

CHARITY AND CHILDREN

"BEHOLD HE THAT KEEPETH ISRAEL SHALL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP"

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Editorially Speaking

Next Seminary Should Be Located in the Midwest

All signs are pointing to at least one or two more Southern Baptist seminaries by 1960. With 6,500 ministerial students enrolled in Baptist colleges this year—and 7,200 expected by 1960—provision must be made for them to attend Baptist seminaries instead of non-Baptist.

Where should these additional seminaries be located? In a convincing, sensibly-written editorial, the *Word and Way* of Missouri advances the case for a midwestern site and we are inclined to go along with Editor H. H. McGinty until someone presents a stronger case.

He suggests St. Louis as a possibility and if there's criticism that it is too close to Louisville (about half a day's drive), he will be satisfied with Kansas City, Mo., which is further to the west or Springfield which has two senior colleges and is an established cultural center. This north central section of our convention territory needs a seminary, not only for convenience's sake, but it would greatly strengthen the Baptist witness in that section of the United States.

The five seminaries we have are scattered over a wide area—Southeastern serving this section of the country; New Orleans for the south central section; Southern for the northeastern; Southwestern at Fort Worth, Texas; and Golden Gate for the Far West. Missouri's bid should be carefully considered. The only other section that could submit a comparable argument would be the Memphis, Tenn., area and since so many of our Baptist offices are already concentrated in Nashville, perhaps it would be best to select a site in another state.

Friend of N. C. Baptist Boys Will Be Missed

It's not often that we mention pastoral changes in this editorial column, but this one is unusual because the change involves an unusual man—Fred Forester of Bessemer City who becomes Brotherhood Secretary of Louisiana on March 15.

In his leaving, North Carolina will lose its busiest and most effective Royal Ambassador leader. Fred Forester has a way with boys that is envied by all who have ever tried to work with them. To say that he is unique is putting it too mildly. There never was and never will be but one Fred Forester. His warm heart, his evangelistic zeal, and his drive in getting things done will long be remembered in this state. There are "bigger" preachers and more polished pulpiteres among us, but when it comes to his special gifts, Fred Forester is in a class by himself.

He is not only a boys' man, but a man's man; hence, he is perfectly fitted for his new work which will also include supervision of R.A. work. In his "part time" work as an R.A. specialist he has influenced many boys in thinking of the mission field, among them the editor's brother, Fred, in Japan. There's no telling what he will accomplish on a full time basis. Bon voyage, Fred, you'll be missed in North Carolina!

Editorial-ettes: Brief And To The Point

Two Billy Grahams

Two "Billy Grahams" were "fighting" in Madison Square Garden last week. On Friday night, Billy Graham, the boxer, was fighting Chico Vejar. The night before when Evangelist Billy Graham was holding his first New York service, he drew a laugh from the crowd when he mentioned the fight signs posted prominently in the Garden. One thing is sure—the "fighter of sin" attracted the biggest crowd as 22,000 were inside the Garden and more than 5,000 outside.

Powerful Witnesses

Time magazine last week referred to Roy Rogers and his wife, Dale Evans, as "two of the most active spokesmen for the Lord in the United States." More and more they are injecting the Christian message into their television programs by urging children to go to Sunday school and reminding parents to take them. Dale's touching book, "Angel Unaware" telling the story of their mentally defective daughter who died at the age of two has sold over 400,000 copies and is holding a level of 2,000 copies a week. Her newest book is "My Spiritual Diary." On Edward R. Murrow's "Person to Person" television program last Friday night, the famed newscaster was caught a bit off guard by the straightforward testimonies of Roy and Dale. It was apparent he wasn't accustomed to such bold Christian witnesses on his program. This didn't deter Roy and Dale from putting in a good word for their Lord.

Ladies Meet In Asheville March 15-17. . . . SPEAKERS ON WMU CONVENTION PROGRAM



MRS. C. GORDON MADDREY—busy president will speak on "The Sufficient Saviour." This message will be one of the many responsibilities on her shoulders during the meeting.



MRS. MARVIN GARRETT—has been missionary to Nigeria since 1946, teaching in Woman's Training College and Boys' High School. She is now in states, living at Wake Forest.



MISS IONE GRAY—associate editor of The Commission and press representative of Foreign Mission Board. Last year she took three months' trip to mission fields in the Orient.



MRS. W. W. LAWTON, Jr.—is well-known in North Carolina, wife of the Rev. Wesley W. Lawton, Jr. Their most recent duty has been in Manila as evangelistic workers.



MISS FRANCES LORENE TILFORD—now in states on furlough. After Communist invasion of China, she was transferred to Formosa and she is expected to tell about it.



MISS LUCY ERNELLE BROOKS—native of Bridgeton, N. C. and Mars Hill graduate has been missionary in Nigeria since 1947. She is now home on furlough.

DON'T CRY OVER THEM . . .

Rapid Growth of Baptists Producing Problems, But Let's Rejoice In Them

Southern Baptists face so many problems we should shout and praise the Lord. Most of the time when problems are mentioned it is time for sadness rather than rejoicing. But not so in our case!

Most of the problems facing Southern Baptists and many of our churches are caused because God is being so good to us. For one thing Southern Baptists constitute one of the fastest growing denominations in the history of the Christian religion. Rapid growth always produces "growing pains" and causes situations for adjustment to arise. Adjustment of plans and policies always is problematical.

For another thing God is calling so many Southern Baptist young men into the ministry that our seminaries are filled even beyond their capacity. More seminaries seem to be the only answer to this problem. Building and financing is always problematical.

We know of scarcely one church in the western part of the United States that does not face a serious building problem. There is only one thing that causes this problem and that is people. We thank God for the building problems facing our churches. We would have cause for alarm were enough if we had half-filled churches and had to shut down churches as some other groups have been known to do.

God is honoring the Southern Baptist witness to his gospel in such a way as to cause us missionary and financial problems, leadership training problems, Christian education problems, Christian life problems, fellowship problems, and others.

We have no complaint. We would not evade our problems, and we would not shift them to other shoulders. Rather we thank God for counting us worthy of his blessings, and we pray for his guidance as we seek solutions. —Baptist Beacon

Doctors And Preachers

Doctors and preachers have a natural meeting in their services to mankind. The doctor is seeking to retain life in the body and the minister seeks to prepare that life to depart in good shape. As a minister should seek, through his spiritual ministry, to aid the doctor in his task of keeping a person healthy and alive as long as possible, even so doctors can aid greatly in encouraging the individual to lay hold onto spiritual life also. It is true that the doctor ministers to physical life and the preacher to spiritual life. Both of these types of lives are what personality is composed of and these two professions will naturally have to meet at the individual's bedside to give him the full ministry he deserves.

Neither the doctor nor the minister should feel an independence toward the other. These two professions could work together with great mutual benefit in the services they seek to render mankind.

Preachers, in their ministries to the sick, should develop a definite technique. This is too important a ministry to leave to chance. There are many good books on visiting the sick and working with doctors and it would do well for us all to develop the best skill in this service possible. —Alabama Baptist

BUT KEEP IT ON HIGH PLANE . . .

No Institution Perfect; Hence, Some Criticism Can Be Expected

Criticizing institutions seems to be a favorite pastime of some people. The late Dr. Z. T. Cody once wrote a very good editorial on this subject; and we have decided to borrow the subject and make a few observations of our own on it. Incidentally, what Dr. Cody wrote, about 1927, is still quite applicable to current conditions; and this editorial is strongly influenced by what he said.

First of all, let us note that all institutions are criticized more or less. Also, since no institution is perfect and since most institutions belong to the people, all are subject to criticism. The problem is that of keeping criticism on a high plane and guiding it on sound principles toward constructive ends. Much of the criticism which is directed toward institutions, such as schools for example, may be neither on a high plane of principle nor constructive in its approach. Instead, it may be merely a general intimation that something is wrong, and it may be given publicity so as to put the institution on the defensive before its constituency. It may, therefore, do more harm than good.

Also, as Dr. Cody suggested in his article, a critic of an institution may use facts in such a way as to deal falsely with an institution. In any institution, there may be some things that are not good; but that would not necessarily mean that the people who are responsible for the institution approve and support the wrong. To state certain facts which in themselves are not good, or which at least sound bad, may be totally unfair unless the report of the facts is properly related to the whole truth about the institution.

As a practical suggestion, would it not always be the fair, scriptural, Christian thing to do if one withheld his criticism of an institution until he had gone, personally, to those in charge of it and talked over the question at issue? Too often, it seems, critics of institutions engage in indiscreet public and private talk which is hurtful without any previous discussion with those most closely concerned.

Let us note also that there is a tendency for institutions, or those who are closely connected with them, to get on the defensive too easily. After all, institutions and those who work in them are imperfect and subject to criticism. Also, all of us should have enough Christian grace to keep us from any bitterness or resentment, even when we are criticized unjustly and hurtfully. It is only fair to respect the motives of one's critics and to seek to ascertain the substance of their criticism and learn from it. Criticism, properly received, is helpful.

Then criticism may not be so effective as the one offering it might suppose. Institutions have a way of resisting and absorbing criticism, and many good institutions are still doing quite well despite the fact that critics have tried long and hard to discredit them. Criticism of institutions might be taken too seriously, by either the critics or the institutions and their supporters. Generally speaking, however, we believe people are inclined to take "with a grain of salt" what critics have to say to the detriment of well-established and honorable institutions. —Baptist Courier

Churches, Like Pastors, Ought To Be Honest In All They Do

Clarity Of Preaching

There will always be some in a congregation who do not get the speaker's message. Their minds are on something else and, therefore, they cannot concentrate on what is being said. The clarity of any message largely depends upon getting the hearer's attention.

Inability to learn, and hear what is being said, is largely bound up in the tendency of the person not to concentrate. God knew this and constantly called on people to hear His voice and Jesus was constantly seeking the attention of men by using expressions like Behold, Lo!, and Verily, Verily!

Some of our best preachers are not understood and the fault does not rest entirely with the speaker but with the people in the congregation who fail to alert themselves to what is going on.

We practice listening when one is speaking and find that it is most rewarding. Even when the speaker does not say something deep we find our thoughts with depth in them because he suggests deep things. A sermon, like food, will taste good only when we concentrate on the receiving of it. Many people eat tasty meals and get up without realizing they have eaten such good food simply because their minds were on other things. Effective preaching depends upon the hearer's giving attention as much as it does upon the one who has composed the speech and delivered it. Many rewarding messages have fallen on rocky ground because the hearer paid no attention. —Alabama Baptist



TALENTED G-W EDITOR—Miss Mary Philbeck, sophomore from Boiling Springs, is responsible for much of the fine material about Gardner-Webb on Page 2 this week. She is editor of the student newspaper, The Pilot, and also a member of the debating team.

Steady Me

Steady me, O God!
Life moves at such a pace;
I need Thy hand upon my shoulder, so
I may go slow, and see Thy face!

Steady me, O God!
Life is so full of noise;
I need Thy steady quietness until
I may grow still—and know true poise.

Steady me, O God!
Life is so full of ways;
I need Thy light upon my road, so I
No wrong ways try—through all my days!

Steady me, O God! Till I at last arrive
Wherever Thou dost want me, and
there may
Full quiet stay—and cease to strive!
—John H. Strong



BIBLE FOR ALL NATIONALITIES—Home Board missionaries placed the Bibles in the hands of these Spanish girls, part of the program financed by the Annie Armstrong offering of Woman's Missionary Union which is being received in many churches. (Home Board Photo)