

SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST

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Livingston T. Mays :- :- Editor
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INTRODUCING SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST

SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST is as wide as the South, as narrow as the doctrines of the regular Baptist churches of the south and as wide too. The personnel of its staff of writers is guarantee of this.

Amos Clary, the associate editor, is a graduate of Furman University and of Rochester Theological Seminary. He was for some time Field Editor of Religious Herald and is author of several books.

Judge J. H. White, the publisher, a well known Baptist deacon and banker of Marshall, N. C., is a layman of proved efficiency.

B. W. Spilman, widely known Sunday School specialist, President of North Carolina, Baptist Convention and of Southern Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest, is on the regular staff of writers and will contribute SPILMANOGRAPHS each week. James Edward Dillard, Chairman of Southern Baptist Assembly Board and pastor of the great Southside Church in Birmingham, will contribute a sermon weekly. Bartlett A. Bowers of Broadway Church, Knoxville, will regularly give a column under the heading "MEDITATION."

F. A. Bower, a fine American of British birth, will write British and Canadian Notes. Frank-Willis Barnett, the inimitable, once editor of Alabama Baptist, now one of the editors of Birmingham Age Herald, will edit a column entitled: "THIS AND THAT, HERE AND THERE."

News will be the specialty of SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST. Our effort will be to gather the news of the churches of the Southern States, so that those Baptists who cannot afford to subscribe for fifteen or twenty denominational papers may take their state paper and SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST and keep in touch with the affairs of the SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

SOUTHWIDE institutions of the convention need such an organ as is now provided. The editor as corresponding secretary of Southern Baptist Assembly, has for several years found that announcements of the southwide institution had to be sent to at least fifteen papers in order to reach all sections of the South. With the Southwide Baptist all portions, if not all individuals in the Southern Baptist Convention can soon be reached by a single announcement.

Hope is one of the soul's spark plugs.

Mr. Clary's editorials will be signed in his initials.

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Southwide Baptist means to serve Southern Baptist churches and institutions. It is not under denominational control but is for denominational work.

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The fact that three officials of Southern Baptist Assembly are on its staff of writers does not mean that the Assembly has any control or ownership of the paper.

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The Mid-Winter Conference at Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans has a fine program and curriculum. New Orleans is the most interesting place in America to visit. Gypsy Smith will be in the city during the conference.

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Baptists take justifiable pride in the fact that the most momentous gathering of diplomats in history was called by a Baptist. Warren G. Harding, is dominated by a Baptist. Charles Evans Hughes, was opened with prayer by a Baptist, Pastor Abernathy of Calvary Baptist Church, Washington City.

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A man with a memory has many laughs. Some of the preachers who preached of the virtues of peace and the horrors of war in 1913, became the most bloodthirsty advocates of strife in 1914. Now these same men are proclaiming the teachings of the PRINCE OF PEACE. Peace is the popular cry now. When war comes again, these same pulpiteers will alleviate its sorrows by making us laugh again.

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The denominationally owned Baptist paper is still in the experimental stage. But one thing has been demonstrated in such ownership already. Such a paper can never do more than express the religious opinion of the denominational group leaders in its territory. Such a paper can not adequately and independently express the religious opinion of all Southern Baptists.

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SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST will insistently urge all Baptists to take their state paper first, then SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST. First things, first. Deacon Brown of St. Louis, who made the best of shoes, had over each desk and machine in his great plant, God first, family, second, shoes third. That made good workmen who made good shoes. A man who reads his state denominational paper will make a good subscriber for SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST. Let us put it this way. Bible first, State Baptist paper second, SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST third.

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We fully endorse the following editorial by the distinguished writer Dr. Victor Masters of the Western Recorder.

"The one great chunk of fact about denominational publications among our people is that not more than twenty to twenty-five per cent of them are reached with even an inadequate service in the way of papers and periodicals. Brother Austin suggests one curative agent that might be invoked. There are many. Another would be an independent Southwide paper. Of one thing we are absolutely sure: no Southwide publication, whatever its value, can really take the place of the denominational State paper. Nor ought such a publication to be projected on a plane that could tend to injure the influence of any State paper, so long as it really serves the brotherhood that supports it as a vote for significant and timely truth."

The Moral Force of Naval Disarmament.

The disarmament parliament in Washington has demonstrated one thing. The world is war-tired and tax-ridden. That is why Secretary Hughes' proposal to scrap so many of the big ships and to take a ten year's holiday in naval construction met such a hearty response the world around. There may be some sharp disagreements among the nations when it comes to working out the details of the Hughes' idea.

Frank H. Simonds who is one of the ablest writers and keenest analysts of the present day when it comes to dealing with political questions think that the limitation of naval armaments will have but little influence in preventing wars. He thinks that the existence of armed forces or the prevalence of armed ships has very little to do with the cause of wars.

"Wars," says Mr. Simonds, "are caused by totally different factors. They are precipitated by the conflict of rival aspirations or conceptions or interests among the peoples of the world. The existence of the German army did not cause the last war. The existence in the German mind of certain hopes and certain fears was a factor which was responsible for the war."

Mr. Simonds over looks some of the most important questions in the whole matter. When a gun is put into the hands of a small boy he wants to shoot something. He does shoot something. If he can find no other objects at which to shoot, then he shoots at his own brothers and sisters. If some member of the family imposes on him he brings his toy gun into play again.

The soldiers of a country are only little boys grown up. When their nation puts real guns into their hands and real warships under their control, then the impulse is strong to use them. And just as the boy with his toy gun easily trumps up some cause which justifies him in shooting at some member of his family so the nation with its well organized and well armed army and navy will easily find a political cause for war, if not, like Germany, will trump up one.

Mr. Simonds seems not to reckon at all the moral influence that naval disarmament would have. Such disarmament and such a holiday would go a long ways towards impressing the nations of the world with the moral fact that all wars are unnecessary. National prohibition was won through local option. Every time a bit of territory was won for prohibition by local option its moral influence was twofold. For one thing, it generated a stronger sentiment among the citizens of that particular territory for prohibition. For another thing, by its evident benefits, it propagated prohibition sentiment in other "wet" territory. The moral influence of naval disarmament will be great in showing not only the uselessness of war, but also the benefits of no-war. Any limitation of naval armament will be a mighty factor in making war forever impossible among the sons of this earth.

A. C.

The name Ridgecrest Reporter is added to our title because the editor lives at Ridgecrest and expects to Report Ridgecrest happenings and addresses