jesus Christ. That he has been good to us is evidenced by the interest of hundreds of men who are happy to call themselves members of this great class.

You will like Oklahoma and Oklahoma will like you. To you and each of you we extend a hearty welcome to the greatest city in the Southwest.

**MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

*W. R. WHITE Pastor
HOMER L. HURT President
WALTER L. GRAY Teacher*

A LAYMAN'S APPRAISAL

(Continued from page 133)

They cannot carry on alone. There is poverty and hunger in this country, but we have abundant means to relieve it, if we wish. Millions die of hunger in other lands, lacking all means of helping themselves. Our distress cannot be compared with theirs. Here we have a benevolent government to care for our under-privileged people; and other agencies, such as the church, are ready to lend a helping hand. Not so elsewhere.

"The people of these lands do not want us to send missionaries." The truth is that the people of the lands your Board serves are crying for more missionaries. Because of lack of funds, the need cannot be met adequately. We might double our force and, even then, we could not begin to give the Gospel to all who are waiting to hear. When

Dr. Lockett left Africa for the last time, the natives, out of their poverty, gave him a sum of money to help defray his expenses back to Africa, for fear the Board, lacking funds, might keep him at home. Yes, these people do want our missionaries and do appreciate their sacrificial services.

Then, there is that old objection which is repeated over and over. Where it started no one knows, and when it will end no one can conjecture. It seems deathless. You have already guessed what it is:

"Only ten cents out of every dollar goes to the field." Many intelligent people still hold this opinion. Some years ago I argued with a Congressman from a northern state when he made this statement to me; but, in spite of conclusive evidence to the contrary, he was not convinced. It is strange how some keen-minded people can hold

to such erroneous ideas in spite of indisputable proof of their error. Believe me when I say that, OUT OF EVERY DOLLAR YOU SEND TO YOUR BOARD, NINETY CENTS IS SPENT ON THE FIELD.

Furthermore, some people say:

"Their religions are as good as ours." "By their fruits ye shall know them." Our religion does not require us to kill our children or bury the several wives alive with a deceased husband. We do not put a premium on immorality as a religious rite. Many other religions do these things. Such religious practices have held these unfortunate people in a bondage which is worse than death, and that dooms them to a hopeless eternity.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" Acts 4:12.



Left: Mrs. W. J. Cox, Treasurer, W. M. U.; Right: Mrs. F. W. Armstrong, President, W. M. U.

Victories Will Be Celebrated

Mrs. F. W. Armstrong, President of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, will preside over the annual sessions in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 15-17. Mrs. W. J. Cox, Treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union, will announce the largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ever donated by the Union. On April 10, these gifts totaled \$312,000. The Golden Jubilee goals set last springtime in Richmond, Virginia, have been more than reached. This year of 1939 is a year of rejoicing over victories through Christ for His Kingdom to the ends of the earth.

KINGDOM FACTS AND FACTORS W. O. CARVER,

Professor of Missions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

MADRAS

Dr. Maddy is giving, month by month, reports of the World Missionary Conference held in Madras the latter half of December. In these notes, anticipatory emphasis was given to this meeting, and some forecast of its probable emphases. It is gratifying now to be able to record that the Conference was guided along lines which must be highly encouraging to the supporters of genuinely evangelical Christianity.

The main lines projected in the work of Dr. Hendrik Kraemer, *The Christian Message in a Non-Christian World*, proved highly acceptable to the overwhelming majority of the 474 members of the Conference. As indicated in a previous number, Dr. Kraemer presented vigorously what he calls "Biblical Realism," by which he means the fundamental conviction that sinful man is hopelessly lost without divine redemption originating in the love of God, and wrought by the grace of God through the atonement of Jesus Christ. Man's knowledge of himself as a sinner comes to him through revelation; God's grace is known, appreciated, and received through the grace of the Holy Spirit; the possibility and the processes of the reign of God in the social order and through human history are the gift of God in the active working of His revealing and redeeming approach to and presence in man.

The issue between Christian redemption and humanistic achievement has been somewhat sharply drawn throughout a period of some thirty years. It reached its climax of intensity in the early part of the present decade. The issue is now

decided so far as the missionary enterprise is concerned, as that enterprise has developed in the last century and a half. The New Testament interpretation of "the Gospel of the glory of God" through the propitiation of the Christ for the sins of the whole world is to continue to be the center and the circumference of the established missionary movement. If there is to be a humanistic movement for the guidance of the ethical and spiritual ideals of human history, it will have to be a movement distinct from the historic missionary movement.

It is very providential that the issues involved were not too quickly decided. A generation of discussion, in spite of all the confusion and uncertainty which attended it, has served to clarify, to deepen, and to give larger meaning to the undertaking. The missionary movement has had the benefit of a rather thorough re-thinking. At the same time the humanistic movement has been greatly sobered by a decade of economic, political, and social confusion and distress. It has been driven to seeking deeper foundations, to discovering a profounder interpretation of the nature of man and of the meaning of history, and to acquiring dependence upon divine resources in fuller measure and more vital faith than were found in the movement of a few years ago.

Much has been gained in a better understanding of the philosophy and the science of missions. There will be much greater freedom in the use of methods and environment than in the past. It would really seem that there is now no sufficient reason why all who are genuinely concerned for the redemption of men and of mankind, may not unite

in the Christian message and in whole-hearted cooperative effort in the proclamation and propagation of *A Working Faith for the World*. Kraemer and White, in the two books named in this article, may well prove supplementing prophets of a new era of greatly enlarged missionary endeavor.

EVANGELISM

The restoration of evangelism as central and fundamental in missions, as in all Christian witness and work, is a notable feature of the missionary program to which the Madras Conference is committed. Equally significant is the interpretation of evangelism in terms of a regenerate life called to express itself in the realities of existence in the current conditions of our human situation. There is no dimming of the glorious hope of life eternal in the sense of timeless continuance and under the conditions of the perfected order of the heavenly realm. There is a distinct rejection of the thought that the promise of such a life hereafter is to degrade, into minor importance, the challenge to fullest moral, ethical, and spiritual expression in the social conditions of even "this present evil age." Our evangelism causes men to follow the redeeming Lord in this life. Our willingness and our faithfulness to follow Him now are His own test of whether we may enter with Him "through the gates into the city" of the glorious hereafter.

In missions there is to be not less, but more use of the methods that make for social reconstruction. Evangelism is the beginning and the hope of social and cultural methods. All suggestion that education, economic, and industrial efforts and influences are to be pursued as "ends in themselves," without explicit relation to the grace of God in individual experience of salvation from sin, is definitely to be put aside. It has often been a serious mistake of evangelists to declare that "a regenerate man" will

function for the regeneration of society, while the evangelists repudiate all responsibility for the social order. It has been a serious mistake to seek to promote a "social gospel" which ignores, sometimes rejects, the gospel of individual redemption. Both in our own country and on the mission fields, there is a growing awareness of and insistence on the inescapable relation between being saved as a man and being committed to the balance between these two aspects of the message of Him who came into the world *to save the world*.

THE ERA OF COOPERATION

Discerning students of the missionary movement have recognized that we have, for some time, been in process of transition into a new period of missions. Different definitions have been suggested concerning the new era. It is to be "the era of the indigenous church"; "the period of national Christianity"; "the movement for world-wide Christianity." Whatever the name, the new period is to be characterized by a growing sense of the unity of the world-wide task, and of the consequent demand for co-operation among all the forces engaged in that task. The first and most important sphere of this co-operation must be that between "the older churches" and "the younger churches"; between the churches which have grown up on the mission fields under the heroic, faithful, devoted efforts of several generations of missionaries, and the churches of the west with a longer history, with all the advantages and disadvantages involved in that history.

Then there must be much more extensive cooperation among the various forces going out into the lands of the newer Christianity. Their essential unity must be more urgent than conditions in the past made either possible or necessary. This cooperation would increasingly express itself also among the various Christian groups in the mis-

sion lands. These groups have largely been the product of the separate denominational organizations who were their heralds and teachers of the Christ and the Christian way. The bonds between the missionary denominations and the churches produced by them have naturally and properly been closer than those which bound these different smaller groups in the mission lands to one another. Already the bonds of common Christian experience among groups in India or in China are becoming more meaningful than the ties which bind them to their mother churches in the homelands. This experience will grow in depth and comprehensiveness.

There must, of course, develop a deeper sense of unity in the older Christian lands and further experiments and achievements in co-operation. A corporate Christian church, in the sense of a centrally administered organization, is not desirable and ought not to be sought. Spiritual unity issuing in practical co-operation is to be desired, and will progressively be achieved.

A CHRISTIAN PEACE COUNCIL

The efforts of certain, earnest, Christian leaders to have the United States Government call a world economic conference, with a view to canvassing and correcting the causes of war have attracted a good deal of attention. Failing to influence the Government, these earnest men sought to have the Federal Council of Churches take steps to bring about such a conference on its own responsibility and under its own auspices. We have strongly rejected that effort as being both impertinent and ineffective. Evidently others had the same conviction.

The actual course followed was for the Federal Council to place the matter before the World Council requesting the latter to call such a conference. Wisely the World Council declined to assume this function. However, that organization does propose to bring about

quietly a conference of competent and concerned Christian men and women to consider the question of peace and to formulate, if possible, considerations and means for influencing the national governments to enter into a thorough study of economic and other causes of strife and war with the purpose of removing them. If a small representative conference of Christians can come to agreement as to the Christian message concerning war and peace, their action may prove determinative of a better course. In any case, we can give voice to the true message of Jesus Christ to a world in confusion and conflict.

It is of the utmost importance that statesmen, economists, industrialists, theologians, all of us learn that peace cannot be procured as an ideal and a goal in itself. Righteousness and peace must come together. Righteousness is the foundation: peace is the structure. It cannot be otherwise. Both peace and righteousness must be the gift of God, humbly received by men; and righteousness must root itself in religious response to God and in co-operative effort of men with God and with one another. There is a strange story which comes to us out of Genesis concerning a certain Melchizedek. This strange man "without genealogy and without end of days" is called "King of Righteousness" and "King of Peace." There is divine discernment in this interpretation of the man to whom Abraham, the father of men of faith, gave adoration and paid tithes. We do well to learn the meaning of that ancient episode.

MAY WE CHERISH A DREAM?

There are those who tell us that it is impractical idealism to be talking about depending upon the teachings and the methods of Jesus, in the effort to compose and correct the present confusion, and escape the deadly dangers that haunt the world with fear today. The world being as it is, we must

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FROM SWEDEN TO AUSTRALIA . . .

LOUIE D. NEWTON, *General Chairman on Arrangements*

Baptists Coming from Every Part of the World for the Sixth Baptist World Congress

It begins to look as if we may fittingly sing, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains, from India's Coral Strands," as a sort of theme song for the Sixth World Congress in Atlanta, July 22-28, 1939. Undoubtedly, people will be here from every part of the world.

For example, Miss Lewis made a copy of a list of messengers, received just this afternoon, and when I came to my study tonight to write this article for *The Commission*, I found the following countries represented in the copy which she left on my desk:

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Latvia, Porto Rico, Rumania, Scotland, Sweden, Tasmania, Wales.

And you should read some of the mail from these delegates, to catch the spirit of expectation which seems to reign in the hearts of these friends from afar, as they turn their faces towards Atlanta and the South. The fact that we are going to entertain in our homes, without cost to them, all messengers from outside the United States, seems to have struck a happy response.

I am particularly happy to see that we shall have a goodly number of missionaries, not only our own Southern Baptist missionaries, but representatives of many other foreign mission boards and societies. Free entertainment in our homes will be extended all missionaries, home and foreign.

The situation is beginning to assume a real world atmosphere. In our headquarters office in the Municipal Auditorium, we have a map of the world, and every day we are placing pins in this map to indicate lands from which messengers will

come to Atlanta. It is fascinating to see the new pins added from day to day.

Reservations for our American friends are steadily increasing also. I would urge those who have not written for hotel accommodations to do so at once. We are not yet crowded, but it will be wise to have your name "in the pot" right away, if you wish to express preference for the type of room desired. We hope to be able to accommodate every person's request for reservation—whether hotel, boarding house, private home, etc., but if we are to do the best possible job, we need your cooperation in sending your request well in advance.

Many interesting inquiries have reached us regarding accommodations during the Congress. For example, a letter comes from a distant state asking if we can provide them a place for a camp. A party will come by bus, bringing their camp-

ing equipment for the entire week. Another letter asks if we can provide parking space for trailers. Certainly we can meet all these requests in good shape, when they come this far in advance.

Most of the readers of *The Commission* have, by this time, seen the tentative program, and I need not refer to it in detail; but I would like to emphasize to all who can do so, the importance of reaching Atlanta not later than Saturday morning, July 22, in order that they may register and be ready for the opening session at two o'clock that afternoon. It is quite desirable that those who have never attended one of the congresses should be here for the roll call of the nations Saturday afternoon and evening.

While many of our American friends will find it impossible to remain through the entire week, we hope they can be here Saturday and Sunday—for the roll call on Saturday, Dr. Truett's presidential address Sunday afternoon, and the great mass meeting Sunday evening. There will be no congress session Sunday morning. Visiting preachers from every part of the world will fill the pulpits of Atlanta and neighboring cities in not only the Baptist churches, but all evangelical churches.

Monday night is the pageant, which I judge will prove one of the outstanding features of the week. The sermon comes Tuesday night. Wednesday night is the missionary demonstration, and Thursday night is the youth administration. Friday night will feature addresses on world peace, and the closing address will be delivered by the new president.

I hope you can meet the Baptists of the world in Atlanta in July.



Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke, *General Secretary, Baptist World Alliance*

THE CHURCH: Its Unfinished Evangelistic Task

International Missionary Council

Introduction

The unfinished task of the Church is the commission committed by our Lord to His disciples to "preach the Gospel to every creature." By evangelism, therefore, we understand that the Church Universal, in all its branches, and through the service of all its members, must so present Christ Jesus to the world in the power of the Holy Spirit that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Saviour and serve Him as their Lord in the fellowship of His Church. This task today must include the preaching of the Gospel (1) in so-called Christian lands, and (2) in the non-Christian regions of the world.

The task must be studied in the light of the revolutionary changes in the world, of the challenge from many lands to the Christian faith, of the increasing persecutions of Christians and in some areas the closing of doors to the Gospel.

The Church must either make its impact upon the secular world of today and win it for Christ, or the secular world will increasingly encroach upon the spiritual life of the Church, blunting its witness and dimming its vision. There is, therefore, in this summons a note of urgency and insistence. We live in perilous days and the Church cannot stand still, it dare not retreat, yet advance is possible only as the whole Church unites in a new Fellowship of the Spirit to evangelize the world.

Unoccupied Areas

For purposes of this survey we divide the world into two main sections: (a) unoccupied areas within the sphere of Christian communities, and (b) unoccupied areas in non-Christian lands. Of special importance under the second section are those areas unoccupied because they are closed to all Christian witness and those areas until recently opened but now closed to the Gospel.

Space forbids any examination of the unfinished evangelistic task in "Christian" countries. We merely note the fact that on a scale, never before seen in the world, there is in Europe a concerted, organized attempt to secularize the minds of millions of Christian people. We note further the fact that in Europe and America, out of a total population of 735 million there are 240 million people claiming no connection with organized Christianity. We note the rise of cults claiming to be substitutes for the Christian faith.

The second section of our survey must be restricted to the Christian task in the non-Christian world. Many countries or areas

are entirely closed to Christian witness among which are Afghanistan, the Asiatic Soviet Republics, Bhutan, Inner Mongolia, Nepal and Tibet. These closed lands have a total population of fifty-three million.

The fact that countries once open, are closing to the Gospel is a significant feature of our times. Missionaries in Turkestan have been driven out; Protestant work in Abyssinia and Italian African Colonies has been greatly restricted.

Asia: In *China*, it is estimated that forty-five per cent of the country is still entirely untouched by Christian forces. Half *Manchuria* is beyond Christian influence.

India. In addition to nearly 500 *Indian States* which are without missionary occupation, there are areas consisting of two, three and in one case five million people without effective Christian occupation. The fact that there are only fourteen Protestant missionaries and 7,000 Christians to the million people shows the magnitude of the unfinished task.

In other areas occupation by missionary forces is so small as to leave vast tracts of country beyond all evangelistic efforts. This is true especially of Moslem lands such as *Arabia*, *Iraq*, and *Turkey*, and of the great Buddhist areas of *Burma* and *Siam*, and the rural areas of *Japan*. The heart of Asia is still one of the world's greatest unevangelized fields.

Africa: Even though there is an average of fifty-six Protestant missionaries to each million people in Africa, and though the growth of the Church has been more rapid than in Asia, there are still many areas and tribes to be reached.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *We present herewith the third in the series of "Findings" adopted at the recent meeting of the International Missionary Conference held at Madras, India, December 12-29, 1938. The representatives of 107 Protestant denominations were present and participated in the Conference. That there is a world-wide longing for a revival of spiritual religion in all denominational groups is indicated in these "Findings."*—C. E. M.

Latin America: South America presents another territory the occupation of which calls for the services of very many more national and foreign workers. There are still many regions of Latin America untouched by Protestant missions.

We draw attention to a further fact, that where, in recent years, evangelism has been most successful it has been due, not so much to the direct preaching or planning of missionaries, as to the witness, chiefly of a voluntary character, of the younger churches. This witness has sprung from a spiritual vitality and experience which compel men to pass on the good news they have found. In Nigeria where the Church has doubled its membership in the last twelve years, it is estimated that ninety per cent of the conversions have been due to the witness of Africans themselves. The same may be said of the Batak Church in Sumatra, the mass movement areas of India and elsewhere. The task, therefore, must be seen in its right setting as the task of the churches, with whom missionaries become cooperators and partners, but on the basis of the principle that the leadership should lie with the churches themselves.

God is surely summoning His Church to advance, through personal and corporate witness as in apostolic days when "they went everywhere preaching the word." If every pastor will regard himself as an evangelist and lead out his flock in corporate witness to Christ, advance must result. This involves a program by the churches for teaching pastors and people how to evangelize, for the exchange of experiences between different areas and countries, so that methods of evangelism in one area may be shared by others.

The Place of the Missionary in the Unfinished Task

There is a strongly expressed and, we believe, unanimous opinion among the younger churches that

missionaries from the older churches are still needed in mission fields. This applies to areas where churches are organized on a self-supporting and self-controlling basis as well as to the less developed regions.

We protest against the idea that, while men of first class qualifications are needed for hospitals and schools, any one can be an evangelist. If educationalists are needed with special qualifications, no less are evangelistic missionaries needed with equally good training and experience. We urge that missionaries, going to institutional work, should be given some training in practical evangelism and in its aims and purposes; that missionaries who will take up pastoral duties or become district superintendents should be given special training in evangelism. Such missionary, evangelistic experts should serve the churches and encourage native leadership, rather than controlling or leading the work themselves. We claim that the task cannot be completed unless the Church treats this subject of evangelism much more seriously than hitherto.

A Call to Action

This report has revealed the extent of the unfinished task of the Church. We have seen how great areas of the world are wholly unevangelized, but what is more arresting still is the fact that doors, wide open in the nineteenth century, are closing to the Church, and that there are many signs of the renewal of persecution of Christians in different parts of the world. This, therefore, is no era for marking time or for the expediency of waiting for a better day. God is calling upon His Church to go forward. The far-reaching movements of the Spirit in widely different countries are an indication of what the Church may expect if it is obedient and faithful in this day of God's power.

We stress the fact that nothing

in the present world situation in any way invalidates the Gospel. It is still "the power of God unto salvation." Our fundamental purpose in evangelism is still the same, and we agree that every missionary activity should be judged by its effectiveness in conveying the message of the Gospel.

In a world of struggling and competing ideologies we emphasize again the urgency of this hour. World peace will never be achieved without world evangelization. The early Church was martyred for its faith that "Jesus Christ is Lord." Most countries of the world are marked by graves of missionaries of many lands, race and color, who gave their lives in a glad confession of Christ as Saviour and Lord. The enterprise we have undertaken has been costly in suffering martyrdom, but it has been characterized at every stage by a manifestation of the Spirit demonstrating the power of God in human lives and human relationships. In this new day men are no less heroic than in previous generations. Millions give themselves gladly for Nationalism. Can the Church summon Christians everywhere to a new adventure for the Kingdom of God? Can it give youth a new vision of the purpose of God for the world? Can it challenge men to live dangerously for the sake of the Gospel? Perils increase and "safety first" cannot be the watchword in this hour. Every fact of the world situation is an appeal to the Church to advance. We summon the churches to unite in the supreme work of world evangelization until the Kingdom of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord.

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Dr. Louie D. Newton, than whom we have no man more gifted in many ways, told a story at the recent Baptist Hundred Thousand Club conference in Macon, Georgia. The story was so good and the application so pertinent that I pass it on with an additional word or two.

When Louie was a lad, his father told him to get a basket, go to the sweet potato patch and pick up the potatoes. He did so; thought he got them all.

A couple of days later the father told Louie to go again and see if there were not some more potatoes. Louie went and was surprised to find a great many more. He was very careful this time and got every one in sight. He told his father that he had picked up every one.

A few days later the father told him to go once more. Louie went reluctantly; but sure enough there were more potatoes. The boy couldn't imagine where they came from. This time he not only picked up all the potatoes he saw but even pulled up the vines themselves. He said, "Father, I know I have them all this time." "All right," said the father, "now you may open the gate and let the hogs go in." "Would you believe it? Those hogs ran in, went to rooting and found potatoes galore. I never would have dreamed they were there."

"Now, what is the application?" Dr. Newton asked. "This: there are unrealized and unsuspected resources in all our churches. We think we have gotten all the money in sight; we put on the Every Member Canvass and say we have gotten all we can secure for the Lord's work. Then one of these special days comes along, and we make a special appeal, and get more money. We hesitate about the Hundred Thousand Club; but if we will launch it and tell the people what it is, and what it is doing, they will respond. I know; I have tried it. Let's do it, my brethren, for there are unrealized, yes unexpected, even undreamed-of resources for the

THAT POTATO STORY

J. E. DILLARD
*Secretary of Promotion,
Southern Baptist Convention*

Lord's work in all our churches."

Just here Brother Newton was called out, and I took the liberty of going a bit further in the matter of the interpretation and application of this homely incident:

Brethren, I think it is a noble and beneficent thing to let the poor hungry hogs have a chance to root for the few remaining potatoes in the patch, *after* we have gotten all we need for our own families; but I don't think it is wise or right to open the gate for the hogs until after we have gotten enough to feed the children in our home. (I Tim. 5:8).

We Southern Baptists constitute a great family. We have many children: Foreign Missions, Home Missions, State Missions, Southern Seminary, Southwestern Seminary, Bible Institute, Training Schools, Negro Seminary, Ministerial Relief, hospitals, orphanages, et al. *These children of ours are hungry, every one of them. No one else is going to feed them.* I am opposed to letting even the neighbors, as much as I love them, come in and pick up the potatoes until *after* the needs of the children are provided.

Some of our people seem to take a delight in leaving the gate open, and even inviting others to come in and help themselves, while our own children are crying for the very necessities of life. "These things ought not so to be." If we had all

the money Baptists will give this year to non-Baptist, non-religious causes, we could pay all our south-wide debts and have a big pile left to enlarge our Kingdom work.

Just here some one in the audience asked: "Who are the hogs?" Robert Browning answers:

"What is he but a brute
Whose flesh has soul to suit,
Whose spirit works lest arms
and legs want play?
To man propose this test,—
Thy body at its best,
How far can it project thy soul,
on its lone way?"

This is Browning's way of saying a hog is a creature, whether of four legs or two, who gives his time, thought, and energies to the things of the body and time, instead of to the soul and eternity.

Suffer yet another word: There just isn't anything that will help sweet potatoes to multiply and grow, like a good rain in the growing season. Perhaps we have worked over time in some instances trying to pick up potatoes, when, if we had prayed for revival rains from heaven, there would have been not only more potatoes, but larger ones. Yes, I believe in revivals.

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THE COMMISSION

A BAPTIST WORLD JOURNAL

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MAY, 1939

No. V

WASHINGTON—OKLAHOMA CITY 1933 1939

A Study in Contrasts

When the Southern Baptist Convention met in Washington City in May, 1933, the Baptists of the South, with respect to their organized mission work, were in a disastrous retreat from Maryland to Arizona and from Illinois to the Gulf. Both the Home and Foreign Boards faced bankruptcy and were virtually in the hands of friendly receiverships. The Home Board owed \$1,674,002, and the Foreign Board owed the enormous sum of \$1,089,509. The morale of our people was at the lowest ebb it had ever been since the fearful days of reconstruction that followed on the heels of the devastating War between the States.

In three years the Foreign Mission Board had reduced its missionary personnel from 544 to 398, a

loss of 146, and by the close of 1933 it had further reduced the number in active service to 373. The income of the Foreign Mission Board in 1926 was \$2,278,225, and in 1933 it was \$691,987, a loss in income in seven years of \$1,586,238.

That we may see the whole tragic picture that the Convention faced in Washington City in 1933, we give the following facts:

Total receipts from all sources for foreign missions for the calendar year of 1932..	\$ 880,573.00
Budget fixed for 1933..	605,575.00
Total receipts for 1933	691,987.00
Received from Lottie Moon Offering, January 1933.....	129,296.97
Debt of the Board on January 1, 1933....	1,110,000.00
Interest paid in 1932..	69,125.00

The memory of the Washington Convention of 1933 will always stand out in the minds of the friends of foreign missions as the most poignant and tragic hour in the long history of the Foreign Mission Board. But farsighted and courageous men and women in that Convention refused to take counsel with their fears and refused to retreat further. The Hundred Thousand Club was launched for the payment of the debts on all the boards and agencies of the Convention. Woman's Missionary Union led the way in the fall of 1933 with a glorious advance, giving the magnificent sum of \$175,577.39, an increase of \$45,890.12 over the previous year. The tragic and disastrous retreat of Southern Baptists was halted and now, for six years, there has been a steady and wholesome advance all along the line.

That we may visualize in a concrete way just how far Southern Baptists have come on the road to recovery in six years, we set down here some figures that we will report to the Oklahoma Convention:

Current Budget fixed for 1938.....	\$ 801,862.83
Total income for 1938	1,100,017.00
Amount paid on the principal of the debt since Jan. 1, 1933..	829,000.00
Amount of the debt on April 1, 1939.....	281,000.00
Amount of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, 1938, to date	311,942.00
Amount paid for interest in 1933.....	65,191.00
Amount paid for interest, 1938.....	13,909.00
New missionaries appointed in six years	146
Missionaries re-appointed	32
Total appointed in six years	178
Missionaries now in active service.....	437

In 1934 a satisfactory pension plan for the care of our aged and infirm missionaries was adopted and today we have sixty-four emeritus missionaries on the pension plan. Adding these to our list of active missionaries, we have a total of 505 devoted servants of Christ now being supported by the Foreign Mission Board.

These are a few of the encouraging facts that we shall report to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Oklahoma City, May 17-21. Best of all, the spirit and morale of our people is higher than it has been in a generation. Foreign missions has an ever enlarging place in the hearts of our people, and we go to Oklahoma City a united and conquering host.

We bow in humble gratitude to God for the glorious and triumphant way in which He is leading Southern Baptists on to victory.

* * *

A Notable Book

The publication of the biography of Dr. George W. Truett by Dr. Powhatan W. James, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, has met with the most generous and enthusiastic reception ever given a biography of a Southern Baptist leader.

Dr. Truett is by all odds the most illustrious and outstanding Baptist preacher in the world today. It is, therefore, eminently fitting that this life of Dr. Truett should come from the press on the eve of the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Atlanta in July. As President of the Baptist World Alliance, Dr. Truett is pre-eminently a world figure among Baptists.

Dr. James, of course, was fortunate beyond most biographers, in that he was given the privilege of setting forth before the eyes of the whole Protestant world the secret springs of the life of the greatest gospel preacher in this generation. But, apart from the universal and sympathetic interest in the subject of this biography, Dr. James, the

author, has shown himself to be a keen, critical and discerning student of the human and divine elements uniting in the personality and life of this masterful preacher. The author has at one bound taken his place among the foremost biographical writers of his generation.

We predict an enormous sale for this fascinating book.

* * *

A New Feature

We are offering in this issue of *THE COMMISSION* "Pray for Us," a new and timely feature that we believe will appeal to many of our readers. These devotions are built around the birthdays of our missionaries and include a Scripture selection, a memory verse, the name of the missionary, a brief story, and a suggestion for prayer.

We believe this new feature will add much to *THE COMMISSION*, and we invite comment and suggestions for the improvement of these pages.

* * *

Baptist Churches in Rumania Still Closed

Some weeks ago, the Associated Press carried a dispatch from Bucharest to the effect that the Government had reversed itself and ordered all Baptist churches reopened. We now learn that the announcement was a mistake and all of our Baptist churches are still closed. We quote a paragraph of a letter from a friend of our Baptist people in Rumania. This letter gives the true status of Baptist affairs in that distressed land:

"The churches are still closed. There is a new Minister of Cults that has a better understanding of Baptist problems in our country. A few days ago His Excellence received a Baptist delegation and has promised us to study very carefully our tragic situation. Just imagine almost for three months without any public worship. No prayer meeting, no choir, no Sunday school, no sermon, no wedding services, etc. Though the clouds are

very black and terrible pressing on us, we still resist and are hoping for the best."

March 23 brought to the Foreign Mission Board the following cablegram: "Baptist School closed. Political unrest."

* * *

American Youth and the Future of America

The American Youth Forum, through a series of essay contests, has procured an expression from nearly a quarter of a million of young men and young women students in our schools, colleges and universities. Their attitudes and views toward social ideas and ideals have been tabulated. On the whole the results are very reassuring. They are more profoundly and intelligently interested in the vital issues of individual life and social life, of economic and political order than many would have believed. And they are preponderantly concerned about religion. Their views on most important matters are progressive without being radical. Their ideas are largely correct, even though they must be often poorly grounded. While preponderantly concerned with religion they are very far from being either contented with, or clearly informed about, organized religion. In large measure they are not greatly interested in churches. Here is a very definite problem and responsibility for the organized institutions and leadership of our American Christianity. Either our institutions, including our local churches, must be adjusted to the oncoming generation; or the oncoming generation must be instructed and incorporated in the institutions; or we shall come upon a time when organized religion will play a small part in determining the religious life of America. Such an outcome would be bad for Christianity and would be ethically and socially most deplorable for our country. One would like to say to all religious leaders, "Give heed to this situation."—W. O. C.

The Time Is Too Short

The Southern Baptist Convention now convenes on Wednesday afternoon and gives only three and a half days to the consideration of the ever growing and expanding work of the Convention. When the Convention was organized in 1845, life in the South was simple, and the interests and activities of the churches were limited. The major concern of the churches was evangelism, and the Convention at the first session constituted two evangelistic agencies, a Domestic Mission Board to give the Gospel to the waste places in the homeland, and a Foreign Mission Board to send the Gospel into the regions beyond. For a number of years the sphere of the activities of the Foreign Mission Board was limited to two stations in China. Then in 1850, a half-hearted effort was made to open a mission in Africa. For many years the work of the Convention was simple, and there was ample time for the full and free discussion of every matter that claimed the interest and called forth the support of the organization.

Now conditions have completely changed, and the work of the Convention is vast, complicated, and world-wide in its ramifications. Merely to enumerate a few of the varied activities and diversified interests of the Convention is to show how vast and extensive is the enterprise and program of the denomination. There is the work of the Foreign Mission Board in sixteen lands across the world, embracing in its program all of the activities and endeavors of the churches in the homeland. There is the work of pioneer evangelism and pastoral assistance; school work from the kindergarten to the college and theological seminary; medical work, including hospitals, leper colonies, clinics, dispensaries, health work, and sanitation; and the task of growing and guiding indigenous churches.

Then there is the extensive and ever expanding program of our Home Mission Board that needs ample time for the Convention's discussion and consideration.

The Sunday School Board, with its varied activities and extensive program, touches in a very vital way the life of every church in the South. The Relief and Annuity Board has constantly grown in the favor and affection of our people, because it is meeting in a worthy and comprehensive way the problem of how to care for the sick and aged minister and denominational worker. The work of the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Convention, has grown and expanded in its program of activities in a way that brings joy to all hearts. There is also the vital and indispensable work of our Theological Seminaries which are training a worthy ministry for the growing and expanding churches; the Christ-like ministry of the Hospital Commission; the report of the Social Service Commission; the efficient and business-like report of the Executive Committee; together with the reports of numerous and important commissions and committees. How the work of the Convention has grown since the turn of the century! Think now of the utter impossibility of giving serious and adequate consideration to all of the rapidly growing work of the Convention in the crowded sessions of three and a half days! Surely a whole week is necessary for the worthy consideration of all of the work of the Convention in annual session. One whole afternoon and evening session should be given to each of the two great Mission

Boards for a report, review, and consideration of their work. The Sunday School Board should be given a like amount of time and the Seminaries should have at least four hours for the proper consideration of their work. Every organization and committee will agree that the time allotted it is too short for the proper presentation of its work.

We sincerely hope, therefore, that the Convention in Oklahoma City will take this whole matter under review and find some solution of the problem of how to find more time for the work of the Convention. We suggest that the Convention appoint a large committee, composed of representatives of the several boards and institutions of the Convention, the Woman's Missionary Union and the Executive Committee, to take this whole matter under consideration and to report their findings and recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee could then put the new schedule into operation for the 1940 Convention.

CHARLES E. MADDY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JESSIE R. FORD EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT MARLENE S. COLEMAN PUBLICITY SECRETARY		FOREIGN MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION RICHMOND, VA. March 30, 1939.	L. HOWARD JENKINS PRESIDENT E. P. GUSTON TREASURER H. S. JONES MODERATOR MARY M. HUNTER MISS. SEC. GEN.
Miss Kathleen Mallory, Executive Secretary, Woman's Missionary Union, 1111 Comer Building, Birmingham, Alabama. My dear Miss Mallory: The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for 1938 has reached the gratifying figure of \$312,000 to date. This is \$19,780 more than was given in 1937. Such a magnificent gift will bring unbounded joy to our devoted missionary family around the world. The letters of credit have already gone to the various lands, and joy bells are ringing in the hearts of many thousands whom these gifts have blessed. Our hearts here are overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving to Woman's Missionary Union for this amazingly generous offering. Yours sincerely, <i>Charles E. Maddy</i> Executive Secretary CEM:C			

Editorial Varieties

CHARLES E. MADDY

God Is Calling.—An urgent appeal comes from Missionary J. T. Williams of Shanghai for \$1,000 for the publication of a second edition of the Bible in Mandarin. Some months ago Woman's Missionary Union and other friends gave us funds for the publication of an edition of 5,000 copies. Dr. Williams writes that the demand for Bibles among the Chinese is unprecedented and that the stocks of the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society are likewise exhausted.

The China Baptist Publication Society is anxious to issue a second edition at once. The gift of \$1,000 American currency will equal \$6,000 in Chinese currency at this time, and this will send forth six thousand copies of God's Word. Here is a chance to be a foreign missionary without ever leaving America. "The entrance of thy word giveth light."

* * *

The Faithful.—After repeated bombings by the Japanese our Baptist Hospital at Kweilin, South China, was completely destroyed some weeks ago. The buildings were set on fire and are a total loss. A message brings the information that Dr. R. E. L. Mewshaw and Miss Ruth Ford refuse to desert the Chinese Christians and have stayed on in Kweilin amid the ruins of their hospital. They are doing everything possible to minister to the wounded and suffering now crowding into Kweilin. It will not be hard for missionaries like these to get a hearing for the Gospel when this war is over. Every door in China will be open to them.

* * *

A Munificent Gift.—The friends in the First Baptist Church of Big Springs, Texas, and the Woman's Missionary Union of Texas have completed the fund for the Lucille

Reagan Memorial in Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa. The Memorial consists of a chapel at Appapa, across the Lagoon from Lagos, and a missionary home and primary school building in the best residential section of Lagos. The sum of \$11,000.00 was given for these memorial buildings. Thus the sweet and blessed influence of this devoted missionary will live on in fruitful service through the epoch-making years of the future. We are deeply grateful to the Baptist women of Texas for this munificent gift.

* * *

Calling for a Doctor.—The best hospital building and equipment that we have in all China is at Yangchow. Following the civil wars and anti-foreign uprisings in 1927-28, Dr. R. E. L. Mewshaw spent three years repairing and rehabilitating this hospital. It had been looted and stripped of every movable thing. The women of South Carolina and the South gave us funds for the repairs and furnishings of the hospital. Dr. Mewshaw and Miss Sallie James had just re-opened the hospital, the only western medical service in a metropolis of 400,000 people, when the Japanese invaded the city, and these missionaries were driven out. The Japanese occupied the property for some months, but have now returned it to our Mission. We are happy to say that the property is undamaged. We are so anxious to re-open this hospital, but there is no surgeon available for the task. Dr. Mewshaw cannot leave Kweilin and we are praying that God will raise up a missionary doctor for the biggest job in China. Dr. Ethel Pierce is holding the property and conducting a daily clinic. Who will say, "Here am I, send me"?

Relief for Chile.—A missionary's report from Chile confirms the earlier press dispatches telling of the disastrous loss of life in the recent earthquake. Forty thousand people perished in this, the most destructive earthquake in the history of Chile. The women of Texas have given fifteen hundred dollars for relief work in the stricken area in central Chile. We hope that other gifts may be forthcoming.

* * *

Foreign Missions Conference.—The annual meeting of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America was postponed from January to June 9-16, 1939. The sessions will be held at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, fourteen miles from Philadelphia. Board and room will be provided in the college buildings. Four hundred delegates from the one hundred and twenty-three foreign mission boards and societies of the United States and Canada, are expected to be present.

* * *

New Plans for Spain.—The collapse of the Republican Government in Spain completely alters the status and outlook of our Baptist work in that unhappy country. The Insurgents have won with the material aid and backing of the Vatican, the lauded aristocracy, and the monarchists. This will, in all probability, mean the suppression of all Protestant and dissenting sects in Spain. Most of our Baptist pastors are in exile or in concentration camps in France. As soon as conditions become more settled, the Foreign Mission Board will send a representative to Spain to make a new survey of our Baptist work. The future of our Baptist mission in Spain is dark indeed.

* * *

THE SOURCE

By CHARLES A. WELLS



The threatening roar of war has hovered like a pestilent cloud since the first armistice day. The papers that have been signed to outlaw war, to denounce war, to abstain from war would fill all the official waste baskets in the world. Yet every few months we feel like condensing our small possessions into an armload and finding escape from the deadly buzzing in the sky. But it's no use. There's no place to go, for the threat is universal. It exists wherever men exist, for its cause is not to be found under the domed capitol, but in the human heart. These deadly swarms that threaten our sky spring from those swamps buried in our lives where greed, hatred, and lust hold sway,—where propaganda takes the place of thinking, and passion supplants reason. To stamp it out requires the same process that was used against yellow fever, malaria, and typhoid. It must be a cleansing, purifying process and cannot come except through those forces which, since Calvary, have been steadily lifting men away from the jungle.

PIONEER WILLIAM R. WHITE

(Continued from page 134)

his ministry those qualities which go into the making of a successful missionary: a burning desire to see men saved—a daring spirit that will not compromise with worldliness—and a positive program.

Out and out, Dr. White is a man's man. He enjoys a good football game. He is a personal friend to "Pepper" Martin and Carl Hubbell and follows the baseball averages with interest. To save time, he rides the airplane on all long trips. One of his greatest joys is preaching every summer in the historic Bloys camp meeting in the middle of the West Texas cow country. The rough ranchers love him for his spirit and his epigrammatic style.

Some of Dr. White's pastoral experiences can almost match those told by our foreign missionaries. He chuckles now as he looks back over his experiences as pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth from 1931 to 1935. He was leading the fight against the return of liquor and race track gambling in Texas. In the heat of the campaign, it was not an unusual thing for him to receive several threatening letters and telephone calls during the week. One anonymous caller threatened to kidnap his child if he did not stop his attack against the race track gamblers. Dr. and Mrs. White have no children. The law permitting race track gambling in Texas was repealed.

The modern pastor faces many problems, and Dr. White offers a fundamental approach to his problems by summing up his own philosophy of life in three affirmations:

First—"There is a great God at the center of things.

Second—"The highest Manifestation of that great God is Jesus Christ.

Third—"The greatest thing that man can do is to yield his life and all to this Manifestation of God."

Applying this philosophy to the problems, Dr. White said, "We are

seeking to experience reality. We want to know if we can feel the presence of Christ as our contemporary. I know that there is One who is real. He can equip us to dare to do the things that are worth risking, and to be the things that are worth being."

Until my watch jolted me into a hasty farewell, I did not realize that time had passed so quickly and that we had talked for more than two hours. I did not notice the cold as I walked out again into the biting wind. There was something about the conversation with this "Oklahoma pioneer" that made everything seem like Spring.

KINGDOM FACTS AND FACTORS

(Continued from page 141)

have, so we are told, ample force to intimidate or to coerce lawless nations as well as individuals. Such is the counsel of many noble, Christian leaders. We may speak softly—but who is speaking softly today?—but we must also carry a big stick, and we must see to it that our stick is bigger and more deadly than the sticks carried by the outlaws. Of course it is always to be assumed that our nation, our Government, our force is the honest and righteous police power. The others are the law-breakers, the vicious, the dangerous. In the face of the terrible conditions of today, dare we cherish a dream? Dare we believe in the power of the Gospel? Dare we risk all with truth, brotherhood, discipleship unto the Son of Man? Dare we embrace with Jesus the principle of the cross, and go forth into a mad world with naught but the message of Him who dared to die for wicked men? Have we the faith and the courage to be "fools for Christ's sake" who was the Christ for the sake of men who were making a mess of their world?

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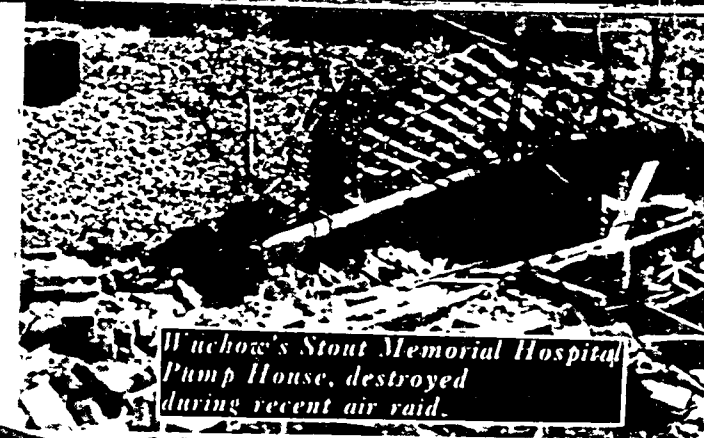
65 Broadway, N. Y. C.

MISSIONARY INTEREST

The Ministry of Healing



Wuchow's Stout Memorial Hospital Chapel, after a recent bombing.

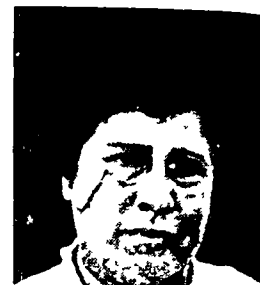


Wuchow's Stout Memorial Hospital Pump House, destroyed during recent air raid.



Major operation performed by Dr. William Wallace, only Southern Baptist doctor at Stout Memorial Hospital, Wuchow, China.

Dr. Ethel M. Pierce, only S. B. doctor in Yangchow, China.



Dr. Jeannette Beall, only physician for two S. B. hospitals in Laichow, China.



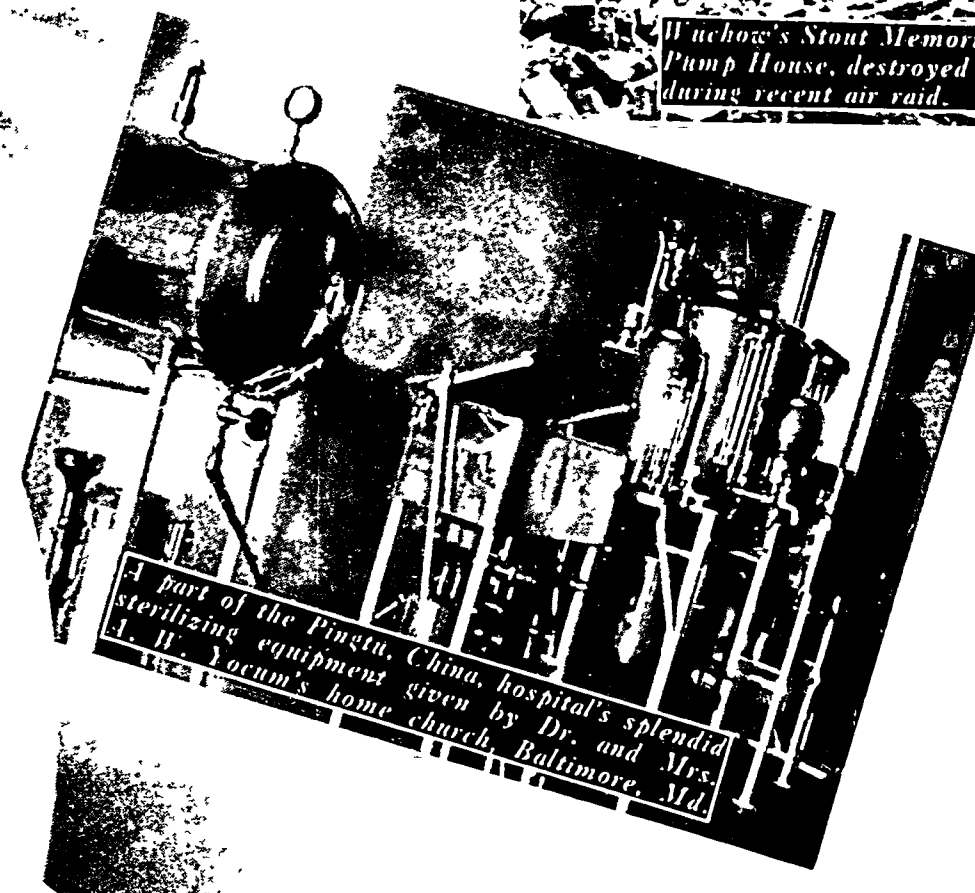
Dr. N. A. Bryan, S. B. physician, Warren Memorial Hospital, Hwanghsien, China. This is first S. B. hospital overseas.



Dr. Mary King, Pochow, China, who has given 47 years to China, recently returned to the States because of critical illness.



A few of Missionary nurse Ruth Kersey's motherless babies of Baptist Hospital, Ogborn, Nigeria, Africa.



A part of the Pingta, China, hospital's splendid sterilizing equipment given by Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Yacum's home church, Baltimore, Md.



Leung Kwong Baptist Hospital, Canton, China. Center: Dr. C. A. Hayes and Dr. Charles E. Maddy.



Baptist Hospital, Kweilin, South China, bombed and completely burned December, 1938.

Gleams from a Hospital

RUTH KERSEY, *Ogbomosho, Africa*



Keninde, Emma, and their friend in the Baptist hospital yard, Ogbomosho, Nigeria

OJO

In the year 1930 a man named Ojo came to the Baptist Hospital, Ogbomosho. He could hardly walk at all, and after examination, the doctor found that Ojo had osteomyelitis (inflammation of the bone). Ojo was a patient at the hospital for months and finally left, not much improved because he refused to take the treatments, or operation recommended by the hospital.

In 1932 Ojo came again to the hospital. This time he was very ill and thin, and the diseased limb had such an offensive odor that the nurses and doctors could hardly stand to enter the room. Accompanying Ojo from his village home, about a hundred miles away, was his little daughter, Keninde, a girl of about seven years, but very small for her age.

This time the doctors found that there was nothing to be done but to amputate Ojo's leg. During the few days before the operation, Keninde was the only member of the family to comfort Ojo. She brought her father his native food, gave him water when he wanted it

and sat by his bed fanning him. Just before Ojo was to go to the operating room, the American nurse then on duty in the hospital went in the room and found little Keninde looking very sad, but trying to be brave.

After the operation Ojo was in



Children of one of the strongest Baptist families, Lagos, Nigeria

the hospital for months. Many times he heard about Jesus who died on the cross that he might be saved.

During these months little Keninde made friends with Emma, the motherless baby whom I had taken some years before. Being smaller than Emma, Keninde inherited some of Emma's clothes to take the place of her few, badly worn garments. The new little girl and Emma became great friends and Keninde began going to Sunday school with Emma.

Soon Keninde was saying that she wanted so much to go to

school. At that time it seemed impossible to support another child, so that day when Ojo was well enough to go home, our hearts were sad that dear little Keninde must go too.

Explaining to the child that I was soon going to America on furlough, I added that I expected to return to Ogbomosho in a little more than a year and would then help her to go to school. So Keninde went home with her father. A couple of weeks passed, and then one day one of the boys came saying, "Keninde has returned." Sure enough, there she was. Hopefully she said, "I came to go to school." Telling the child that I could not help her now, and that she would have to go home, I paid her fare on the truck. So with a sad heart Keninde left.

Disappointed, she stood waiting for the truck. But her sadness changed to joy when a boy ran to her calling, "Missus says, 'Come back!'"

So Emma and Keninde have been "sisters" ever since. She goes to school with Emma, and now they are both pupils at the Baptist Girls' School in Abeokuta.

Both girls have accepted Jesus as Saviour and in a recent letter, one of them wrote, "We read our Bibles every day."

Ojo, although he has only one leg, manages to make a living by tailoring. The seed-sowing at the Baptist Hospital, Ogbomosho, is bringing forth fruit in Ojo's life, and now he no more makes clothes on Sunday, for he is a follower of the Lord Jesus, and is found in God's house on Sundays.

* * *

JOLADE

One day a tiny baby girl was brought to the Ogbomosho Baptist Hospital. She was ill with tetanus (lockjaw), and the doctor said she had very little, if any, chance to get well. But nurse Kathleen Manley did not give up. She kept giving tetanus antitoxin, nursing, and praying. And Jolade got well.

Some time after Jolade's mother took her home, Kathleen Manley with some other missionaries and a native Christian woman, visited in this home, to teach this heathen woman more about Jesus. There in the compound, with many men, women and children looking and listening, the missionaries told about Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Right away Jolade's mother began attending the church services regularly, with Jolade on her back.

Now, after three years, Jolade who has been brought every week to the Baby Clinic at the Ogbomosho Hospital, is a fine, healthy little girl. She wears a radiant smile, which is no more radiant than that of her mother, who has learned to trust Jesus as Saviour, and has influenced two other women from that heathen compound to go with her to church on Sundays. We pray that these other women also may soon trust Jesus.

ALAKE

It was in the year 1937 that one of the missionary nurses of Ogbomosho went, early one morning, to her market-place-clinic. After the usual service and Bible story with the waiting patients, sores were dressed, eyes were treated, babies were weighed, and the usual treatments given.

On this particular day a very small child was brought on a woman's back. When this child's turn came for treatment, it was found that she was too weak to stand. The usual questions were asked, and the woman told that the tiny girl was seven years of age, that the mother had died several years before, and that she, the mother's sister, had cared for the child since the mother's death.

There were scales for weighing babies, and Alake, this seven-year-old girl, was put in the scales. She weighed only twenty pounds. The missionary told the aunt about the Home for Motherless Children in Ogbomosho, and asked that Alake be left there for a while until her health improved.

Aunt Aina agreed and, after examinations were made at the Baptist Hospital to be sure that the child had no contagious or infectious disease, Alake was taken to the

Hospital's Baptist Babies' Home.

There were no extra beds, and so Alake had to sleep on a mat on the floor. But she had a pillow and a blanket and, as she had never slept in a bed anyway, she did not mind about the mat.

Alake would lie on her mat and watch the plump little children as they played around. At first she ate very little, but every day her appetite improved. She learned to drink milk and took cod liver oil until soon she was strong enough to play with the other children.

After staying six weeks at the Children's Home, Alake had gained enough weight and strength to be allowed to return home. One day at Aromole, (the market-place-clinic) Alake and Aunt Aina appeared again. This time Aunt Aina came to thank the missionary, because Alake was now well and able to eat her native food. She also said, "Since Alake has been at the Children's Home, whenever we give her food, she bows her head, shuts her eyes, and says something to *Olorun* (God). And before she lies down to sleep at night, she also kneels and talks to *Olorun*."

Alake lives in a large heathen compound. There, in her simple way, a tiny girl is witnessing for Jesus. "A little child shall lead them."

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A Ruby Anniversary for China

W. H. TIPRON, *Editorial Secretary*

CHINA BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY, Shanghai, China

By the end of the year just closed, we had passed through eighteen months of this never ending "China Incident."

Along with business and commerce, practically all our mission work has suffered innumerable setbacks and losses. Most of our missionaries have been shut out from their homes, churches, schools, and hospitals; our evangelists and teachers along with the majority of the native Christians have been scattered hither and yon, as they have tried to escape the dangers of war; and much of our mission property, both in the interior and in the coast cities, has been destroyed. While it has been possible for some of our missionaries and other Christian workers to remain on their stations in the war areas, the vast majority have been compelled to withdraw to places of comparative safety.

In the areas which have been under military occupation for months, many of the villages and cities have been practically denuded of their original population as frantic war refugees trekked their weary way across the country in search of places of safety.

All this indescribable destruction with its attendant suffering has tremendously affected every phase of life in China. In most places normal and legitimate business has been at a standstill. With railways, steamers, airways, and postal services disrupted during a good part of the year, it is not surprising to find that our sale of Sunday school and other Christian literature has been considerably reduced.

Our total circulation of Sunday school literature, including all ten grades, dropped to 34,246 during the year. This figure is some twelve thousand less than our usual circu-



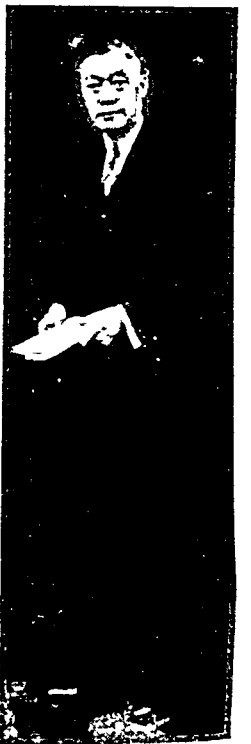
Editorial Staff of the China Baptist Publication Society, Shanghai, China

lation during normal times, or about three-fourths of our usual circulation. As we are dependent on the mails for filling most of our orders, every other department of the China Baptist Publication Society has likewise been affected in about the same proportion.

On account of the advance in the price of paper, printing, our cost of operation has been unusually high this year. Our total expenditure in this department was \$12,459.00; whereas, our total receipts were only \$5,837.66. Thus it will be seen that our total receipts from the sale of Sunday school literature during the year lacked several hundred dollars being half the cost of production and distribution. In normal times we count on realizing from our sales at least enough to cover the cost of everything except the salaries of the editorial staff.

During the year a manuscript has been prepared for a new book in our Teacher Training Course. It is Myrtle Owens Looney's new book,

Dr. John Y. Lee, Executive Secretary of the China Baptist Publication Society. Dr. Lee, who has served the Society since boyhood, now lies desperately ill at his home in Shanghai



"Guiding Junior Boys and Girls." This book came from the press early in January, and will, we feel sure, be a blessing to every teacher of Juniors.

Most of the lessons written and distributed during the past year

were written while airplanes droned overhead. All the plate glass on the ground floor of True Light Building was broken out by the concussion of bursting explosives, and not a few stray bullets and shell fragments hit our building from time to time. Scarcely a day passed, however, that we were not in our places in the offices, trying to carry on even against the odds. I wish to express my appreciation of the loyalty of every member of our staff.

Dr. John Y. Lee, our executive secretary, was too ill to have his picture taken in this group. Poor Dr. Lee is probably in the last stages, or at least in the beginning of the last stages, of cancer of the throat. He has made a brave fight and everything has been done that could be done to save him, but it looks now as if little more than having temporarily arrested the disease has been accomplished. He has been such a fine Christian worker, and he would have made such a wonderful contribution to the work of the Society had his health been spared. He has not been able to come to the office for several weeks past. Few men would have been able to carry on as he has under such adverse circumstances.

January 1, 1939, marked the writer's completion of a quarter of a century as editor of Sunday school literature of the China Baptist Publication Society. We are thankful that we have made considerable progress during these years. We were the pioneers in the field of producing graded Sunday school lessons in Chinese. On February 28, 1939, our Society completed forty years of service. It was organized in Canton on February 28, 1899. But for the disturbed conditions of the country, we would have had appropriate celebrations of this occasion. We praise God that we have been able to preserve the "status quo" and to carry on against many odds. It has meant much that in spite of war we have not missed a single issue of our literature during the year of 1938.

An Appeal from the Chefoo Chinese



Deacon Liu Shih Fu and his Pastor, the late J. Walton Moore, Chefoo, China

Her work among the women is especially needed at this time. If she returns to us, our hearts will be somewhat comforted in the loss of Mr. Moore.

We make this request to you knowing that you have a heart of jade, and we now thank you with ten thousand thanks for granting our request.

During the past year God's great blessing has been upon our church, and we render grateful thanks to Him. We pray for you as you labor in the different mission fields.

With great reverence and respect we present this letter to you. Peace be to you!

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

Board of Deacons of Chefoo Baptist Church, Chefoo, China.

Chang Tsi Yiin, Chairman
Hsii Ching Shan, Secretary
Liu Shih Fu
Yang Shing Yiian
Chang Chung Fing
Wang Pao San
Chang Tsi Liang
Shii Kwang Yiian
Huang Lan Ying
Diao Yiin Hsiang
Chang Teh Ching
Sun Yuch Ching

Dear Dr. Maddry: We are writing you concerning Mrs. J. W. Moore, who labored with us for sixteen years. Since she and Mr. Moore returned to their honorable country nearly three years ago, we have greatly missed their counsel and help. We, of course, expected that they would return to us at the expiration of their furlough. Through the providence of an All-wise Father, our pastor and brother has gone to be with Him. We shall not have his help any more, but we desire to have Mrs. Moore return to labor with us in the Cause of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Foresight and Faith

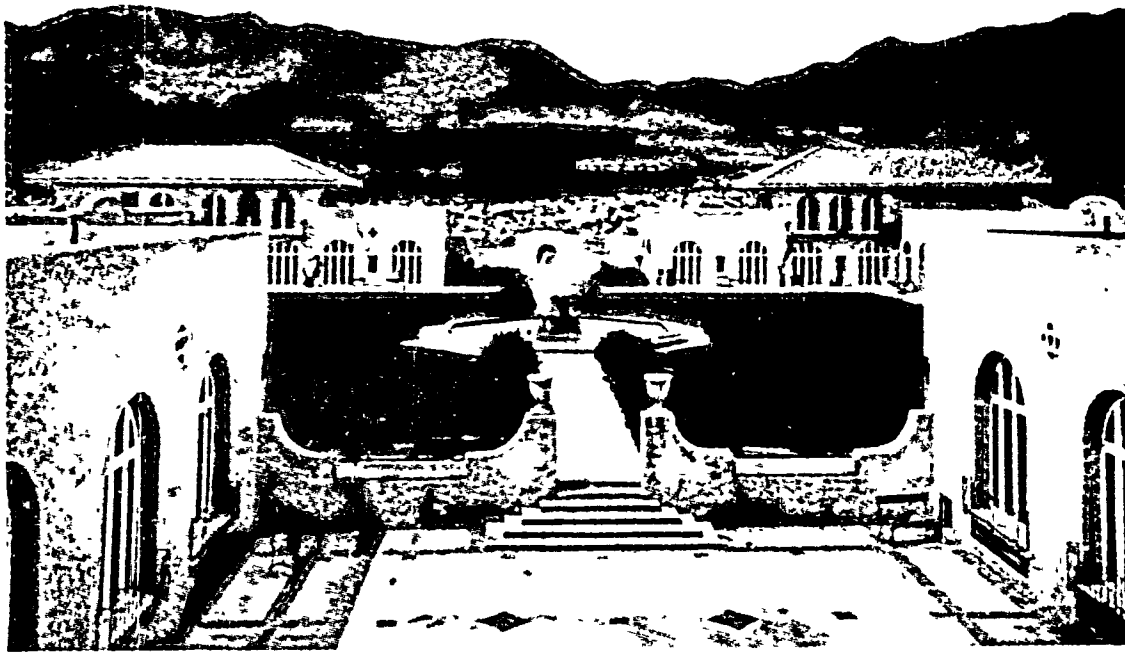
Last week I went on a short trip to Wusih and Soochow and was greatly gratified by what I saw. Both of these cities have recovered from the destruction of the war in a remarkable way. So far as the appearance of the crowds of people is concerned, one cannot observe any difference. The people are there by the tens of thousands, and

they are ready to hear the Gospel as I have never seen them before. Christian workers are literally overwhelmed with opportunities.

In Soochow great progress is being made in our three centers. At the present time there are no limitations whatsoever on the work being done in connection with the regular

(Continued to page 176)

MISSIONARY
INTEREST



THE MEXICAN SEMINARY

H. H. MUIRHEAD, *Field Secretary*

Spending a week in the Mexican Seminary at El Paso, Texas, was indeed a privilege. It was a busy and a happy week, one of the happiest I have spent since I left the mission field.

The Seminary, together with the Baptist Publishing House for the Spanish-speaking peoples, under the able management of missionary J. E. Davis, is housed in the splendid property located eight miles from the city of El Paso, and formerly occupied by the Southern Baptist Sanatorium. The location, buildings, and equipment are ideal; but the greatest thing about the institution is the faculty and student body.

The faculty is composed of five men and four women, only two of whom are missionaries under the appointment of the Foreign Mission Board; but all nine are missionaries in the truest and highest sense. I know of no other seminary on a mission field that has a superior faculty, if indeed its equal.

Professor Jonás García, one time federal senator of the Republic of Mexico, and for years one of the six

federal inspectors of Public Education in Mexico, is a fine Christian gentleman of the old school. Because his Christian conscience would not permit him to force the public school teachers to teach communism in the schools, he voluntarily resigned his high and lucrative position when he was within four years of a pension for life. His charming daughter, Miss Neomi García, gave up her position as teacher in Mexico for the same reason.

It was a liberal education to have contact with this cultured couple. If Professor García did nothing but walk through the buildings once a day, the optimism, culture, and consecration that radiate from his captivating personality would be worth infinitely more to the institution than the small salary it is able to pay him.

Professor Alfredo C. Müller, a native of Old Mexico, has completed, with the exception of his thesis, all the requirements for a Ph.D. degree in the Southern Bap-

tist Theological Seminary at Louisville.

Professor Abel P. Pierson, also Mexican born, will take his M.A. from the University of Colorado this summer. These men, giving to the institution all they are and all they have, would be an honor to any school. Mrs. Pierson is as excellent as her fine husband, and is filling just as important a place in the school life.

Professor Alfredo Lerin and wife, gifted musicians, are preparing the group of young people to sing, to the hearts of the Spanish-speaking people, the old, old story of Jesus and His love. I have not heard such singing since I left the Rio de Janeiro and Bucharest Seminaries.

President J. H. Benson and wife are the guiding hands, and they are doing a fine piece of work.

The student body this year is composed of twenty-four men and ten women. Eleven are from Old Mexico, one from California, one from Central America, one from New Mexico, two from Kansas, and seventeen from Texas.

The plant, equipment, and faculty are sufficient to take care of one hundred students. The problem is how to secure a student fund sufficient to support that number. Most of the students come from conditions under which they are unable to meet their school expenses. If sufficient funds could be secured, the student body could be doubled in number by the coming year. The new students do all of the manual work connected with the institution. The advanced students give their week-ends to pastoring the Mexican churches and evangelizing in the cities and towns for miles around.

Surely the Lord is establishing, out there at the junction of Texas, New Mexico and Old Mexico, an institution that means much, and, as the years come and go, will mean more and more in the evangelization and training of the entire Spanish world.

DEBT

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors suggests that all sins may be resolved into a failure to fulfil our obligations toward God. Forgive us our unfulfilled duties! Forgive our unpaid bills in goodness! It is a better word than trespasses; for 'trespasses' suggests only the definite acts against the right with which conscience charges us. Debts suggest all our droppings below the true ideal."

That prayer must include our every failure as stewards of the grace of God to give, in so far as in us lies, to all peoples their due knowledge of the Saviour and of His proper lordship. It is a missionary confession of unmissionary life. We pray for forgiveness that we have not been good stewards, generous and loyal distributors of the manifold grace of God through Christ.

Missions is not charity but a debt. Under that heading, some years ago, "*The Neglected Continent*" published the following article by R. H. Glover:

"I am debtor . . . So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you' (Romans 1:14, 15).

"In these forcible words the great Apostle Paul expresses his own personal missionary conviction and resolve. He confesses himself the heathen's *debtor*. He owes them the Gospel. Even though he has already done more than any dozen other men of his time, he lays no claim of merit, nor considers that he is conferring any favor on the Romans in making an added effort to take them the Gospel. It is his duty, his *debt*, and he is only seeking as an honest man to discharge it.

"Now, if it was for Paul a debt, can it be something less for the rest of us? Yet how few appear to treat it so! The majority of professing Christians regard missions with utter indifference. They

Rebuilding Missionary Motives

W. C. TAYLOR, *Secretary to Latin America*

wonder by what strange freak of nature certain pious people choose to go and live among yellow or black folk rather than to stay at home. And it is to be feared that very many, even of those who profess a degree of interest in this work, conceive of it merely as a philanthropy, a charity.

"Is there any essential difference between regarding missions as a charity and regarding missions as a *debt*? Let us see. Here comes a ragged, unkempt creature holding out his cap to me. I recognize him as a beggar. So I pull out a coin—a nickel, a dime, *anything*—and throw it to him. That is CHARITY. It is cheap; it is easy; it feels no responsibility; it is purely a matter of personal choice. But now another man steps up and hands me a paper. I open it and find it a bill of debt, say for \$100. Do I presume to deal with this man as I did with the first, by flinging him the first coin that comes handy? Not by a good deal. This is a very different matter, for it is for DEBT. I am bound to face it seriously, and do all in my power, even giving my last dollar to wipe it out.

"Applying now this illustration to missions, what have we?

Missions Viewed as a Charity

Secondary

Optional

Little concern or prayer or effort

Spasmodic, insignificant giving

Missions Viewed As a Debt

Primary

Obligatory

Earnest concern and prayer and effort

Systematic, sacrificial giving

"Charity *foots* the list of your expenditures and claims your *spare* cash. Debt *heads* the list, if you are honest, and cuts out everything non-essential, *until it is fully met*.

You give a little of the *interest* on your money to charity, but you dip deep down into your *principal* and give *all*, if need be, to pay your debts.

"I visited a church and met a number of its leading members, all earning liberal salaries. They professed great interest in missions. On inquiry, I found that the church was giving twenty-five dollars a year to the cause. I went on to a convention, and a colored washer-woman brought up her yearly missionary offering of \$200. What made the difference between these two standards of giving? Simply the viewpoint. The church treated missions as a *charity*, the woman as a *debt*, and each gave accordingly. To them it was one among a score of equally important (or *unimportant*) things; to her it was the *one supreme* thing. They *played* at missions as a sort of diversion; she *worked* at missions as the business of her life.

"Christian reader, in which light have you regarded this work—as expressed, for instance, by your prayers, your gifts, your efforts to go? Has your conscience been convicted of a debt you owe the heathen, or have only your emotions been stirred at times with a weak feeling of pity for them?

We owe the heathen the Gospel; we are their DEBTORS.

1. *Out of gratitude for our own salvation*, realizing that only 'by the grace of God I am what I am.'

2. *Out of loyalty to Christ*, since He commanded, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.'

3. *Out of compassion* for heathen suffering and sorrow.

4. *Out of the realization that in the Gospel lies the only hope for their souls' eternal salvation.*

(Continued to page 167)

MISSIONARY
INTEREST

Our Missionary Family Circle

JESSIE R. FORD, *Executive Assistant*

Arrivals on Furlough

Miss Hattie Gardner, Abeokuta, Africa
Home Address, McBee, South Carolina
Miss Martha Franks, Hwanghsien, Shantung, China
Home Address, Laurens, South Carolina
Miss Bertha Smith, Tsining, Shantung, China
Home Address, Cowpens, South Carolina
Miss F. Catharine Bryan, Shanghai, China
Home Address, 3714 Lankershim Boulevard, Hollywood, Calif.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Beddoe, Wuchow, China
Home Address, General Delivery, Lamesa, Texas.

Sailings

March 10—S. S. QUEEN MARY
Dr. and Mrs. P. S. Evans Tsinan, Shantung, China
March 18—S. S. DELNORTE
Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Lingerfelt, Jaguaquara, Brazil
S. S. EMPRESS OF CANADA
Mrs. Charles E. Leonard, Harbin, Manchuria
March 24—S. S. BRAZIL
Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Cooper, Buenos Aires, Argentina
March 31—S. S. SCYTHIA
Rev. and Mrs. B. T. Griffin, Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa

Deaths

During the month of February two of our missionaries suffered the loss of dear ones. On February 8, the mother of Rev. R. Elton Johnson, of Pernambuco, Brazil, passed

away. On February 22, the father of Rev. W. B. Johnson, of Kunshan, China, went home. To these two friends and their families we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Marriages

Announcement has been received of the marriage of C. A. Leonard, Jr., son of Missionaries C. A. and Mrs. Leonard, of Harbin, China, to Miss Virginia Dail Dixon, of Raleigh, North Carolina, on February 14. Our hearty congratulations and best wishes go to these young people.

* * *

Miscellany

Miss Addie Cox tells us that last Sunday (January 15) their congregation at Wei Shih was so large they had to have three services simultaneously.

* * *

Brother Orvil Reid writes that in Mexico, the number of babies born each day exceeds the number of baptisms in all the evangelical churches there in a year. It is heart-breaking to see thousands of people who have never read a Bible or heard a gospel sermon.

* * *

A letter from Miss Pearle Johnson, of Chefoo, China, tells us that in playing a game of "drop the handkerchief" with the school girls, she fell and broke her shoulder and arm. For weeks she had to go with her arm outstretched from the shoulder, and at a right angle from the elbow, putting her hand above her head. She says that in the midst of all the pain she had spiritual blessings which more than made up for her suffering.

* * *

Miss Maye Bell Taylor, of Brazil, enjoyed her vacation at Magdalena, a small town nestled among the hills. She writes, "Everything is

very quiet here and we are studying hard. We have a teacher in the afternoon and Bible reading, history, and study of the new orthography in the morning. We all take a long walk in the afternoon, and there are so many pretty places around here. One we especially enjoy is to the Governmental Station to see the orchids. Saturday there were several varieties in bloom, one white and purple, and one that looked like a five pointed star."

* * *

Rev. and Mrs. Arthur S. Gillespie, with their three little sons, have been on furlough in this country for about a year and a half. At the request of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Mr. Gillespie spent last year in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, continuing his post graduate studies. He completed his thesis in December. On Friday, January 13, 1939, at the Seminary he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. It is likely that in the near future he and his wife will be returning to their work in China, where Mr. Gillespie is to be a professor in the new All-China Baptist Seminary which the Foreign Mission Board plans to establish soon. Mr. Gillespie is a son of Pastor and Mrs. James C. Gillespie, of Reidsville, North Carolina.



Rev. and Mrs. Deaver M. Lawton
and Baby Carol

China—"Our big fall meeting has just closed. It was a joy to be in the audience even if you had to stand much of the time. I think we've never had so many delegates from the country churches, nor so really deeply interested local people. Those from the country paid a ten cent fee, and were given free food for these four days, this gift fund which provided the free entertainment came from the associational contributions. On Sunday morning the local pastor, Mr. Chao, baptized 124 people ranging in ages from thirteen to seventy-eight years."—Mrs. G. W. Strother, Pochow, China.

* * *

"I made a trip to Laiyang during this month and assisted in ordaining one of my former students as pastor of the Laiyang city church. His name is Paul Shieh. Since we had to travel by the ancient shantze method it took five days to make the trip there and back, but Sunday, November 20th, was one of the best days that I have ever had. Miss Grayson, though alone over there, is accomplishing things. They had already ordained a new pastor for one of their country churches. A new church had been organized in a new center, and they have three more churches to organize."—W. B. Glass, Laichowfu, China.

* * *

Japan—"Our church work both here and in Kure City is especially looking up in increased attendance of the young people, students and business employees. At the same time, our eighty-seven-year-old pioneer member from the days of Captain Bickel's work with the Inland Sea Mission on the Gospel Ship, 'Fukuin Maru,' rarely misses a morning service, even coming after he had to lose the sight of one of his eyes recently. Before retiring from more than twenty years on the gospel ship, he had lived to see several Baptist churches founded among the islands that were never visited by any other group of workers."—J. Franklin Ray, Hiroshima.

Mexico

Our newest workers for Mexico, Rev. and Mrs. Walter L. Johnson, have begun the study of Spanish in Mexico City. They were fortunate in securing a most comfortable place in which to live. The house originally was a garage. It is pink with green door and window facings. The yard has a fish-pond and many beautiful flowers. It sounds most fascinating. They tell us new members are received in the church before the sermon and the offering is taken at the close. They have been to church and prayer service. The only thing familiar is the tunes of the hymns. We know they are hoping it will not be long before they can speak and understand their adopted tongue. Please don't forget Mexico and these young people as you pray.

* * *

Being a Foreigner

Miss Mary Lou Dunn tells of an interesting time she had in buying ice cream in Mexico City: "Last week I was taking one of my usual afternoon walks. I kept noticing children pass eating ice cream suckers. Of course I wanted one too, but didn't know where they were getting them. At the next corner I saw a sign—Farmacia. I supposed that meant pharmacy so in I walked but the man didn't speak English and I didn't know the Spanish word for ice cream. I had learned 'cold' and 'cream' so I put them together and asked for 'crema fria'. He went back and brought out five jars of different kinds of cold cream—exactly what I had asked for. Was I embarrassed? I never could make him understand, but on down in the next block there was a stand where they were selling the ice cream right out on the sidewalk so I got some after all. Since then I have found out that the farmacias down here are not regular department stores like our drug stores. They don't handle ice cream. Being a foreigner is quite an experience."

Brazil—"We have taken charge of a preaching point in Grajahu, a splendid section of Rio, where there are about fifty thousand people who need the Light of the Gospel. Thus we shall keep in more intimate and vital contact with genuine evangelistic work which will keep our hearts warm and our spirits humble.

"Our health is splendid. Mrs. Riffey has completely recovered from her operation two years ago. Joan is growing fast physically, intellectually and spiritually. She has already given her heart and life to Christ and, before long, will be buried with Him in baptism. We are deeply grateful for this blessing."—John L. Riffey, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

* * *

"I spent thirty-three days in Minas. Traveled 1,800 miles, spoke sixty-eight times, taught a Home Mission Study Class of eighty. There were 219 manifestations and two fine young women dedicated their lives to the work in the Sertao. I rode trains, trucks, horse and mules, not a single airplane. The fields are certainly white unto the harvest, but truly the workers are few. Before going to Minas I had spent eight days in Sao Paulo. Wonderful interest in Home Missions is manifested. For the twelfth time it seems that we shall close the year out of debt. We have increased our workers from one to twenty-six. Our offerings have gone from twelve to perhaps eighty-two contos this year. But what has been done is only an appeal for what we ought to do."—L. M. Bratcher, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

* * *

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
of Oklahoma City
Extends a Cordial Greeting to
the Delegates of the Southern
Baptist Convention
320 West First



ORVIL W. REID—When Oklahoma was about a year old I became a native, May 22, 1908.

My parents were pioneers and knew the hardships of such a life. Mother became a semi-invalid when I was a small child, and my early school life was much broken by having to work.

I entered Dwight Indian Mission, a Presbyterian school, and finished the eighth and ninth grades there. Near the close of the first year the superintendent, Mr. H. C. Hanson, won me to Christ. I joined the Presbyterian church and was active there.

The next year I attended the Stilwell High School near my home. Because of conviction on baptism and other points, I was baptized by Rev. J. M. Haygood and joined the First Baptist Church at Stilwell.

During my senior year there things happened fast. I surrendered to the call to preach, and to do mission work in South America. I was engaged to Miss Jewell Starr, whom I married six years later.

After four happy years working my way through Oklahoma Baptist University, I went for two years to the Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas. During the last two years at Oklahoma Baptist University and the

Glimpses of New Recruits

first two at the Seminary, I was pastor at Countyline, Oklahoma; but the following summer I accepted the call of the Pryor Baptist Church in northeastern Oklahoma. Two happy years were spent there, but the urge to foreign missions was growing. Dr. Maddry told me that they would consider our application if I would finish my work at the Seminary; so I resigned and returned to school on faith. During that year we lived in the Mexican section and had charge of the mission near the Texas-Pacific railway yards.

We are to go as missionaries to Mexico. After working with the Mexicans at Fort Worth, writing my Th.M. thesis upon "The Challenge of Mexico to Evangelical Christianity," and attending the Mexican Baptist National Convention, we are thrilled at the challenge and need of our neglected neighbor to the south. Mexico is at the crossroads. She is throwing off the shackles of the slavery of Catholicism. To what or whom shall she turn? Shall atheism or real Christianity win? Southern Baptists hold the answer. God help us to point out the way!

* * *

JEWELL STARR REID—I began this life October 27, 1910, near Stilwell, Oklahoma in the foothills of the Ozarks. Being the oldest of six children, I was the first to start on the career of education. This was first in a country school to the seventh grade, then in the town



schools of Stilwell. Here I also finished high school.

At thirteen years of age I was saved through the influence of a faithful Sunday school teacher. Almost at the same time there came the desire to be a missionary. My pastor, J. M. Haygood, helped me much through my teen-age with its many problems. At the age of sixteen I surrendered to be a missionary. The same night a young man volunteered, whom I afterward met and later married.

After my surrender, my greatest desire was to go as soon as possible. I carried extra subjects in high school and attended summer school to finish in three years. To be a missionary I realized that I must know something about the Bible. I sent an application to Moody Bible Institute and was accepted. A week before my going away, my pastor heard of my plans and told me of our Southwestern Seminary, and soon I found myself at Fort Worth.

I liked Seminary life very much, but the questions of the students bothered me. Everyone seemed to ask me what college I had attended. I would stammer and admit that I had not attended any. I found out that a missionary was supposed to have a college degree. To my de-

light, just before school was out, I was informed that the Kings' Daughters of Texas had awarded me a scholarship and I could take it anywhere I wished. Without going home I entered Baylor College, at Belton, in the summer of 1930.

Here I spent three happy years. I suppose that the work I enjoyed most was the mission work. I was the extension director of the Volunteer Band and had charge of the mill district mission.

I shall always remember how, on my graduation day, a group from the mill district came to see me graduate. I had just received my degree from Dr. Hardy, and was leaving the platform when something caused me to look up. There in the balcony was a group of my mill people! Shabby clothes had made them choose that place, but there they were, smiling to me. I had to pause and give them a smile. I felt greatly repaid for my labors with them.

Upon leaving Baylor in the summer of 1933, I returned to the Seminary as student teacher of home economics. In the spring of 1934 I married Orvil Reid, the same person with whom I had walked the church aisle at sixteen, to give our lives to missions.

In May, 1935, I finished my work in the Seminary and we moved to the field of Pryor, Oklahoma. We were happy there, but knew that we were called to be missionaries. In August, 1937, we resigned to return to the Seminary, that Mr. Reid might finish his work. While there we worked with the Mexicans and, the last of the school year, lived in their settlement. Here I won many friends and really hated to leave them this summer, for it seemed that they had just taken me into their confidence and accepted me as their neighbor. They came to borrow things (and returned them), and to ask questions about our home, church, and Bible.

Since that time Mr. Reid has been in evangelistic work and I have been

with my parents at Stilwell, Oklahoma.

VIVIAN E. NOWELL—I was born March 10, 1908, in Wendell, N. C. When I was eleven years old my father went to be with Jesus, and since that time Heaven has seemed very near.

When nearly twelve years old, I gave my heart to Jesus because I loved Him and wanted to serve Him. As the years went on, my desire to serve my fellowmen grew. After taking a business course, I began work in a medical doctor's office in Raleigh, N. C. As I began to help dress the wounds of the patients, I realized more and more that dressing the wounds of people's bodies was not enough; their souls too needed healing.

In 1934 I began work with twenty intermediate B.T.U. boys and girls in my home church. They were the challenge that caused me to grow spiritually, to seek and learn more, that I might give to them. In this effort I gave up my work in the doctor's office and, in 1936, entered the W.M.U. Training School in Louisville, Kentucky.

In the Training School new worlds were opened to me; I could hardly wait to get back home and give to others what I had learned. During that year I met Miss Isabel Moore, who is now in Africa. Her enthusiasm about going to work there caused me to study the country with new interest. I have always loved the black people, being reared in a small southern town, with a Negro girl to help us. Now,



this same Negro woman was remaining at home with my mother, making it possible for me to be in the Training School. I wanted her two small children taught about Jesus, and from them my heart kept turning to the thousands in Africa with so few to tell them the Gospel.

The second year in the Training School I studied Africa in missions with renewed interest. Without college preparation it seemed useless to keep hoping to go. During this time I was offered work in our W.M.U. office of North Carolina. After prayer and thought I felt that God had opened this way for me to render service there, and also to use a part of my income in helping the Negroes in my own home town.

I began work in the W.M.U. office June 1, 1938. One night, during an illness in the hospital, God spoke to my heart saying clearly that He was preparing me for His work. Within less than two months Mrs. E. R. Harris, Corresponding Secretary of the W.M.U. of North Carolina, received a letter from Dr. Charles E. Maddry telling of the great need of a secretary and bookkeeper to assist Dr. George Green in Africa. Along with his many other duties Dr. Green is also head of the hospital there in Nigeria. My heart was so filled with joy I could not help telling Miss Ora Alford, our North Carolina Treasurer of W.M.U. work, of my long cherished desire to go. After prayer and discussion Mrs. Harris sent Dr. Maddry my name. With faith I prayed that God would help him choose the one He would have go.

Today, October 12, 1938, I have been appointed to go and witness for Christ in Africa. I can now see how God has prepared me all the way. Soon I go out with a heart of love for the black people, and my prayer is that I may be as obedient as Abraham of old who left his own country and went to a land appointed him by God.

My sailing date is December 10 from New York City.

Valverde Willed to Kingdom Work

Culpeper, Virginia, again makes world news in the Press.

The owner of beautiful old "Valverde" has finished his course, and his will states that his "property of every kind and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and where-soever located—be paid one-half or fifty per cent to the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for the support and maintenance of missionaries in the Foreign Field, and the other fifty per cent be paid to the Virginia Board of Missions and Education for the spread of the Gospel in the State of Virginia.

"The will listed among his belongings a farm of about 462 acres with a large brick dwelling, other small brick houses, and many out-houses, located about five miles from the town of Culpeper and known as 'Valverde' farm; a ma-



T. Eugene Nalle

chine shop, foundry, pattern shop, and brick dwelling adjacent to the said shop, together with about four acres of land in the town of Culpeper, and another large brick dwelling diagonally across from these properties."

He also directed in his will that a portrait of himself be hung in the offices of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located in Richmond, Virginia.

This friend of God, T. Eugene Nalle, was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, in 1844. When he was a lad of twelve, he joined the Baptist Church in Culpeper, then known as Mount Poney, and for sixty-three years he remained a faithful, active member of this one church. He served as a deacon for forty-five years.

"At one time the 'Valverde' estate and other Nalle property were valued at more than fifty thousand dollars. The appraisers have not completed their work, but conservatively estimate that the estate will sell for twenty to thirty thousand dollars," writes Rev. J. T. Edwards, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Culpeper, Virginia.

Gratefully the Foreign Mission Board accepts this perpetual memorial registered in eternity's records.

Southwestern Seminary Must Be Greater!

The Seminary has been functioning for thirty years and has served six thousand students. It has only a half million dollars endowment. It should have several millions and must have a million soon for the following reasons:



1. *For the sake of Christ. The Gospel must have trained leaders.*
2. *For the sake of the Gospel. It must have a trained advocacy.*
3. *For its own sake. It must have a guaranteed security to live and to serve.*
4. *For the sake of the thousands of God-called preachers and other workers. They must have the advantages of the right sort of training.*
5. *For the sake of the denomination. They need more trained leaders of the right sort.*
6. *For the sake of the lost. They must have someone to show them the way to Christ.*

Investment in this endowment brings the largest and best dividends to the glory of Christ.

You can have a part by gifts of cash, property, or security, or by putting the Seminary in your will. This would be a perpetual memorial.

L. R. SCARBOROUGH
Seminary Hill, Texas

PETRICA - THE SHEPHERD BOY

With the building of their new house and the work of tending the geese, Petrica's summer vacation flew rapidly away, and soon it was time to go back to school again. Like most boys of his age, Petrica was both sorry and glad to return to school—sorry to give up the long hours of play on the hillside, but glad to be back with the other boys and glad of the chance to learn some of the many things he wanted to know.

Petrica liked recess time when they would play games. One of the favorites was cracking a whip. This was not the game which we call by that name. To get ready to play it each boy went to a certain kind of tree that has a tough bark, not unlike leather. Cutting a long, slender limb the boys skin the bark back to within a few inches of the end, dividing it into three strips which they braid into a slender whip. Then the players, each holding his whip, take turns seeing which can crack his the loudest. *Pop! Pop! Pop!* they sound, as one boy and then another tries his skill. Then, the one who has been chosen as judge tells which fellow had cracked his whip the loudest, thereby being the winner. Over and over they try it, and so skillful do they become, that the noise sounds like a gun going off. Often Petrica was the winner, for he would keep practicing as he tended the geese.

As the days passed, things grew more and more unpleasant for poor Petrica in school. His new teacher was very unkind to him, keeping him in after school and giving him low marks on all his reports. It seemed as if the harder he tried and the more he studied, the poorer were his grades and the more often was he punished. At first Petrica could not understand why it was that he and a few others, who were among the brightest scholars and

the best behaved, received such low marks and were so often punished. Then he and his chums noticed that all of those who were treated so unkindly were Baptists, and that they were being treated thus because they did not belong to what is called the Orthodox Church of Rumania. Can you imagine what it would be like if your teacher gave you unfair, low marks and made fun of you and punished you just because you and your family did not belong to her church? If you can, you will indeed be thankful that you live in a land of religious liberty—a land in which every person may worship God in whatever way he believes to be right.

A Promotion

One day, after Petrica had finished going to school, his father said, "Son, you are getting to be big and strong now and, because I know that I can depend on you, I am going to trust you with the care of our valuable flock of sheep, instead of the geese." Petrica beamed with pride, and his father added, "It will mean more work, and sometimes you will have to go long distances to find good pasture for the sheep; but I know my son is not afraid of hard work." Petrica was pleased over his father's words, and he secretly made up his mind to be his bravest and best.

Now that he was to be a shepherd, his younger sister would have to tend the geese, and Petrica felt very grown up and important when he handed over to her the long stick which he had used for guiding the geese. And she too felt very great, for now she was to be a real "goose-girl," trusted with their care. Both children were happy to be able thus to help their father and mother whom they loved.

It was more trouble to watch sheep than it had been to tend the geese. Petrica had to find green pas-



tures for them, and quiet streams where they could drink. Sometimes one lamb would wander off and he and Hector climbing over sharp rocks and through prickly bushes, would have to look for it.

A Night on the Mountain

Once in the late summer Petrica went up in the high mountains to spend the night with some older shepherds, and you can imagine how grown-up he felt. When it became dark they made a fire, for the mountain air was cold. Then, in the starlight, they sat around the glowing bonfire and told stories. One brave, old shepherd with a long beard told about a time when he had saved his flock from wolves. Another told of a time a big bear came after his sheep. He had killed the bear and he showed Petrica the big bear-skin. He now slept rolled up in it at night, and it kept him warm. When time came to go to sleep, Petrica stretched out on a bed of pine branches. It was comfortable and smelt so good. He looked up at the stars and thought of a shepherd boy named David. His Sunday school teacher had told him of this brave shepherd boy who had killed a lion and a bear. Petrica wanted to be brave, too, but he hoped no bears or wolves would come that night. Softly he repeated

(Continued to page 169)

Studying Missions

MARY M. HUNTER, *Manager Department of Literature and Exhibits*

AN INVITATION

We want to begin our page this month by issuing an invitation to all who attend the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Oklahoma City to visit the Foreign Mission Board's Exhibit. Europe and Africa, featured in mission study for 1939, will receive emphases in the exhibit. The displays will include every Southern Baptist mission field. Missionaries attending the Convention will be happy to greet you, to explain the curios and tell of the work in their fields. Many missionary incidents that have never been recorded will be heard in these informal gatherings in the Foreign Mission Board's convention exhibit.

* * *

CURIOS

Ivory jewelry, cultural objects, art pieces, dolls, whatnots from Europe and China will be on sale in the exhibit.

* * *

FREE LITERATURE

A supply of leaflets for free distribution will be on the tables in the exhibit. Copies are there for you. Take as many as you need.

* * *

MOTION PICTURES

Motion pictures showing the work being carried on by our missionaries in Africa, China, Japan, South America, and Europe will be shown between the sessions of the Convention. The place and time will be announced. Notices giving this information will be posted in the exhibit and in the entrances to the convention auditorium. Be sure to see the pictures.

**STUDYING
MISSIONS**

A SERVICE WITHIN A SERVICE

Members of the Foreign Mission Board's staff will be in the exhibit booth to help those who are making plans to teach the new foreign mission text books in schools of missions, mission study institutes, assemblies, and individual classes this spring and summer. In the exhibit room information will be available to those desiring to know how to secure and use effectively the motion pictures of the work on the foreign fields. These pictures are invaluable aids in achieving lasting results in mission study programs.

* * *

DO NOT FAIL TO VISIT THE EXHIBIT

* * *

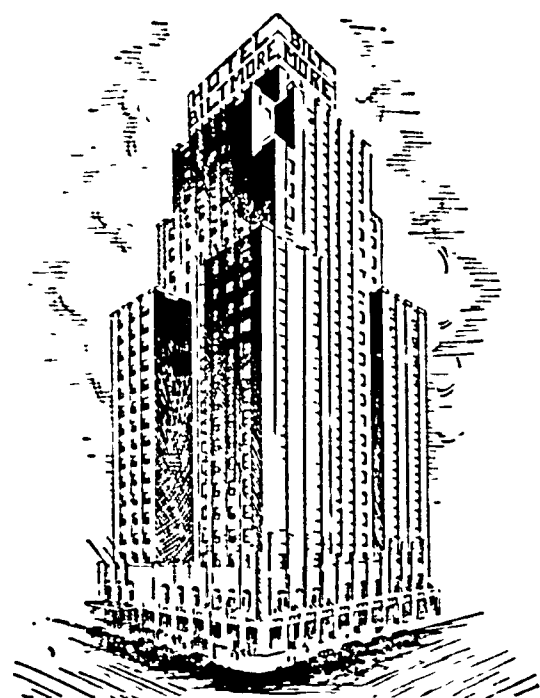
HOW TO ORDER

If you are interested in borrowing the Foreign Mission Board's motion pictures for the late spring or early summer, we suggest that when you write you state the exact date on which you wish the booking. It would be advisable also to list several choices of the countries, naming them in the order of your preference.

If you desire pictures of one certain country it will be well to suggest several possible dates, in order that the pictures may be reserved for you on the first available date.

The films are sixteen millimeter. There is no rental charged for the pictures. The only expense to the local church is that of transportation.

Further information will be sent upon request.



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Facilities for Serving
Sixteen Simultaneous
Banquets, Luncheons or
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of 25 to 1,000
in Size

Wire or Write for Reservations

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**OKLAHOMA
BILTMORE**

Affiliated with National Hotels

OKLAHOMA CITY

Day Dawn In Yoruba Land—
Charles E. Maddry. (Order from
Baptist Book Stores.)

Out of his rich experiences while visiting Southern Baptist mission fields in Yoruba Land, Africa, the Executive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board has written the story of Nigeria from the days of tradition to the present. The human-interest stories give this book a matchless appeal and its storehouse of information makes it an invaluable source book. Longer than most study course books, yet easy to teach in five sessions, these pages will be Southern Baptists' favorite not only for 1939 but also for many future years.

Believers and Builders in Europe—
Emma Parker Maddry. (Order from Baptist Book Stores.)

The author is the wife of the Executive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board. From her experiences and observations as she has traveled through Europe, Mrs. Maddry has written this little book especially for intermediates, but young people and adults will also find pleasure and profit in traveling through Europe with the writer and sharing her missionary adventures.

DEBT

(Continued from page 159)

"May God convict His children of their debt, and make them ready, as much as in them is to meet it! Then, at last, will there be no lack of missionaries to go, or intercessors to pray, or money to send.

"And may this conviction begin with you!"

Southern Baptists are paying their financial debts. More power and speed to the effort! But here is a debt whose creditor is "every creature." The only possible payment is to give the Gospel to all men.

New Books

*Petrica of Rumania—*Emma G. Williams Gill—For Juniors. (Order from Baptist Book Stores.)

This story of the every-day life of a junior boy of Rumania gives a vivid and attractive picture of peasant life. Tracing Petrica's advancement from the rank of a

shepherd to that of a ministerial student entering the Baptist Seminary at Bucharest, the story introduces the missionary activities and possibilities of Rumania. The excellent suggestions for the teacher were prepared by Miss Nan F. Weeks, who is a specialist in preparing material for children.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED

A Testament of Faith.....	Hopwood	\$2.00	Macmillan
Biology and Christian Belief.....	Greenwood	1.75	Macmillan
Essential Christianity	Angus	2.00	Macmillan
God in History.....	Piper	2.00	Macmillan
Half A Century.....	Robertson	1.00	Broadman
Highways and Hedges.....	Hamilton	1.00	Broadman
Living For Jesus.....	Allen	.40	Broadman
Missionary Plays and Pageants.....	Gray	1.50	(Western Baptist Publishing Company)
Preaching The Doctrines of Grace.....	Leavell	1.00	Broadman
The Business of Living.....	Grensted	1.75	Macmillan

PROJECTING YOUR LIFE INTO THE FUTURE

Twenty years from now the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary.

Twenty years from now the majority of the men and women of our churches who control much of the wealth of their communities will have passed from their earthly labors.

The Psalmist prayed, "Establish thou the work of our hands." This is a deep longing on the part of all serious-minded Christians. Those responsible for the ongoing of the Seminary deeply desire that its future be secured after they shall have passed on. Those who have spent much of their lives accumulating a portion of material wealth want to leave it so that it will continue to do good after they are gone.

How project life into the future? We submit that there are few more effective ways than by investment in the Seminary. Jesus, the Supreme Teacher, gave more of his time to the training of the Twelve than to any other single thing. We follow his leadership when we help equip for highest usefulness those whom he has called to preach.

An attractive booklet has been printed setting forth the needs of the Seminary and ways in which investments may be made that will yield rich dividends to the donors and to the cause of Christ. It may be had for the asking. Just write saying,

"Send me the booklet, *Projecting Your Life Into the Future.*"

Address

The SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, Kentucky

STUDYING
MISSIONS

Friendly Exchanges

NORTHERN BAPTISTS MAKE AN APPEAL

Owing to the continued decline in denominational giving all of the cooperating agencies must shorten their plans for the coming year. The Foreign Mission Board is compelled to reduce its budget by \$50,000. This means that not only can no new missionaries be sent out—except as specifics—but others must be retired or called home. All mission and station appropriations are to suffer further cuts. The secretaries at the home base will be reduced from eleven to seven and the number of office workers brought down considerably.

What does all this mean? From the point of view of work accomplished it cannot be other than a major disaster. In past years the home base staff was built up to a remarkably high level of efficiency, capable of administering, without much additional help, three times the amount of funds now received. This structure has been preserved in skeleton form, in the hope of a recovery in denominational giving. The smaller force will have to carry insuperable burdens. How this will be done is hard to see. The work remains just as heavy. The problems to be met are greater. The Foreign Mission Board is making the first vertical cut at the home base.

What will the budget reduction mean to the missionaries on our fields? During ten years our missionary staff has been reduced more than half, but the amount of work has only been slightly contracted. It takes no great intelligence to see that our missionaries are all of them doing more than double their share of work. Human endurance can stand up to a challenge like this for a period of an emergency, but it is bound to break down if the period is prolonged. For ten years now

our missionary receipts have been going through a precipitous decline. For ten years our noble, self-sacrificing missionaries have accepted emergency rations, shared their burdens among themselves, and with aching backs and breaking hearts they have applied their limited resources to the gigantic responsibility facing them. The toll is being taken. Deaths and breakdowns in their ranks are coming now in increasing numbers. Dr. J. H. Cope died last year in the Chin Hills of lonely North Burma. He was a strong man and at the time of his death should have been in his prime. But even his tremendous vigor could not stand up under so great a strain. He had appealed to Northern Baptists for help in one of the greatest mass movements towards Christ in modern missionary annals. But Northern Baptists were so deaf to his appeal they could not send a man to his help. So Cope is dead, and one of the greatest missionaries of this century has been cut down. Have we a right to expect that God will not lay this to our charge?

Now H. W. Smith, of Rangoon, is gone. In the eyes of those who know, this is another casualty due to overwork. Frequently now we are hearing of missionaries who are collapsing, or are near to a breakdown, because of the strain. Is it not criminal so to oppress our brothers and sisters on the Christian frontier? . . . The remnant we now employ is as consecrated a force as ever went to the field of the world in the name of the Lord. They are close to the need of mankind. The opportunities open to them now are of unprecedented scope. Innumerable thousands of pagan natives turn their faces toward Christ and call for the messengers of the Gospel. But what

can these messengers do? Again and again the pleas of natives calling for missionaries must be heard in vain. Bodies that are weary and hearts that are heavy laden cannot respond.

What is it going to mean to the denomination? Are Northern Baptists going to shrivel out of existence as a missionary body? The income of the Foreign Mission Board has declined a million dollars in the last ten years that is, from approximately \$1,800,000 to \$800,000. Though the denominational giving has shrunk, our missionary work has not narrowed. We still occupy the same fields. That this has been done is a miracle of administration. But we all know that the horizontal reduction must become vertical now. We are cutting down the home base first to a skeleton of its former self—that is vertical. The next step will be to retire from a field. Nothing can prevent it with cuts such as the Foreign Mission Board must now take. Vertical operations will mean that we are steadily ceasing to operate foreign missions. Let us face the issue realistically. With the steady decline in missionary giving the Northern Baptist Convention is to all intents and purposes on the way out as a foreign missionary enterprise. If you revolt against this, that is what you ought to do! Not until this disastrous retreat has been transformed into a glorious advance will the stigma of our desertion of our Lord Jesus Christ be removed. Sometime, somewhere, somehow, this apostasy of Northern Baptists from the evangelization of the world must be brought to an end. Let the change come now. We have five weeks before the end of this fiscal year in which to act.—*Watchman Examiner.*

FIGURES

We need to remind ourselves that we of the Baptist Missionary Society are responsible in the comity of Protestant Missions for the evangelization of forty-five million people; and that if these are not evangelized by our missionaries and the churches which have sprung from our Mission, it will not be done at all by any Protestant missionary society.

For this service we have about 430 European missionaries; at one time we had nearly 500. None can measure the results, but we know that since the end of the Great War the membership of the churches which, under God, have come into being through the B.M.S. has nearly doubled. This is a wonderful record for twenty years. We know also that last year we had over 5,000 baptisms (the figures from China are incomplete). Reports coming from China tell us that in the midst of all the distraction and devastation and agony of that war-stricken land, never in any one year has there been such an ingathering in our Churches.

Figures also appear in finance. They are not so cheering. The extent of our responsibility surely gives us strength. The going forth of missionaries from our midst gives us great encouragement. The story of how everywhere men and women are receiving the Gift of God in Jesus Christ gives us joy. But what is the reaction when we remember that year after year the necessary expenditure exceeds our income? Our contributions come from individuals, from churches, from investments, from legacies. In order to meet all our calls, we should receive from the churches £130,000 per annum;* last year we received £117,000. More serious

still, we have to record that at the present time we are about £3,000 behind the contributions from churches and individuals as compared with last year. Some of the figures are:

	1937-8	1938-9
General Fund ...	£33,742	£31,792
Women's Fund ..	£11,009	£10,466
Medical Fund ...	£10,896	£10,744
Gift Week	£ 5,395	£ 5,347

—*The Missionary Herald*
London, England.

* * *

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GAINS EXCEED POPULATION RISE

A survey by the Federal Council of Churches places the increase in church membership for 1938 at 960,000. These figures represent an increase rate for the churches of 1.8 per cent as compared with a reported population growth of .7 per cent, indicating that the churches are gaining twice as fast as the population.

Statistical tables published in *The Yearbook of American Churches* indicate that the bulk of church members belong to a comparatively small number of nationally organized denominations. More than ninety-seven per cent of church and synagogue membership was reported as being in fifty groups which claim 50,000 or more members. The six principal groups and other bodies listed follow:

	Churches	Inclusive Membership
"Protestant" Larger Bodies.....	205,577	35,833,475
Roman Catholic Church.....	18,428	21,322,688
Polish Natl. Catholic Church.....	146	189,620
Eastern Orthodox Larger Bodies.....	602	992,043
Eastern Separate Body (Armenian Apostolic Church)....	52	108,000
Jewish Congregations	4,150	4,081,242
All Other Bodies.....	19,455	1,029,827
Grand Totals.....	246,410	64,156,827

—*World Outlook.*

*An English pound is approximately \$5.00.

PETRICA—THE SHEPHERD BOY

(Continued from page 165)

the words his mother had taught him, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth." Silently the boy prayed that God would keep him safely, then wearied by the long, hard climb, and sleepy in the clear, fresh air of the mountains, Petrica, in spite of his thoughts of bears and wolves, was soon sound asleep.

A Big Scare

All at once he heard a soft, crackling sound, close beside him. Chills went up and down his back as he thought, "Oh dear! I wonder if it's a bear tramping on the pine branches." Closer and closer it seemed to come, as Petrica lay there almost too frightened to breathe. "If I should stir," he thought, "it might pounce on me and kill me, but perhaps if I keep perfectly still it will think I am dead and will go away without touching me." He thought he felt its warm breath on his cheek. He was almost sure he saw its eyes gleaming in the darkness. He wished he were at home with his father and mother. Then suddenly there came another crackling noise, a quick scurrying, and all was still.

NOTE: This story is taken from the book, *Petrica of Rumania*, by Emma G. Williams Gill. This new mission study book for juniors may be secured from any Baptist Book Store.

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EXCERPTS from the Editor's Daily Mail

I glory in your gracious work and leadership in the foreign mission publicity direction. You all are getting out a great magazine. I read it with inspiring impulses.—L. R. Scarborough, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, Seminary Hill, Texas.

* * *

I have just read the current number of THE COMMISSION and, with all my heart, congratulate you and your Editorial Staff upon the excellence of this splendid magazine. It is tip-top from a journalistic point of view; the illustrations are very fine; the layout is excellent and, all around, it is a first class magazine which ought to be in the homes of all Southern Baptists and many of their friends in many lands. With all my heart I congratulate you.—Hight C Moore, Editorial Secretary, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee.

* * *

I have received the March issue of THE COMMISSION, and have read it with great interest. In this week's issue of the *Baptist Record* I have a statement concerning THE COMMISSION. I shall seek in every way possible to promote this splendid magazine. You are giving us a great

mission journal. I am happy that we are to have the reports of the meeting at Madras. Our people need that information and that outlook upon the whole world. I predict the subscriptions to THE COMMISSION will continue to pour in, and that you will soon realize your first goal of 50,000.—Rev. J. D. Franks, Columbus, Miss.

* * *

Please let me thank you for your letter of January 3rd with reference to the extra copies of THE COMMISSION which came this morning.

I shall not only take great pleasure in presenting this appeal to our own people but, as you have suggested, emphasize it at the meeting of our ministers' conference next Monday morning.

I think you have a splendid issue and, if you maintain this high average, you will have no difficulty in circulating the magazine among Southern Baptists. We have long needed just this type of missionary information and appeal.—Louie D. Newton, Pastor, Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

* * *

I congratulate you on the very attractive appearance of . . . THE COMMISSION with its feature articles and its other interesting pages. I

am glad to see that my good friend Charles A. Wells is running his cartoons. As you may have observed, he has been in *Missions* for nearly five years and my subscribers have been delighted with this monthly feature.—Wm. B. Lippard, Editor, *Missions*, New York City.

* * *

P.S. Since dictating the foregoing, the last issue of THE COMMISSION came! Congratulations!—J. H. Rushbrooke, General Secretary, Baptist World Alliance, London, England.

* * *

Every copy of THE COMMISSION has been excellent. None more so than the last. I love the picture of the "Pioneer Woman"—and what Mr. Baker writes.—Laura Lazenby, Statesville, North Carolina.

* * *

Someone is doing an excellent job in editing and preparing the material for THE COMMISSION. It improves with each issue. I have followed with keen interest your reports of your African trip. I pray that God shall continue to bless your work and sustain you in good health for your great work.—Porter Routh, Publicity Director, O.B.U., Shawnee, Okla.



DOROTHY CHANG, M.D.

This fine little woman is Dr. Dorothy Chang. In the early days of my work in China there were no medical colleges over there and hospitals had to train their own help. This led me to open medical classes, giving a three years course. In one of these classes Dorothy Chang studied along with her husband, and then worked in the woman's hospital. As I think of her work there I think of her as the *Little Woman*, for she is very small in stature, who found as much pleasure in unselfish service as any person I have ever known. She was exceedingly gentle and kind and scattered sunshine all over the hospital. She was, and yet is, an active Christian worker. While she was with me no woman entered the hospital who did not hear the story of Jesus from Dorothy Chang; and no woman who came under her influence failed to love her. I thank God and rejoice over the nice things you say about her and the work that she is now doing in Tengchow. Fraternally, T. W. AYERS, M.D.

Pray for Us

MONDAY, MAY 1
TEACH US TO PRAY

From God's Word: Luke 11:1-4, 11-13.

Today's Verse: Lord, teach us to pray—
Luke 11:1.

Today's Birthdays: Mrs. A. B. Deter,
Curityba, South Brazil.
Dr. D. H. LeSueur, Chihauhau,
Mexico.

Today's Thought: A minister, in discussing the importance of earnestness in prayer, said, "The prayers that are uttered thoughtlessly never go any higher than the ceiling." The idea greatly impressed one of the men in the congregation and that night he dreamed that it was late afternoon and that he was standing inside the door of the church. Looking up, he noticed many dull grey birds perched on the rafters. To the janitor who stood near-by the man said, "What are those stupid-looking birds on the rafters?" The janitor replied, "Those are the prayers which people uttered without meaning them. They never get higher than the ceiling." And the man recalled the lines he had learned in his childhood:

"To say my prayers, is not to pray
Unless I *mean* the words I say,
Unless I *think* to whom I speak
And with my heart his blessing seek."

Today's Prayer: Lord, each us to pray. Teach us to pray earnestly, expectantly, unselfishly. Today we would remember especially Mrs. Deter who has given so many faithful years of service in Brazil, and Dr. LeSueur who is proclaiming thy Gospel to the unsaved hosts in Mexico. We pray that thou wilt bless and help them in their work. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 2
A WONDERFUL BOOK

From God's Word: Psalm 119:9-16.

Today's Verse: Psalm 119:130a.

Today's Birthday: Rev. B. H. Foreman,
Bahia, Corrente, North Brazil.

Today's Thought: Night was coming on. A young man, tired and hungry, stopped at a farm-house in Brazil, requesting a place to sleep. The kindly farmer invited him in but, on learning that the stranger was a Protestant, the man said, "I dare not let you remain in my house. The priest has forbidden our entertaining Protestants. But you are tired, and so I

offer you a place in the barn. Let no one know you had shelter here." When the stranger had eaten a good supper, he knelt in the kitchen and offered a prayer, thanking God for His goodness and asking His blessing on each member of that family. Then he went to the barn and slept on the hay. In the morning, after he had eaten breakfast, the farmer said, "Pray again. We had never heard a prayer until last evening." The young man prayed and, upon leaving, he handed the farmer a copy of the Bible, as a gift of thanks. Eagerly the man read it, and when, a short time later, a missionary went to that community, he found over fifty converts awaiting baptism. And with the missionary's help a Baptist church with more than fifty members was organized.

Today's Prayer: For Mr. Foreman and all other faithful missionaries we ask Thy blessing and Thy help today and every day. Help us that we too may love and obey Thy word. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

From God's Word: Galatians 5:16-24.

Today's Verses: Galatians 5:22, 23.

Today's Birthday: Rev. W. C. Harrison,
Pernambuco, North Brazil.

Today's Thought: When Solomon Ginsburg, the Southern Baptist missionary, was preaching in Pernambuco, Brazil, he noticed in the audience an enormous man with rough features, who listened intently to the message. After the service the missionary talked with him and offered to go next day to the giant's home. Meanwhile, he learned that the huge fellow, whose name was Herculano, lived among the city's most dangerous characters—thieves and murderers. Herculano himself had been a hired assassin and had just finished serving seventeen years on a convict island. With prayer for help and wisdom Mr. Ginsburg went to the wretched home of this evil man. There he talked with him. There they knelt together and prayed. There that cruel giant met the Prince of Peace and surrendered his life to God. The assassin became a power for righteousness. He was baptized by Dr. Entzinger, and his home became a center of Christian influence and helpfulness. Thus love and joy and peace took the place of hatred and anger and crime.

Today's Prayer: Holy Spirit, who hast the power to change human lives, we pray that Thou wilt prepare the hearts of people in all parts of the world to receive Jesus Christ. Bless Mr. Harrison and all other messengers of Thine, giving to each one wisdom and strength. And grant that each of us may bear, in our daily lives, the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 4
THY KINGDOM COME

From God's Word: Psalm 72:1-12.

Today's Verse: Psalm 72:8.

Today's Birthday: Miss Maye Bell Taylor,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Today's Thought:

We have not served Thee as we ought;
Alas! the duties left undone;
The work, with little fervor wrought,
The battles lost, or scarcely won!
Lord, give the zeal, and give the might,
For Thee to toil, for Thee to fight.

—T. B. Pollock.

Today's Prayer: Father we thank Thee for Thy love to us. Bless Miss Maye Bell Taylor and all others who are helping Thy kingdom to come on earth. Make us more zealous, more worthy to pray, "Thy kingdom come." Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 5
THE CHILDREN

From God's Word: Matthew 19:13-15.

Today's Verse: Matthew 19:14.

Today's Birthday: A host of babies in
many lands.

Today's Thought: An old legend tells that there was one day let down from heaven a huge golden ball. Just above the reach of the people it floated, and a rumor went forth that whoever touched the ball would receive a great blessing for himself and for the whole community. Eagerly, selfishly the people leaped and pushed and jostled, each hoping to win blessing and fame for himself. But all in vain. Slowly but surely the ball was rising, further from their reach. Then a wise citizen said, "We are losing our great chance. Let us cease our selfish pushing and, standing shoulder to shoulder, let us lift a child aloft." Quickly a human pyramid was formed. A little child was lifted high, and as the tiny hand touched the ball a thrill of joy

passed through the crowd; and the whole community was blessed, because childhood had been lifted Godward.

Today's Prayer: We thank thee, our Father, that thou dost love all the children of all the world. Help us to be more earnest in sending them Thy message of love. Grant that all boys and girls may have a chance to know and love the Saviour. Amen.

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SATURDAY, MAY 6 GO QUICKLY AND TELL

From God's Word: Matthew 28:1-7.

Today's Verse: Acts 1:8.

Today's Birthday: Miss Alma Mae Jackson, Sao Paulo, South Brazil.

Today's Thought:

"So many idly sit at ease
While 'neath the darkened sky
Sin, wretchedness, and misery,
And Christlessness still lie.

How can we dare sit idly by
While Christless souls around us
die?"

—Unidentified.

Today's Prayer: Our Father, we are thankful for the missionaries who have gone forth bravely to proclaim Thy truth. Help us that we too may be loyal messengers of Thine wherever we may go. We pray that Thy blessing may crown Miss Jackson's work for Thee this day and every day. We ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

* * *

SUNDAY, MAY 7 HOW SHALL THEY?

From God's Word: Romans 10:12-15.

Today's Verse: Acts 16:31.

Today's Birthday: Rev. James H. Benson, El Paso, Texas.

Today's Thought: Four missionary feet are to be found in Providence, R. I. They belong to two sisters, girls who work week after week in a busy, noisy factory. By walking to and from their work each day, and putting the price of the carfare into a mission box, they save enough to pay the yearly salary of a native preacher on a mission field.

Today's Prayer:

"O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when and where
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share."
Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 8 A SINGULAR GIFT

From God's Word: Psalm 103.

Today's Verse: Psalm 103:13.

Today's Birthday: Mrs. Matsuguma's Spiritual Birthday.

Today's Thought: Two years ago when Mrs. Matsuguma came, confessing Christ as her Saviour and Lord, she brought a special offering of 300 yen as a gratitude gift to God for saving her soul. She said that her heart was so full of joy and thanksgiving that she was compelled to make a special thank-offering.

Today's Prayer: Our loving God, may we not accept thy blessings carelessly. May we pause to love Thee and to praise Thee for Thy goodness to us. May we, too, bring love-gifts of gratitude to Thee that others also may have a chance to love God. Amen.

* * *

TUESDAY, MAY 9 A NEW NAME

From God's Word: Psalm 23.

Today's Verse: Family's Favorites from this Psalm.

Today's Birthday: Mrs. Cora Burns Marriott, Box 120, Sunland, Calif.

Today's Thought: Orientals like to take a new name at every milestone of life. Children add a new name when they start to school; another when they finish high school; and when a Chinese becomes a Christian he adds some word of profound significance. As the Scriptures speak of a new name, even so does the Chinese claim a new name after his new birth. In Mrs. Marriott's home town, Chinkiang, China, the pastor's name is *Shepherd*. He took this name when he was converted. The deepest yearning of his newly-born heart was to be like Jesus. He could not take the Holy name of Jesus, but he could take the name *Shepherd*. Faithfully, even unto death, he is the Shepherd of his flock, living true to the name he chose to commemorate the new life in Christ Jesus.

Today's Prayer: Our Father, we thank thee that we have a new name in Christ, even the name *Christian*. May we let Thy Spirit abide in us that we may be worthy of our new name! Amen.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 CHINA'S CHILDREN

From God's Word: Mark 10:13-16.

Today's Verse: Mark 10:16.

Today's Birthday: Many little Chinese boys and girls have a birthday today.

Today's Thought: The children of China have suffered much during the past winter. Many separated from their parents have starved; others have been saved by kind people and by refugee camps. A few have found their parents, but many have not.

A missionary was passing through a distant interior city when he saw among the people gathering here and there on the streets to eat, a little boy who clasped his tiny hands and bowed his head before he ate his rice.

Tactfully the missionary began investigating. He knew that this city had no Christians, no churches, no missionaries. A bit of conversation revealed that this little boy was the lost son of one of his pastors. What a joy it was for the missionary to carry the lad back to his parents who also had escaped death when their entire community was destroyed by the enemies' bombs.

Today's Prayer: Chain of prayers for China's Children. Amen.

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THURSDAY, MAY 11 A GLIMPSE IN THE VATICAN

From God's Word: Matthew 6:9-15.

Today's Verse: Matthew 6:6.

Today's Anniversary Thought: Two years ago Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Dewey Moore arrived in Rome, Italy.

Today's Thought: A child-tourist asked his mother as they strolled through St. Peter's in Rome, "Mother, why all those telephone booths with strange, sad men sitting in them?" The child's innocent question becomes a parable. In truth these confessionals bear testimony of eighteen different languages spoken by their eighteen priests. To the minds of these who come to confess and to do penance for sins, these priests are message-bearers to heaven, praying, if not telephoning, the prayers that sin-sick souls come commissioning them to pray. They believe that it is disrespectful to pray directly to God, so they pay the priest to say a prayer for them. They have never been taught the Truth and the Way.

Today's Prayer: Chain of Sentence Prayers; the prayer in Matthew 6:9-15. Amen.

* * *

FRIDAY, MAY 12 EVERYBODY IS HEART HUNGRY FOR GOD

God's Book: Romans 10:1-5.

Today's Verse: Romans 10:2.

Today's Birthday: Miss Auris Pender, Sun Hing, South China.

Today's Thought: One day in Sun Hing thousands of people came from the surrounding mountains and valleys to worship the image of a herdsman who only a few weeks before had lived in their midst. He had gone out with his shepherds one morning. Mysteriously he had disappeared. Now, the people solemnly declared: "He was too good to live on earth. The gods have taken him. Perhaps he was a god, himself, tarrying a while on earth." They recalled his kindness to people. When someone was ill, he had sent a lamb. When someone had died, he had furnished burial money. Now they reasoned that since he was kind while living, his spirit might continue to bless them, if they worshiped him. They bought and carried home for their god shelves miniature marble likenesses of the herdsman's immense image that their leaders had placed on a pedestal in the improvised bamboo temple.

Today's Prayer: Our Father, we thank Thee that Thou has placed within every heart, whether American or Chinese, a yearning for Thee. May we not be satisfied until we have made it possible for everyone to hear of the one true God and His love. We thank thee for Miss Pender's life of prayer and faith and courage. We commit her to Thee for Thy blessings today, tomorrow, and always. Amen.

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SATURDAY, MAY 13 MOTHER'S DAY IN JAPAN

From God's Word: Proverbs 31:10-31.

Today's Verse: Proverbs 31:28a.

Tomorrow's Anniversary: Mother's Day.

Today's Thought: On Mother's Day in Kokura, Japan, all of the girls of Southern Baptists' Seinan Jo Gakuin take bouquets of beautiful flowers to lonely mothers whose children are either far away or have died. The fragrant expression of filial thoughtfulness touches many of the lonely hearts in that city. They wonder why these girls should think of them on this May day. Inquiry often leads them to come to the Christian services in the chapel on the campus. By the way of flowers, many lonely mothers in Japan have been won to Christ.

Today's Prayer: Our Father, again we thank Thee for our own mothers and their love. Tenderly we call their names, and praise Thee for their influence over us. We also pray for our little Baptist sisters in Japan today as with flowers they express Thy love. Amen.

SUNDAY, MAY 14 A REFUGEE CHURCH

From God's Word: Psalm 46.

Today's Verse: Psalm 46:10.

Today's Birthday: Mrs. Elin J. Bengtson, Box 84, Stockholm 1, Sweden.

Today's Thought: Just across the Spanish border in the suburbs of Nice is one of the largest refugee camps in the world. Mothers and children, old men and women have fled from the devastating war that has razed to ashes much of Spain's beauty and wealth.

In this camp Southern Baptists' missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Nils Bengtson, have worked for months, distributing food and clothes; ministering to the sick; writing letters contacting and reuniting families; comforting the bereaved and sorrowing; and telling always the story of God's love. So many have found Christ as Saviour and begged for baptism that a Baptist church has been organized. This is the first *refugee church* of which we have ever heard.

Today's Prayer: Our Father, we thank Thee for these faithful missionaries who have chosen to suffer with the Spanish refugees who have endured so much during the terrible war. We pray for Thy peace for Spain and her people. And as these members of our *Refugee Baptist Church* return to their demolished homes, comfort them and give them courage to be good witnesses. For Jesus' sake, we pray. Amen.

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MONDAY, MAY 15 UNNAMED MISSIONARIES

From God's Word: Mark 2:1-5.

Today's Verse: Colossians 3:23.

Today's Birthday: Many un-named witnesses for Christ.

Today's Thought: Have you ever considered how many unnamed missionaries served Jesus during his earthly ministry? No one knows the name of the four men who brought their sick friend to Jesus, the boy who shared his lunch, the woman of Samaria who brought about a great revival in Sychar, the man who loaned his colt for the Master's triumphal entry. Each one did to the best of his or her ability the thing that would help the Lord.

Today's Prayer:

"Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated Lord, to Thee:
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise."
Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 16 PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS

From God's Word: Matthew 2:1-11.

Today's Verse: Matthew 2:11.

Today's Birthday: Mrs. Anna Sewell Pruitt, 1008 St. Charles Ave., Atlanta, Georgia.

Today's Thought: Fifty-two years ago recorded another new missionary for China. But this twenty-five year old young lady was no fuller of zest and energy than this same little lady is today on her seventy-seventh birthday. During her half century of service in Chefoo, China, she won countless souls to her Master. Many of these are preachers and Bible women. Others are faithful followers earnestly living the Way Mrs. Pruitt taught them. When the Christmas Offering was taken on a cold, snowy day in old Chefoo, some one in the little group of women and children gave her beautiful wedding ring. Only Christian women have wedding rings. Surely this was a precious possession, but thinking of the millions who have never had a chance to hear of God, a Chinese Christian had given her most beloved treasure unto Christ. It was her birthday gift to Jesus.

Today's Prayer: We thank Thee, Father, for the long and faithful life of dear Mrs. Pruitt, and pray Thy loving blessings and peace for her and for Dr. Pruitt today, tomorrow and throughout this year. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 A WISH FULFILLED

From God's Word: Matthew 28:18-20.

Today's Verse: Matthew 28:19.

Today's Birthday: Miss Alice Parker, 1115 Orange Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia.

Today's Thought: Dr. Len G. Broughton was spending Saturday night in a good deacon's home. Assisting with the house-keeping was a lovely, blue-eyed girl whose parents had gone to heaven and left her to make her own way in the world. She had found kindness and love in this Christian home.

Whenever company came Alice's room became the guest's chamber. Before going to bed, Dr. Broughton noticed Alice's Bible lying on the table by the bed. Picking it up he turned through it. Suddenly his eyes fell on a marginal note opposite the last words of the last chapter of Matthew. Alice had written here: "I wish I could go."

At that moment Dr. Broughton offered himself to God as a channel through which He could work out her going

DAILY
DEVOTIONS

according to His will for her young life. Alice Parker has served forty-one years in China.

Today's Prayer: We praise Thee, our Father, that Thou dost have a purpose for every life. We pray that Thou wilt fulfil Thy will and purpose for each of us. We praise Thee for Miss Parker's life of faith and faithfulness. We commit her to the abundance of Thy love and rich blessings. Amen.

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THURSDAY, MAY 18 LIVING FOR JESUS

From God's Word: I Timothy 4:9-15.
Today's Verse: I Timothy 4:12.

Tomorrow's Birthday: Miss Mary C. Alexander, Box 1581, Shanghai, China.

Today's Thought: For years Miss Alexander was the beloved teacher of the Girls' School, Pooi To, in Canton. She has an unusual appeal to youth. Now she is in Shanghai working with Miss Lila Watson in W.M.U. work. The young people continue to claim her, and she is their trusted, beloved leader, helping them personally and in their work for Christ. The youth hymn for China is: "Living for Jesus." They also like to sing the words of the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, to old Chinese tunes. The young people have done some excellent work in helping the missionaries to produce Chinese Christian music.

Today's Prayer: Sing or read *Living for Jesus* as a prayer. Amen.

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FRIDAY, MAY 19 A CHINESE TRUISM

From God's Word: Psalm 121.

Today's Verse: Psalm 121:1.

Today's Birthday: Mrs. Grace Mason Snuggs, Box 796, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Today's Thought: One spring afternoon the sun was setting behind the purple hills that follow the river from Shuihing to Canton, the Chinese city of Grace Snuggs. Orchid, gold, violet, and many delicate tints blended in the distant sky, making the heavens and the hills a gorgeous sunset. The evening star hung like a suspended pearl just above the tallest purple peak. Everyone on the little river boat paused in silent meditation. Then, quietly, very quietly, a lovely Chinese girl slipped away to her cabin; returned with three incense sticks; burned them in the twilight glow; and clapping her hands lightly, bowed reverently unto the West. When we asked her whom she worshiped, she shook her head pensively: "I am not sure. But where there

is so much perfection and beauty, surely there is a god. He might be angry if we worship him not." Fear mingled with tenderness touched by beauty. Her immortal soul had felt the wooing of His spirit as the heavens were declaring His glory.

Today's Prayer: The Lord's Prayer. Amen.

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SATURDAY, MAY 20

THE BEGINNING OF MISSIONS IN AFRICA

From God's Word: Matthew 18:11-14.

Today's Verse: Matthew 18:14.

Today's Birthday: Foreign Mission Board.

Today's Thought: This week marks the ninety-fourth year of the Foreign Mission Board. The Board was eleven years old before it sent any missionaries to Africa, and the first money that was given for Africa did not come from white people. An Alabama slave woman saved her weekly allowance from her Christian mistress, and because her heart was full of God's love and because she wanted her family back in dark Africa to know God, too, she sent that pin money to Richmond with a plea that the Foreign Mission Board send a messenger of God's love to her people in Africa. She couldn't write, so her pastor wrote the letter, and she made a cross mark, by which her preacher wrote "her mark." The amount was \$15.00.

Today's Prayer: Our Father, we thank Thee for the Foreign Mission Board and pray that the young people of our Southland may answer God's call to take the Gospel to the people who have not yet had a chance to hear it. Amen.

* * *

SUNDAY, MAY 21

ARE YOU A MISSIONARY?

From God's Word: Mark 5:1-19.

Today's Verse: Mark 5:19.

Today's Birthday: Each one may make it the birthday of a new consecration to Christ and His service.

Today's Thought: At a dinner given in his honor, the great Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell was introduced to a lady who said in an amazed tone, "Is it true that you are a missionary?" To this Dr. Grenfell immediately replied, "Isn't it true that *you* are?"

Today's Prayer: Lord Jesus, realizing our own failures, we come to Thee in humility, asking that Thou wilt help us to be more earnest missionaries. We would consecrate ourselves anew to Thee. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 22

THE HOMELESS NATION

From God's Word: Romans 10:1-4; John 1:11, 12.

Today's Verse: Romans 10:1.

Today's Birthday: Some persecuted Jews.

Today's Thought: When Pobjendostow, the Russian persecutor of the Jews, once inquired of a Jew what the result of the persecutions would be, the man replied, "A feast." When asked for an explanation the Jew said, "Pharaoh's persecution of the Jews resulted in the Feast of the Passover. Haman's attempt to destroy the Jews resulted in the Feast of Purim. Antiochus Epiphanes tried to destroy the Jews, and there followed the feast of the Dedication of the Temple."

May God grant that their present persecution in Germany, Italy, and other countries shall lead to a feast of reconciliation between a forgiving Father and His returning children. Today is Christianity's opportunity to throw open to the Jew the door of welcome to the Father's feast of love.

Today's Prayer: Our Father, for all the blessings which have come to us through the Jewish race, we give Thee thanks. For their contribution to civilization and art and science we are indebted to them; but most of all are we grateful for Jesus our Saviour. Upon these, Thy chosen people, we now ask Thy richest blessing. Wilt Thou, through the present persecution lead them to recognize Jesus Christ as the true Messiah. Amen.

* * *

TUESDAY, MAY 23

ONE WON WINS SIX THOUSAND

From God's Word: Matthew 25:14-30.

Today's Verse: Matthew 25:23.

Tomorrow's Birthday: Mrs. Sara Gayle Parker, Pingtu, North China.

Today's Thought: Pingtu, Mrs. Parker's home, is one of the cities in which Miss Lottie Moon used to live. One of her first converts was a young man named Li Shu Ting, who slipped away to heaven a little over a year ago. He had served a half century as a pastor, and in a little black book he had written the names of those whom he had baptized. There are more than six thousand names in that little book. He was only *one* whom the young Virginia missionary won to Christ, but he in turn won six thousand. Suppose Lottie Moon had not listened to God's call to her to go to China? Suppose she had never gone to Pingtu?

Today's Prayer: We thank Thee for evangelistic missionaries like Miss Moon, Rev. and Mrs. Parker. We pray richest

blessings upon Mrs. Parker and her family today and forever. Amen.

* * *

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
A WATER SOAKED BIBLE

From God's Word: Psalm 119:129-132.

Today's Verse: Psalm 119:105.

Today's Birthday: Mrs. Lulie Sparkman Terry, Caixa 52, Victoria, S. Brazil.

Today's Thought: Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Terry had traveled all day on mule-back into the interior of Brazil. Coming to a small village where they could buy food, they stopped for the night. From one saddle bag of Mrs. Terry's mule, Mr. Terry lifted their little son Brunson, and from the other, Mrs. Terry took Baby Sue. While they were setting up their tent on a vacant lot, a crowd gathered around them. The missionaries decided to have a service. When Mr. Terry finished his talk, a young man stepped forward: "We believe. We have a book like yours." He hastened home and returned bringing the Book. Then he explained that ten years ago he and his comrades were swimming in the river when they caught a driftwood of debris. He had salvaged this book and let it dry. His mother had read it to her sons and neighbors. And now Mr. and Mrs. Terry found twenty believers in a village where never before had a preacher set foot. A hundred miles up the river, the Catholic priest had taken this Book from one of his members who was seeking the Truth. Angrily he had thrown it into the river.

Today's Prayer: For every Catholic who seeks the Truth; for Rev. and Mrs. Terry, Brunson and Sue. Amen.

* * *

THURSDAY, MAY 25

MEETING THE THIEF THE SECOND TIME

From God's Word: Isaiah 55:6-13.

Today's Verse: Psalm 119:11.

Yesterday's Birthday: Rev. Clem D. Hardy, Caixa 12-A, Manaus, Brazil.

Today's Thought: One day a pioneer colporteur was passing through the interior section of Brazil in which missionary Hardy now works. Robbers stopped him and took his mule, saddle bags of food, and all his money. Years later this same brave servant of God came this way again and stopped to sell Bibles in a village not far from the place at which he had been robbed. A rough fellow came close to him and almost whispered: "Sir, I was the man who robbed you. The band of us began reading the books in your saddle bag. Our hearts were touched. We prayed. We felt cleansed. We broke up our band

and got honest jobs. I thought I'd never see you again. I am glad you have come. Sixteen of us want to be baptized. And here is the money for the mule and things I stole that day. I shall feel better when I can finish squaring off that deal."

Today's Prayer: (Sing softly "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross.") Amen.

* * *

FRIDAY, MAY 26

THE TWO OARS

From God's Word: James 2:14-20.

Today's Verse: James 2:17.

Today's Birthday: Mrs. Ione B. Stover, Rio de Janeiro, South Brazil.

Today's Thought: A child out in a row-boat, noticed a storm approaching. Seizing an oar he began to pull vigorously with both hands. Then, discovering that the boat was making no progress, but merely going about in a circle, he grabbed, with both hands, the other oar, and the boat circled around the other way. At last the boy realized that, to reach his goal, he must pull with both oars at the same time. Faith and works—prayer and effort—are inseparable factors. Let us therefore "Pray as if everything depended on God; and work as if everything depended on us."

Today's Prayer:

"More holiness give me,
More striving within;
More patience in suffering,
More sorrow for sin;
More faith in my Saviour,
More sense of his care;
More joy in his service,
More purpose in prayer. Amen."

—P. P. Bliss.

* * *

SATURDAY, MAY 27

THOU THAT HEAREST PRAYER

From God's Word: Psalm 63.

Today's Verse: Psalm 65:2.

Today's Birthday: Rev. C. C. Marriott, Box 120, Sunland, California.

Today's Thought: A missionary, after using a telephone in the presence of a group of natives, was asked by one of them, "Where was that wonderful thing made?" Upon being told that it had been manufactured in America, the man said, "Then it is no use for me to have one in my shop, for it cannot speak our language." Calling the home of a mutual friend, the missionary placed the instrument against the man's ear. He listened and then exclaimed, "Oh! It speaks our language, too." This discovery opened the way for the missionary to tell of the God who hears and understands the lan-

guages of all His people of every race and color.

Today's Prayer: O Thou that hearest prayer, we thank Thee for Thy love and goodness, and we pray that Thou wilt bless the efforts of Mr. Marriott and all others who are making Thee known. We ask it in the name of Christ. Amen.

* * *

SUNDAY, MAY 28

INFLUENCE

From God's Word: John 15:10-17.

Today's Verse: Matthew 5:16.

Today's Birthday: Rev. E. G. Wilcox, Pernambuco, North Brazil.

Today's Thought: A missionary, soon after his arrival in his new field of service, asked an educated native to teach him the language. The man, who could speak English replied, "No, I will not teach you. You would make me a Christian." The missionary explained that he simply wanted to learn the language, but the man said earnestly, "No, my friend. I dare not come to be your teacher. No one could live with you and not become a Christian."

Today's Prayer: Psalm 19:14.

* * *

MONDAY, MAY 29

ALL THE NATIONS

From God's Word: Psalm 67.

Today's Verse: Psalm 72:17.

Today's Birthdays: Rev. Taylor C. Bagby, Sao Paulo, South Brazil.
Rev. Francis W. Taylor, 912 S. Walter Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Today's Thought: "We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings and we hold our peace" (II Kings 7:9).

"We've a story to tell to the nations
That shall turn their hearts to the right,

A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light.

We've a message to give to the nations
That the Lord who reigneth above
Hath sent us His son to save us,
And show us that God is love."

Today's Prayer: Father, we pray that Thou wilt help us to be more zealous messengers of Thine. Bless those who are carrying on Thy work in the uttermost parts of the earth. Amen.

* * *

TUESDAY, MAY 30

GOD'S WORD ENDURES

From God's Word: Jeremiah 36:20-23, 27, 28, 32.

DAILY
DEVOTIONS

Today's Verse: Isaiah 40:8.

Today's Birthday: Rev. I. N. Patterson, Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa.

Today's Thought: A missionary in Africa, eager to give the people the printed Gospel in their own language, translated the first five books of the New Testament. But having no way to get the manuscript printed there, he took it with him when he left for home on furlough.

That was in 1917 when the World War was raging. A German U-boat torpedoed his vessel and not a soul was saved. The manuscript went down with the vessel. But, being rolled in a rubber covering and packed in a box, it finally drifted to shore on a lonely stretch of beach. Someone, finding it, sent it to London, and recently it was printed and taken by a new, young missionary to that waiting tribe.

Today's Prayer: Father, we thank Thee for Thy message which comes to us through the Bible. Forgive us that so often we have neglected to study Thy

word or to share it with the waiting millions who have not yet heard of Thee. Help us to obey its teachings. Bless Mr. Patterson in his work for Thee in Africa. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

* * *

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

From God's Word: Acts 12:5-16.

Today's Verse: Pray for one another—James 5:16.

Today's Birthday: Shall we make it the birthday of our own daily prayer for some unsaved one?

Today's Thought: Praying for Others.

The day was warm. The missionary was tired. As he faced a throng of people, many of whom had never heard the Gospel, he felt utterly unequal to the great task of helping them to know the true God. Yet before him waited a heart-hungry crowd. He began to preach. The people listened eagerly; their faces showing their interest and their joy. As the sermon ended, he asked

that those come forward who wanted to know and love and trust the true God. Usually from three to six responded; but that day more than forty pressed earnestly forward, and most of them gladly received the message.

The missionary wondered what had brought such a blessing, but later in the day, looking over a missionary magazine he discovered that his name was the one on the prayer calendar for that day. Christians in America had been praying for him.

"Afair in mission lands
They wondered how
Their simple words had power;
At home some Christians,
Just a few had met
To pray an hour."

Today's Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask that Thou wilt help us to be more mindful of our missionaries, remembering them in our prayers. Bless each faithful messenger, giving to each strength and guidance for their tasks; and wilt Thou prepare the hearts of the hearers to receive Thy Gospel. Amen.

FORESIGHT AND FAITH

(Continued from page 157)

church programs. I believe that the changed conditions are going to lead us to enlarge greatly the scope of missionary endeavors of the local churches. We are likely to have restrictions in regularly organized educational work, but thus far there are no indications of restrictions in other forms of work. Even with the uncertainty in the field of educational work, our people are conducting primary schools in the three centers in Soochow. There are almost a thousand students enrolled. They are carrying on from month to month.

In Wusih I was impressed again with the fact that until we secure a base of operations inside the city, our work in that great industrial center can never make much progress. Whatever may be the form of government, the people will continue to live in this place and it will continue to be one of the most important industrial centers. This, in my opinion, is the greatest unmet opportunity we have in China. If we had funds for purchasing a piece

of property in the city, the present would be an excellent time in which to buy.

Reports from Canton are a little less discouraging than they were a few weeks ago. Conditions, however, are still bad. Since the Chinese people can find places in Chinese controlled territory not far away from Canton, few of them are returning to the city.

It took the cities in this Central China area six to eight months to regain anything like a normal condition. It was fully a year before our missionaries were able to resume a regular program of church work. I have tried to comfort those in Canton by telling them that even though months are consumed in watching property and taking care of destitute people, they are thereby holding on so as to be ready when the people do return and when the opportunities come again; and surely the people and the opportunities will come again. Life must go on; people have to live regardless of the form of government; and wherever the people are, there we must witness and serve.

—M. T. RANKIN, Shanghai, China

BAPTISTS TO MEET

(Continued from page 131)

Oklahoma City is the site of one of the world's great oil pools—the home of the Mary Sudik, the famous gusher which ran wild for eleven days, and whose outbreak and final taming was front-page news throughout the nation. In its history the field has produced over 443,000,000 barrels of oil, which has had an average market value of about a dollar a barrel.



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