

The Baptist Messenger

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COMPEL THEM TO COME.

"Go preach my gospel, etc., but tarry at Jerusalem. Why not go now; we have the gospel? Yes, but you are a gun loaded without powder behind the bullet.

There is more power in a popgun and paper wadding with power behind it than in a Springfield rifle loaded with a bullet and no power to send it on its deadly mission.

Dear hunter, you will never get the game; no the squirrel will not even move his tail.

I once heard of a hunter who said that it was not a matter of time with him as to how long he should hunt opossums, but he must hunt till he got some meat.

The Lord says, "Compel them to come, that my house may be filled." Are we just putting in the time, or are we trying to bring things to pass.

Brethren be diligent in business, fervent in the spirit, serving God.

If the church is not edified, if sinners don't turn to God under your services then perhaps you did not tarry at Jerusalem till the fire came down from God out of heaven and set you afire. Go to the secret chamber and wrestle with Jacob till you not only have power with God but with God and man.

As I see it, the church has locked arms with the world and gone a whoring after business and pleasure, and in some cases Satan has sung his lullabies to them till they are fast asleep.

Water is not apt to run up stream. The ship with its cargo is in danger and Jonah must wake up.

The dikes are broken and somebody must let the people know ere the floods come upon them, then it is too late.

Not long since I heard a fire bell. I gathered a bucket and went; I was too late to save the burning building, but plied my efforts with might and main to save the buildings not yet on fire.

Brethren, some souls are already in hell crying for water, but it is too late to do them any good. Go to those who are living with your vessel brim-full of the water of life and apply it with the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, not for a given time, but until they shall be delivered from darkness.

We pray that the kingdom of God may come, but how little we are doing to bring it about.

Notwithstanding the dark valleys and shadows through which we have been passing, I can almost see the glimmering light on the other side of the valley. In addition to the much appreciated preaching of pastor Brooks, there are a few workers who are holding prayer meetings three times a week, and we are taking on more Christian love and fellowship. Zion is beginning to travel and we expect her to bring forth.

A dozen men come running with buckets of water to throw on a burning building, but the commander stops them ten minutes to analyze the water. The water is said to be all right, but is applied too late, and the building burns down. Hell hath opened her mouth wide and people are plunging in. You had better give the warning in the rough than be too late.

In conclusion there are three things for which I pray.

First. That every preacher in this association may preach with all earnestness of his soul, that he may wake the church out of her deadly sleep.

Second. That there be a live Sunday school in every church, lead and taught by those who love

the Lord.

Third. That there be stated prayer meetings in every community. This being done, what is to hinder the coming of the kingdom? Even so come Lord Jesus. Amen.

P. G. HARTSELL.

THE PASTOR'S VACATION.

Occasionally I notice in the papers an article announcing some preacher's or pastor's vacation, when the fact of it is we are farther behind with our work than any other men in the world.

I think that the preacher who insists on his annual vacation needs to get a vision of the lost world. I don't read in the Bible that the Lord even called a man to preach while he was on his vacation, but He called busy men who had not time to idle away. Would a farmer leave his cattle, or a shepherd leave his sheep? Suppose an aged man or woman wends his way to the church on the Holy Sabbath day only to be disappointed, to find written over the door, "Preacher on his vacation, doors closed till his return." Or suppose a poor penitent sinner were to knock at heaven's gate to make his confession only to hear the archangel declare, "Jesus is on His vacation; no sinners saved until his return."

R. M. HAGLER.

GOOD CLASS REPORT.

Our Sunday school is in the most prosperous condition since our coming to this place. I am safe in saying that seventy-five per cent of our church membership is now in Sunday school. This means that the church work in general is prospering. The work of enlarging several of our Sunday school rooms is now in progress. The Sunday school is not only growing in number, but in spirit. Visit some of our classes and listen to the opening prayer by the president or different members of the class and you cannot but feel that the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is in our midst. It is a joy indeed to be teacher of a praying class. By prayer and consecrated service the following report has been made possible.

REPORT OF FIDELIS CLASS. SECOND QUARTER.

On roll first Sunday in quarter	51
Enrolled during quarter	39
Loss During Quarter	5
Gain during quarter	34
Total roll fourth Sunday in June.....	85
Average attendance	43
Largest number present at any one time.....	63
Seventy of the eighty-five enrolled are Christians. Eleven were converted during the quarter. Blanche West, Mrs. Gathings, Lucy Holdslaw, Margaret and Jessie Kidd have been present every Sunday during the quarter. We have contributed to different objects as follows:	
Postage	\$1.16
Paint	1.25
Staining Church floor	7.05
Flowers for sick50
To First Church of Quanah, Texas.....	1.00
Sunday school expenses	6.34
Gift to W. L. Griggs	15.45
Other objects20
Total.....	\$32.95
Cash on hand at beginning of quarter.....	\$2.55
Total paid out during quarter	\$35.50

Miss Odessa Williams, whose sickness we have mentioned several times, died Tuesday, July 27. Her funeral was conducted from the home, and her remains were laid to rest in the Williams' graveyard.

The pastor, Rev. R. M. Hagler, closed one of the best meetings at Oak Grove church last Friday that has been held with that church for a number of years. Unusually large crowds attended, and the interest was good from the very first service. As a result of the meeting the church is greatly renewed and sixteen were added to its membership, thirteen by baptism.

A BOY PREACHER.

Hendersonville.—Hendersonville is enjoying the unusual experience of sermons, attended by a spiritual awakening, from a 7-year old preacher. Little Charles Turner, son of Rev. F. M. Turner, of Orlando, Fla., is treating Hendersonville to the pure gospel and is bringing results, 14 confessions having been made at his preaching service on a recent Sunday night.

The largest congregation ever known in the First Baptist church of this city and probably the largest gathering to hear a preacher or a speaker since W. J. Bryan visited in Hendersonville two years ago, packed the church building Sunday night until standing room was occupied in an effort to see and hear the marvelous young preacher, who treated his hearers to the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The 7-year old boy showed a wonderful familiarity with the Bible and its teachings and his every-day illustrations would lead one to think that he is much older in his experiences. While delivering his sermon he was perfectly contained and showed originality. "When I was young," the 7-year old in his knee trousers started to illustrate with a personal experience, but he had to pause at the ripple of laughter and then asked, "What are you laughing at?" His father explained, "You are little now." "But I used to be much smaller," he said and then continued with his message, exhorting his hearers to accept Christ without delay.

In relating the story of the boy's conversion and his life, Rev. Mr. Turner said that while he was holding an evangelistic service his son at 4 years old was converted and baptized, and announced that he was called to preach and immediately began, his first sermon being on "God is Love," when he didn't know a letter of the alphabet. He entered school and in 10 months made six grades. For three months he has not missed preaching one sermon a day and on many days he has preached as high as four sermons and as many as two every Sunday.

The young preacher who is ordained preached two sermons in the city yesterday and will give two more before leaving. He makes a profound impression upon his hearers as evidenced by the number of conversations last night. There is said to have been more than 2,000 baptisms resulting from his preaching.

A REVIVAL AT BESSEMER CITY.

On the second Sunday night in July we began a meeting of days. The weather was extremely warm and local conditions were not very favorable for us, but in the face of all of these we had fine congregations from the very beginning of the meeting. Bro. J. R. Owens of Mars Hill came to us Monday and preached the old time gospel with great force and power. There was nothing emotional in a single sermon that he preached. He preached the truths of God's Word in a business like way. I feel like we have had a great meeting.

While the visible results were not what they are some times, yet good seed have been sown and they are going to produce a harvest. We received seven for baptism and three by letter, and others will follow.

Bro. Owens is a pastor himself and he is a pastor's helper. He will not be forgotten soon by the people who heard him and especially the homes he visited. There were many homes with open door for us that we did not get to visit. I feel like that as a pastor I can truthfully say our work has taken on new life and we are ready to press forward in the Master's service.

D. F. HELMS.

Meadow Branch is going to install a new bell. We need one so much.

During the protracted meeting season R. M. Hagler will hold meetings at the following places: Fourth Sunday in July at Oak Grove; first Sunday in August, at Wolf Pond; second Sunday at Deep Springs; third Sunday at Corinth, and fourth Sunday at Mount Zion.