

The Baptist Builder

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Palafox and LaRua - Pensacola, Fla.

ELWIN L. SKILES, Ph.D., Pastor

Volume I

AUGUST 18, 1950

Number 24

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN . . .

"ADVANCING TOGETHER" is the watchword suggested by some of our leaders for all of the activities in our church. As we prepare for the beginning of a new year on October 1, this word should challenge and inspire us to do our dead-level best in all the departments of church life. After all, it is but another way of expressing the thought of our battle song, "Onward Christian Soldiers!"

Advancing together, we shall build a greater Sunday School with new classes and departments. This will require the utilization of available facilities nearby the church property. As long as there are prospects to be reached, the challenge is for enlistment of and provision for them.

Advancing together, we shall grow a larger and more influential Training Union with new unions and departments. To do this, we must have a larger measure of support from the deacons and other leaders in the church. We are making rapid strides forward. Let's continue the trend!

Advancing together, we shall become more missionary minded through the enlistment of our people in the W. M. S., the Brotherhood and auxiliary organizations. This, too, is a must.

Advancing together, we shall grow in the financial program of the church, accepting as our standard the teachings of the Word of God concerning the stewardship of possessions. This will enable us to enlarge our varied ministries, improve present properties, provide new buildings, develop mission stations and increase gifts to world causes. All of these and more will be possible when we, together, accept the tithe as our minimum standard.

Advancing together, we shall march in company with Christ in establishing His

MISS KITTY SUE WIGGINS
1322 E LEE ST
PENSACOLA FLA

50 IN 50 AT HALF WAY MARK

Twenty weeks have gone by in our forty week campaign to raise \$50,000 for the Building Fund in 1950. Mr. Denham, chairman of the campaign committee, will present a report in the Sunday services. His report will show that we must "pick up steam" if we expect to be successful in our 50 in 50 program.

Pledge cards and envelopes are available. Why not join the group of regular contributors to this over and above object? The measure of success achieved is due to the interest of a small percentage of our members.

We believe all of our members want the new auditorium. Correct us if we are wrong. Show us by sharing in the cost if we are right.

Kingdom. Indications of spiritual advance are desired above all else. Among these will be evangelistic fruitfulness, growth in discipleship, warmth of Christian fellowship, and eagerness to give Christ the preeminence.

The degree of success which is achieved in this ADVANCE program depends upon each one of us, for after all has been said, the extent of ADVANCE will be in proportion to our willingness to make it a "TOGETHER" program.

BASIC LAWS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH

1. Every Sunday School must grow. If it doesn't grow it is backing up. Water that doesn't flow becomes stagnant. Blood that doesn't flow coagulates.
2. Sunday Schools do not grow naturally. Have to be cultivated. Have to be directed. Do not grow by wishing. Do not grow by mechanics.
3. Must have right motives. Christ must be the center of each class. Building a greater church for our Lord is motive.
4. Proper diet for Sunday School. Healthy Organization.
 - A. Sunday Schools grow at the rate of ten per worker. Put more people to work — increase officers and teachers to increase growth of Sunday School.
 - B. It is difficult to keep organizing new units unless we keep Sunday School graded. Unless Sunday School is graded no certain class feels responsible for each age group. Specific assignment to classes reaches people.
 - C. An adult class reaches its maximum growth in 18 to 30 months after being organized. Only way to enlarge is to add new units.
- D. Sunday School takes shape of building. Building will not insure large Sunday School. Larger space assures larger organization and makes it necessary to have best equipment possible.

(Adapted)

— Dr. James Sullivan, Pastor
Belmont Heights Baptist Church
Nashville, Tenn.

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GOD GUIDE AMERICA

God guide America
As all look to her today,
Valiant America,
Rightly to lead the way
That out of earth's great travail
Justice and peace prevail.
And on her cherished sod
Dwell free men of God.
As all seek refuge
Where liberty's light can shine;
Let Thy benediction fall
Upon this land of Thine.

— Evelyn F. Hamilton.

"THE DAY OF BEGINNING AGAIN"

— SEPTEMBER 24, 1950

The above theme was adopted by the department officers and teachers of our two adult departments in a meeting on Tuesday evening of this week.

Early in this Sunday School year, Mr. Earl Gaston felt the need of enlarging our young people and adult Sunday School work. A meeting of the superintendents of our present adult and young people's departments was held early in March and all were in hearty accord with a plan whereby a department for married young people and an additional adult department would be organized. Due to the enforced absence of our beloved superintendent this plan has been of necessity delayed. Mr. Theron Guthrie, our new superintendent, heartily endorsed the plan and hence the meeting on Tuesday of this week.

Many Southern Baptist churches of comparable size as ours have three, four and even five adult departments. In line with the best proven methods for Adult work the group assembled on Tuesday evening endorsed the following plan:

1. An additional young people's department for married young people ages 17-24 to meet in Y. M. C. A. with our present young people's department moving to the High School. There are at present 34 of this classification enrolled in our Sunday School.

2. That three Adult Departments to be organized along the following lines:

ADULT I	25 - 34	135
ADULT II	35 - 44	118
ADULT III	45 - up	300

3. That a "Day of Beginning Again" be held on promotion day, September 24. All class names will be set aside and each teacher will be assigned an age group. New classes may select names now in use if they desire.

We are confident that everyone will co-operate in this new endeavor of our Sunday School that we may together enlarge our teaching ministry under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

* * *

NOTE CHANGE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
TIME TO 9:40

SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Comparison	1949	1950	
Enroled	1530	1484	
Attendance	797	841	
		Con-	
	Enroled	Present	tacts
General Officers	10	9	73
Adult 1	225	116	189
Adult 2	373	197	180
Young People	116	81	51
Senior	73	28	0*
Intermediate	86	56	35
Junior 1	115	77	14
Junior 2	83	49	62
Primary 1	52	25	0*
Primary 2	62	32	10
Primary 3	61	40	69
Beginner 1	42	26	6
Beginner 2	48	28	0*
Nursery 1	14	8	5
Nursery 2	60	27	7
Nursery 3	64	43	12
TOTAL	1484	841	713

*No Contactis reported.

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NOTE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGE TO 9:40

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MORE OR LARGER CLASSES

The following is an excerpt from an article by W. L. Howse, Professor of Religious Education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas:

"Is it better to try to put more people into classes already functioning or is it better to organize more classes and seek to enroll more people in this manner? The way in which this question is answered determines the growth and effectiveness of Adult work. The weight of Sunday School opinion is on the side of having more classes for adults rather than trying to increase the size of the existing classes.

"Adult classes reach a saturation point in enrollment. If additional members are enrolled the average attendance of the class will increase very little. The larger the class enrollment the larger its list of absenteess will become. Some large classes now have one-third of the enrolled members present and two-thirds absent each Sunday. Classes which do not have more than forty enrolled, as a rule, have a much higher percentage of attendance. Growing Adult departments have continued to organize classes rather than overload a few."

— Selected.

TRAINING UNION

Old man WEATHER won the first round in our "Beat the Heat" campaign. The weather was 89 at 10:30 on Sunday morning, making our Training Union goal for that night 290. 240 were present. Come on and let's win the second round. Watch the thermometer in the vestibule of the church.

The Story Hour Department is leading in the "Do or Diet" program. They scored 316 points on Sunday evening. Remember the winning department eats TURKEY, the lowest — SOUP, and the in-betweens — BACON AND EGGS.

BANNERS

Efficiency — T.N.T. 79%.

Attendance — W. R. Rogers, 100%.

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VISITORS FROM MISSISSIPPI

The Intermediate Royal Ambassador soft ball team, of First Baptist Church of Laurel, Miss., champions of the Jones County R. A. League, will be our guests for this week-end. About 15 of these young men will arrive on Saturday morning. They will play our Intermediate team, coached by Mr. Emory Rogers, on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 on the Exchange field diamond.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL — 9:40

* * *

FORGETTING GOD

I forgot my Lord in the summer time,
Just the time I was needed most,
I was not away, but on each Lord's day
I failed to be at my post.

I forgot my church in the summer time
As I lazily lay in bed,
While the faithful few had my work to do
As I was spiritually dead.

I forgot my pledge in the summer time,
When He needed it most of all,
While my cash was spent, I was pleasure
bent,
Just off duty for God 'till fall.

If my Lord should come in the summer time
When from duty to God I'm free,
I wonder what I should do when my life is
through

If, by chance, He should forget me.

— J. W. Harvey.

LET'S BE BAPTISTS

We recently heard one of our great preachers in Texas say to a group of preachers, "Why can't Baptists be Baptists and quit trying to imitate others? Baptists do not have to apologize for a single doctrine or practice which distinguishes us from all others. We are no longer ridiculed but respected for a resolute stand on the great fundamental truths clearly taught in the Scriptures. The scholarship of the world has long since conceded that Baptists have the Bible on their side in controversial theological questions, from the virgin birth of Christ; the atonement through the death and resurrection of Christ; salvation by grace without works; baptism — the immersion of believers only; our democratic church polity, and on and on. Now, when a Baptist apologizes for any doctrine or practice of our churches, he compromises the truth of the New Testament. Some may question the statement made concerning the scholarship of the world conceding that we have the Bible on our side. If we had space and time we could cite statements from leading scholars of all denominations, including Catholics, to substantiate the claim. We have not only won the academic area; we have won and are winning on the field of active service. Baptists are growing faster than any major denomination in the nation. Southern Baptists alone baptized 334,862 last year. The largest churches in the United States, negro or white, bear the name Baptist. The largest Sunday Schools and Training Unions are fostered and promoted by Baptists. Baptists have won by daring to be Baptists. We have nothing to lose and all to gain by continuing to be just plain Baptists.

— Baptist Standard.

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MEET AND VISIT OUR NEW MEMBERS

By Letter:

134 — Mrs. Robert A. Moore, Carey's Lane, Warrington, Fla.

135 — Dr. Robert A. Moore, Cary's Lane, Warrington, Fla.

136 — Mr. Daniel V. Ward, 101 North E St.

137 — Mrs. Daniel V. Ward, 101 N. E St.

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NOTE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGE
TO 9:40

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

AUGUST 20 - 26

SUNDAY —

8:30 — Early Morning Worship.

9:40 — Sunday School.

11:00 — Morning Worship — Broadcast over WEAR.

6:45 — Training Union.

7:00 — Instruction Class for new members.

9:00 — Singspiration in lower auditorium.

MONDAY —

6:30 — Virginia Wingo Y. W. A. Supper.

TUESDAY —

6:30 — Youth Choir rehearsal.

7:30 — Adult Choir rehearsal.

7:30 — B. W. B. C. will have their monthly class meeting with Miss Marguerite Stephens, 813 N. Barcelona. Miss Lucille Cotten will be co-hostess.

WEDNESDAY —

7:15 — Morning Watch.

9:30 — Visitation Faithful Workers' Class. Luncheon at the home of Mrs. W. A. Webb.

6:15 — S. S. Workers' Supper. Faithful Workers' Class will assist the dietician.

SATURDAY —

3:00 — Primary 2 (7 year olds) social in the Log Cabin.

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LAST WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday School	841
Training Union	240
Offerings:	
Local and other.....	\$1,214.90
Building Fund	306.34
Total.....	\$1,521.24

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DIRECTORY

Pastor.....	Dr. Elwin L. Skiles
Educational Director.....	Thomas J. Draper
Financial Secretary.....	Mrs. G. T. Sutton
Secretary.....	Mrs. Thomas J. Draper
Treasurer.....	Paul W. Caro
Choir Director.....	Mrs. Maurice Davis
Organist.....	Mrs. J. F. Griffith
Librarian.....	Miss Kitty Sue Wiggins
Dietician.....	Mrs. G. F. Manning

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