

OUR HOME FIELD

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LETTER FROM BROTHER J. S. PAINE.

DELAND, Fla., April 3, 1900.

DEAR BRO. KERFOOT:

Your letter was forwarded to me from Boston, and I was pleased to hear from you.

We left Havana on Wednesday, March 28th, on steamer Olivette, and had an extremely smooth passage. Brother Simms and wife came with us to Tampa, and went on while we remained over night in Tampa. We then came here and found it a most delightful place. We left Mr. Diaz full of encouragement in his work. The week before we came away he held special meetings in his out stations evenings. As a result of these meetings and increased efforts in his home church, eighty-four persons expressed a hope that they had begun a Christian life. This, with the proposal of the Board to have a mission opened at Pinar del Rio and the encouraging letter to him to open new stations in the vicinity of Havana, together with the increasing attendance in his church services, encouraged him greatly.

Bro. Simms held preaching service every Sunday at 10:30 and Mr. Bristow taught the Sabbath-school lesson in English at 10 a. m. to the English-speaking people with marked success. The Bible class will be continued by Mr. Bristow, and preaching at 10:30 whenever they can get a minister; if not, Mr. Bristow will continue the Bible class for an hour, which he will make very interesting.

Everything seems to be encouraging both in the Spanish and the English services.

The greater part of the visitors came away last week on account of the quarantine in New York and Florida April 1st. The city is quite healthy. We expect to remain in Deland until the 15th, and then go to Jacksonville, where we will stay a few days, or until the weather is warm enough to go home.

With kind regards to Dr. Landrum,

I am sincerely yours,

J. S. PAINE.

LETTER FROM DR. DIAZ.

15th April, 1900.

Rev. F. H. Kerfoot, D. D.:

DEAR BRO.—Your letter dated 6th instant is at hand with the resolutions of the Board.

I notify Mr. Cardenas to go to Pinar del Rio, and he is ready to go.

The good effect of my protracted meeting is still being felt. Last night in our regular prayer meeting I had over 800 people present, and I hope to have a large gathering next Sunday (Easter), as we celebrate the anniversary of our church in Cuba. I will write you once a week, but if I did not before it was because I know Mr. Simms and Mr. Paine will do it, and as this is my work I preferred somebody else to do the reporting than myself, but now I will do it to keep you posted with

this work. Inside you will find, please, the report of the Conventional year. We are praying here for you all and for the Southern Baptist Convention that will meet next month. I remain

Yours in Him,

A. J. DIAZ.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM REV. J. R. O'HALLORAN

CIENFUEGOS, Cuba, April 14.

Last night I held the first meeting in the house I wrote you about. I am pleased to report that it was crowded to excess, and the windows and doors were likewise crowded. It was indeed a fine gathering. I had the pleasure of being listened to by many of the Roman Catholic priests, who, from their college opposite to this house, stood listening the whole time. I pray that some word I spoke may enter the heart of some of them and lead them to teach and preach the true gospel as it is in Jesus.

I have also to report that both at Santa Clara and Sagua the work is progressing steadily and well. I preached there this week, and found much satisfaction.

With regard to Cienfuegos I am thoroughly convinced that the work here is making great improvement. One of my reasons for this assertion is due to the number of men who now attend the services. This was a matter that gave me great concern some time ago. The church would be full with women and children, but hardly eight or ten men. Now, thanks be to God, a goodly number of men are in regular attendance, and each meeting finds us with more. I was particularly pleased at the meeting last night to see so many men. I pray this will continue, and that God will still continue to bless His work.

I have so many calls that I intend going to Ranchuelo to preach there some time. There are no Roman Catholics there, or any other denomination, and the people are desirous of having the gospel. I will not, however, rent any house or incur any expense for this work, and as the other denominations here will take up that work if I do not; therefore, I think it best to get our mission established there while the field is open. Rhodas is also open, and if I can spare a day will try to go there.

A VISIT TO BALTIMORE.

The Corresponding Secretary recently made a visit to Baltimore, where our devoted missionary, Miss Buhlmaier, is earnestly at work among foreigners who land in this the second largest port of immigration in the U. S.

The work that Miss Buhlmaier is doing is of incalculable advantage to these foreigners. They come, many of them, without any knowledge whatever of our language; and many of them easily fall a prey to the designing persons who meet them at the wharf, or elsewhere in the great city. Our heroic little missionary is there at the landing of the ships. She talks to them in their own language, giving them words of encouragement and cheer, handing them a copy of the New Testament in their Mother tongue, and giving them such instruc-

tion as strangers landing in our country most need. Wherever she finds a case of special distress and appeal she gives herself wholly to helping the immediate need, and does not stop until she sees the distress relieved. She puts into their hands a little map of our Western country, showing where our German and other Baptist churches for foreigners are located—securing many a promise that as soon as the home in the distant West is reached, a Baptist pastor will be sought and found.

Hundreds and thousands of these foreigners who come to our shores, leave Baltimore blessing Miss Buhlmaier for her visits of mercy and Christian love and words of encouragement and practical helpfulness to them. When we consider the small amount expended on this work, we feel that the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention makes no more valuable and far reaching contribution to Home Missions than the small sum which it gives towards supporting this devoted missionary and her work in the city of Baltimore.

Miss Buhlmaier's last report contains the following interesting statement:

"I visited the outgoing steamer yesterday, just prior to its departure. The first passenger I spoke to was a middle-aged man on his way back home, to Galicia, Hungary. I soon found that he was spiritually minded and very susceptible to the truth."

"In the course of conversation he spoke of the shallow and very superficial sort of Christianity one meets with on all sides, especially 'here in America,' as he termed it. Then he continued to say: 'The only true Christians I met with while in this country are a people called 'Baptists.' I then told him that I, too, was a Baptist, and he was much pleased. I felt grateful to learn that our people had been faithful. And now as this man goes home to live he will ever carry with him the impression made upon him by them. Surely this is of great importance, and no telling how far reaching it may prove.'"

"Oh, if every one of us who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus would, everywhere and always, be known as such, what a power for good we should prove to be to all with whom we come in contact! And is not this our high calling?"

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DAY.

Second Sunday in June, 1900.

It has become common among us, as among other denominations, to emphasize one day in the Sunday-school by a special service as Children's Day. This is our Bible Day.

It comes on the second Sunday in June, the 10th day of the month. Some may prefer the last Sunday in June, as that is Review day, and so the regular lesson would not be interrupted.

A very beautiful and impressive order of exercises has been prepared by the W. M. U. at the request of the Sunday-school Board, having for its object, "The Bible as the Signal Light."

The program proper, supplement containing recitations, and mite boxes, all furnished without cost by the Sunday-school Board at Nashville.

The money collected on Children's Bible Day will be used in Bible work. The Board is using this fund for sending out Bibles in destitute places.

The Board very much desires to enter every school on its list of contributors to this great work.

BAPTIST SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOARD.
J. M. FROST, Secretary, Nashville, Tenn.



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HO, FOR HOT SPRINGS!

By the time this reaches our readers every one who will attend the Southern Baptist Convention at Hot Springs will be making his preparation to go. It is greatly to be hoped that a large number of brethren and sisters from all parts of our territory will attend. A word or two in reference to the accommodations at Hot Springs and the different railroad lines may not be out of place.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

There is perhaps no city of the size in the country where anything like such hotel facilities exist for entertaining a great crowd like this as in Hot Springs. It is emphatically a hotel town. The population of the city is only about fifteen thousand. It has hotel and boarding house arrangements for accommodating as many more, and some of these are as fine as can be found in the land. The prices are such as will suit all pocket-books. Those who desire to live cheaply can get board to their own notion. Those who desire to pay large prices and live on the fat of the land can find just what they want. There is no need for anyone to stay away for fear of not being suitably accommodated.

RAILROADS.

We are not familiar with the arrangements made in every part of our territory for the convenience of those who propose to attend the Convention. Of some, however we can speak positively, and we suppose equally good arrangements have been made in those sections as to which we are not informed.

The Southern Railway Company has arranged to run a special train directly from Atlanta to Hot Springs, without change of cars. This train will leave Atlanta at 1 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, May 9th, and go via Chattanooga to Memphis over

the Southern track, and from there to Hot Springs over the Choctaw Route. The train will be under the personal supervision of one of the most experienced managers of the great Southern Railway system. The round trip ticket will only cost a single fare. Thus an opportunity is given to make this trip at exactly half the ordinary rates. This is true we understand, of all the roads. It is hoped that the brethren from Georgia and South Carolina will all gather at Atlanta and form a happy family party from this central point to the Convention. Those who may have to be at Hot Springs earlier will find two daily trains running from Atlanta, and can take their choice. The rates will be the same. It is very desirable that all who propose to go on the Baptist Special from Atlanta should send their names to Mr. Brooks Morgan, Atlanta, Ga., District Passenger Agent of the Southern, or to Dr. Bell, of the Christian Index, as soon as possible, and that they should state *whether they desire sleepers or not.*

We have learned that those who attend from North Carolina and the Southern part of Virginia will have special preparations made for them by the Southern Railway to go via Asheville, N. C., and join the Baptist Special at Chattanooga.

We take for granted that those who attend from Maryland and Northern Virginia and West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky will go via the beautiful Chesapeake & Ohio to Louisville and thence over the old Reliable Louisville & Nashville to Memphis. We envy persons the opportunity to travel over the Chesapeake & Ohio at this season of the year. Hardly a more picturesque route can be found across the mountains by any railway system in the country. We are sure that no railway gives a smoother and more beautiful trip than the Chesapeake & Ohio, or finer dining cars and no road any where is better managed than the C. & O.

We understand that arrangements have been made at Nashville for a special train over the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis line to Memphis. Thus a happy crowd will go from Memphis over an excellent road, superbly managed. The brethren from St. Louis will, no doubt, travel over the Iron Mountain via Little Rock and Malvern. We can hardly imagine that the brethren from Texas will take any other route than the Cotton Belt. It ramifies the great State of Texas as no other railroad system does from east and west. The Cotton Belt has always been a friend to Baptists. No railroad in the country has shown itself readier to lay itself out for Baptist interests and accommodation than has our old friend, the Cotton Belt. It is to be hoped that the brethren in Texas will see that the Cotton Belt gets its full share of travel to our Convention over the territory which it penetrates, as far as this road runs towards the Convention.

A CONVENTION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

It is perhaps not too much to say that no session of the Southern Baptist Convention has ever been of more importance than the

one which will be held at Hot Springs, beginning on Friday the 11th of May. Everything which has heretofore occupied the attention of the Convention will be before it for consideration at this session. In addition to this, the question of our Centennial movement will be before us. It must receive here an impetus which will carry it forward to success, and result in great things for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Or it will fail of this impetus, and from that time on will dwindle into insignificance. It is largely with the brethren who attend the meeting at Hot Springs to determine whether this Centennial movement shall be a great success or a pitiable failure. A committee was appointed at the last session of the Convention in Louisville to arrange for an all-day Centennial celebration. This committee has arranged with some of the best speakers in the land to discuss various phases of this movement. It is hoped that a keynote will be struck which will set the tune for a song to be taken up by all our Baptist hosts throughout the length and breadth of the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention. A great responsibility rests upon those who have been appointed to speak on this occasion.

CAN ANYTHING MORE BE DONE?

The Southern Baptist Convention has now been in existence for more than fifty years. The very first sentence of the Constitution declares that the Southern Baptist Convention was organized "for the purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intentions of our constituents, by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining and directing the energies of the whole denomination in one sacred effort for the propagation of the Gospel." The plan upon which we have worked to the present time has been to have a Foreign Mission Board to look after foreign missions, a Home Mission Board to look after Home Missions, a Sunday-school Board to look after the interests of Sunday-school work, and, in connection with all this, to have a great Theological Seminary, which has been looked to to provide for the education of our rising ministry.

In most of these lines of work we have now had an experience of over fifty years. In entering upon a new century it becomes us to ask seriously the question whether the plan thus far organized by the Convention is the plan best suited for accomplishing the purpose for which this Convention came into existence. The time passed ought to suffice to show us where lies the weakness of the plan under which we have operated thus far, and also to show us its strong points. No one will claim that the plan has succeeded anything like as well as we could have hoped. We are confronted with the fact that, after fifty years of operation, the plan under which we have operated has not reached half of our churches, or hardly a tenth of our membership. There ought to have been better results than this from fifty years of earnest work. Cannot something be done in addition to what we now have for bringing speedily into line the fifteen hundred thousand white Baptists of the South? Political organizations can manage in a campaign of a few months to reach and wheel into line the great forces which they undertake to manipulate. Is there less power in religion for enlisting its constituents than there is in politics? It ought not to be so. Will the Convention look this problem squarely in the face, and address itself to this as *the one thing lacking?*

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

Auxiliary to S. B. C.

No. 304 N. Howard St., BALTIMORE, MD.

Motto:—GO FORWARD.

MISS ANNIE W. ARMSTRONG, EDITOR.

TO THE WORK.

Up! To thy Master's work! For thou art called
To do His bidding till the hand of Death
Strikes off thine armor. Noble field is thine—
The soul thy providence, that mysterious thing
Which hath no limit from the walls of sense.

O live the life of prayer,
The life of tireless labor for His sake!
So may the angel of the covenant bring
Thee to thy home in bliss, with many a gem
To glow forever in thy Master's crown.

STATE MISSIONS—ITEMS.

Beginning at Jerusalem—Christ pointed out to His disciples that they should be witnesses "both in Jerusalem and in all Judea," before the "uttermost parts of the earth" could be reached. Before the cords can be successfully lengthened, the stakes must be strengthened.

The U. S. flag stands for more than political freedom. It means enlightenment, intelligence, and free, pure religious worship.

Immigration, with its tide of Romanism, infidelity and socialism, has brought with it many dangers.

Among these dangers may be mentioned those that come through rapid multiplication of towns and cities; from the liquor traffic, Sabbath desecration, and hostility to the religious principles on which this country was founded.

The presence of millions of negroes in our Southland is a subject demanding increased thought and action, if duty to these weaker ones, to our State, and to God is to be fulfilled.

State Missions is sending into destitute communities of our own land missionaries to preach, organize churches and Sunday-schools.

State Boards carry on independent work, but when the denomination in a given State is unable to meet the needs, co-operative work is done in connection with the Home Board.

Tennessee is the great battle-ground of missionaries and anti-missionaries. Four hundred Mormon missionaries are located in Chattanooga. Eighty per cent of these confine their labors to Tennessee.

Of Louisiana Dr. B. F. Riley says: "The Home Mission Board could wisely expend its entire income on the great destitution in that State."

South Texas, embracing a section about the shape and size of Tennessee, is one vast mission field.

In nearly all Southern States are sections untouched by Baptist influence.

Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive special help from the Home Board.

In this co-operative work, State Boards select missionaries and fix salaries. The Home Board makes an annual appropriation to the State Board.

State Missions should be supported both from obedience to Christ and love for country.

HOT SPRINGS—1900.

To W. M. U. Workers of Our Southland:

The annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union to which we are now looking forward is one of special interest, inasmuch as it marks the close of the 19th century, and is preparatory to work of the 20th. As heirs of the one, representatives of the other, standing between the century past and that to come, great obligations rest upon the workers of today. The history of the past suggests not completeness, but rather beginnings. As the brilliant morning is but a harbinger of the more resplendent day, so our HAS BEEN is but a prophecy of the greater WILL BE. It is therefore earnestly hoped that this coming together of workers from the various States may be a time of most profitable planning for the Master's work, of sweet Christian fellowship of special manifestation of the guidance of our Divine Leader.

TIME AND PLACE.—The annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union will be held May 11-14, at Hot Springs, Ark., in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention.

ENTERTAINMENT.—A new plan has been adopted in regard to entertainment. Delegates and visitors to the Convention and to the Annual Meeting will be expected to pay their board. A list of hotels and boarding houses has been secured, a copy of which may be had upon application to the Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, 304 N. Howard street, Baltimore, Md.

DELEGATES.—The Constitution of the W. M. U. provides for four delegates from each State besides the Vice-President. They are appointed by the different central committees. It is very important that a full delegation from each State should be present. None can tell how great may be the issues of this meeting, nor how far she may be used of God in advancing the work. If possible, may those asked by the Central Committees be willing to go, though genuine self-denial be involved.

VISITORS.—All workers and friends are heartily urged to attend the annual meeting of the W. M. U. By thus gathering together, preparation will be made for better service in the future. Attendance on such meetings has frequently marked an epoch in a woman's life. She returns with heart enthused, lips unsealed and vision enlarged.

PROGRAM.—Careful thought is being given to the arrangement of an interesting, helpful program, and suggestions of the Central Committees have been gladly received. The Secretaries of the Boards and missionaries will make addresses, papers will be read on different lines of work, and much time given for devotional exercises and discussions of plans of work.

A REQUEST.—There is the realization that with all planning and arranging, without the presence of the Holy Spirit the meeting cannot be a success. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." In the name of Christ then, for whose kingdom we are giving loving effort, will you not pray that officers, speakers, delegates—all who shall have a part in this meeting—may have the one thought of glorifying God? Every member of every society, though she may be obliged to be numbered among the stay-at-homes, through the power of prayer is thus given the privilege of rendering blessed service to the Annual Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union.

ANNIE W. ARMSTRONG.

STATE RALLIES.

The Committee on Plan of Work at the last annual meeting recommended that State Conferences be held in connection with the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union, and also a Con-

ference of State Secretaries. Arrangements are being made for carrying out these suggestions. It is hoped the meeting will be well attended, and result in much good.

GATHERED TESTIMONIES ON HOME MISSIONS.

I regard home mission work as being of the utmost importance. We must make our churches strong at home if they are to accomplish the work assigned them in the spreading abroad of the gospel of Christ among the unevangelized nations.

A. B. LEONARD,
Sec. Mis. Soc. M. E. Church.

As to the relation of Home Missions to the evangelization of the world, it is the relation of root to tree, spring or fountain to the stream. America needs the gospel more than any other country in the world to-day, because of what America is under obligation to do for the evangelization of the world.

CHARLES H. POOL,
Sec'y. Mission Board of Ref. Ch.

Dr. E. W. Casswell, of California, writes: "Methodists believe in Home Missions. The Moravian church, though possessing spirituality and the missionary spirit, existing before Methodism was born, has not a tithe of its influence and power even in foreign fields. Why? Because the Moravians expended most of their strength in foreign missions to the almost entire exclusion of home work. They have but 20,000 members at home, while their number is 32,000 in foreign fields. They are like an army weak at the center, and if the center of an army is broken, both wings are liable to destruction. Home Missions are the center of the great army of Methodism; foreign missions are on either flank. Each converted soul is to build over against his own house first, bringing the sinner next in proximity to Jesus as heaven leaves the nearest particles first, till all are leavened. Christ said, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature, beginning at Jerusalem.' Methodism has ever observed this rule."

The Secretary of the Congregational Missionary Society, Rev. J. B. Clark, D. D., gives the following: Every new postoffice means people, and is due notice that another stream has begun to pour its good or evil into our national life. What we do must be done now, in the nick of time, and without money we can do nothing. What follows? The saloon gets ten years the start. Innocent boys, for lack of church and Sunday-school, become easy victims. Society becomes fixed and rigid on a Christless pattern. Then, ten years too late, the lame and forlorn effort begins to overtake a lost opportunity. If the churches appreciated the critical importance of the now-time, they would keep our treasures filled.

OBEDIENCE AND OBTAINMENT.

The privileges of THE KINGDOM are for the friends of the KING.

The mark of the King's friends is definitely set forth by Christ.

"Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." It is OBEDIENCE.

Friendship, then, is the condition of obtainment and obedience is the evidence of friendship. The most demonstrative protestations without obedience avail nothing.

"Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

If any one command is clear and definite it is the command to evangelize the world. Let us might think that in this case blessing is not linked to obedience, Christ specially declares that it is so. "He," he says, "and" (implied, "if ye go") "I, I am with you always." The individual, the congregation, the denomination, has no right to claim the blessing of Christ's presence unless they render the obedience upon which it is conditional.

—Selected.

... and **Baptist Young People's Union**

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Atlanta to Richmond.....	\$14.50	folk, Va., and Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company, via Washington.....	21.00
Atlanta to Washington.....	14.50	Atlanta to New York via Norfolk, Va., Bay Line steamer to Baltimore, and rail to New York.....	20.55
Atlanta to Baltimore via Washington.....	15.70	Atlanta to New York via Norfolk and Old Dominion S. S. Co. (meals and stateroom included).....	20.25
Atlanta to Baltimore via Norfolk and Bay Line steamer.....	15.25	Atlanta to Boston via Norfolk and steamer (meals and stateroom included).....	21.50
Atlanta to Philadelphia via Washington.....	18.50	Atlanta to Boston via Washington and New York.....	24.00
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MISCELLANEOUS: Previously reported since May, cash, \$4.25.
AGGREGATE: Boxes, \$2,486.41, cash, \$4,671.15. Previously reported boxes, \$29,318.77, cash, \$33,047.15. Total since May, boxes, \$29,599.75, cash, \$33,072.27.