

# The Baptist Builder

A Publication of First Baptist Church  
Palafox and LaRue — Pensacola, Fla.  
ELWIN L. SKILES, Ph.D., Pastor

Volume 1

DECEMBER 15, 1950

Number 40

## Success of Loyalty Campaign Assured

### FROM OUR PASTOR'S PEN . . .

Putting Christ into Christmas is a must for a Christian Christmas. May we suggest some gifts which will bless the giver and the cause of Christ:

1. A life, your life, dedicated to the living Christ.
2. A deed of kindness to some neglected person.
3. A share in world missions through a sacrificial gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.
4. A Christian testimony to some lost soul.
5. A gift to the Florida Baptist Children's Home for otherwise homeless children.
6. An offering to the church building fund.

These are some of the gifts which may be made to Christ. They honor Him whose birthday we commemorate.

We are grateful for the faithful ministry of those who make possible the splendid music which thrills us in all our services. Our choirs will present their program of inspiring Christmas music on Sunday evening. This service should be a "must" on every calendar.

### 88% of Budget Pledged By 44% of People

"Financial program for 1951 more than subscribed by the loyal members and friends of First Baptist Church." This is the announcement which we are confident the wonderful people of First Baptist will enable your deacons to make in the Sunday evening services.

Already, 798 of our people have pledged to give \$82,901. This represents 731 members of the church and 67 who are only members of church organizations. We wish to thank you for your magnificent response. May God enable you to do as well, if not better, than you indicated in your pledges.

This means that there are 926 local members of the church who have not committed themselves to the program. We know you are ready to make it a majority—not a minority—movement. May God lead you to do your best. Opportunities will be given for presenting your pledges in Sunday School. The every member canvass will begin Sunday afternoon.

## BUDGET RESPONSE THROUGH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

CLASS OR DEPARTMENT	Enrolled	Number Pledges	% Pledged
General Officers .....	10	10	100 %
Extension, Mrs. H. O. Williams, Supt.....	45	20	44 %
Adult 1 Officers, Howard Blackmon, Supt.....	5	4	80 %
Homemakers, Mrs. Mose Penton, Teacher....	21	9	43 %
Laura Austin, Mrs. W. Giles, Teacher.....	15	2	13 %
Deborah, Mrs. A. B. Holmes, Teacher.....	17	8	53 %
Martha, Mrs. E. A. Allen, Teacher.....	22	14	64 %
Business Ladies. Miss Bessie Yates, Teacher.	10	4	40 %
Big Brothers, Emory Rogers, Teacher.....	15	7	46 %
Frates, Wilson Harris, Teacher.....	9	5	55 %
Pope Shank, Clarence Dannelly, Teacher....	18	7	39 %
Adult 2 Officers, R. L. Brooks, Supt.....	4	4	100 %
Friendly, Mrs. Harold Gentry, Teacher.....	12	3	25 %
Reflectors, Mrs. Chas. Leamon, Teacher.....	20	12	60 %
Winsome, Mrs. Amos Garrett, Teacher.....	13	8	61 %
J. O. Y. Mrs. F. B. Keene, Teacher.....	12	9	75 %
Eager Workers, J. L. Hurt, Teacher.....	18	13	72 %
Fishermen, Harry Rooker, Teacher.....	14	8	57 %
Frontier, Ben Johns, Teacher.....	19	13	69 %
Adult 3 Officers, W. T. Osborn, Supt.....	5	4	80 %
Master Workmen, E. Dixie Beggs, Teacher..	50	38	76 %
Eager Workmen, H. R. Denham, Teacher....	18	13	72 %
Anglers .....	16	9	56 %
Bykota, Mrs. Chas. Deese, Teacher.....	29	16	55 %
Faithful Workers, Miss Lois Hardee, Teacher	31	18	60 %
T. E. L., Mrs. Amzie Wilson, Teacher.....	20	13	65 %
Convent' on Mrs. A. V. Freeman, Teacher....	17	12	70 %
Willing Workers, Mrs. R. C. Keith, Teacher	22	15	68 %
Lydia, Mrs. S. G. Kennedy, Jr., Teacher....	43	34	78 %

CLASS OR DEPARTMENT	Enrolled	Number Pledges	% Pledged
Young People 1 Officers, Mrs. H. R. Denham..	7	6	85 %
Ruth Class, Mrs. E. L. Skiles, Teacher.....	17	12	70 %
Fidelis, Mrs. Paul Caro, Teacher.....	15	7	46 %
Mary & Martha, Mrs. Marvin Lee, Teacher	11	5	45 %
Live Wires, Mrs. J. M. Godwin, Teacher....	10	4	40 %
Meshullan, J. O. Cameron, Teacher.....	17	5	28 %
Dispatchers, Dr. E. P. Ebanks, Teacher.....	11	5	45 %
Kingdom Seekers, Miss H. Watkins, Teacher	14	5	35 %
Young People 2 Officers, Mrs. J. L. Booker....	5	3	60 %
Golden Circle, Mrs. R. N. Pyle, Teacher....	34	12	35 %
Bible Crusaders, Mr. Oscar Brock, Teacher	10	5	50 %
Senior Dept., Mr. Frank Bradley, Supt.....	79	37	46 %
Intermediate, Mr. Ernest Gentry, Supt.....	79	48	60 %
Junior 1, Mrs. O. M. Vineyard, Supt.....	121	62	51 %
Junior 2, Miss Olive Swearingen, Supt.....	92	52	56 %
(Note: The following figures are for Adult Workers only).			
Primary 1, Mrs. K. K. Knight, Supt.....	12	8	67 %
Primary 2, Miss Iva Hart, Supt.....	10	9	90 %
Primary 3, Mrs. James Hurt, Supt.....	14	12	85 %
Beginner 1, Mrs. W. H. Dismukes, Supt.....	9	6	67 %
Beginner 2, Mrs. L. M. Gatlin, Supt.....	7	6	85 %
Nursery 1, Mrs. Joe Ladner, Supt.....	1	1	100 %
Nursery 2, Mrs. Angus Andrews, Supt.....	3	3	100 %
Nursery 3, Mrs. Russell Hirsch, Supt.....	9	8	93 %
Nursery 4, Mrs. J. L. Hackett, Supt.....	7	3	43 %
Sunday School Enrollment — Less Children in younger depts.	1134	681	60 %

# The WORLD HAS A HEART

## Not Uncouth—But Christian

A devout friend of mine accepted her assigned seat on an eastbound streamliner without a murmur. But she didn't like it. The person beside her was plain and uncouth. "Oh me," my friend thought, "I shall be bored all the way. What will I do?"

The train left the station. The soldiers and sailors in the coach were loud and boisterous, trying to cover up the tensions of war. My friend picked up a magazine. The uncouth woman opened her purse, took out a worn Bible, and began to read.

Three noisy sailors came by. One of them leered at the woman, "What do you think you are reading?" He meant his sarcasm.

She spoke for the first time, a rich smooth contralto voice, "I am reading God's book. May I read you some of it?" And without waiting for an answer she read, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." It was the fourteenth chapter of John. The effect was magic. Her voice had power and penetration. Her humility and her devotion held the three spellbound. Two more sailors joined the little group. Then a soldier.

The sailor who had leered stopped her. He was in tears. "Wait, I have a friend in the next coach who needs that." He disappeared and came back with his buddy. The plain woman with the rich voice read those blessed words of comfort once again.

Three days and nights she continued. She was the center of the coach and the train. People thronged about her, waiting for her to read the Bible and to explain its meaning.

My friend was melted in heart. "I was so ashamed," she said, "to think that I had thought myself better than that simple Christian. She was not uncouth at all. Her color, her wispy, kinky hair, her heavy African features did not hinder her Christian witness. Before the trip ended she had won three of those men to Jesus. It was the shortest, most thrilling three days' train trip I ever made."

Yes, the world has a heart, I say.

## Giving

A preacher in San Antonio, while ministering among the poor, stopped in front of a dilapidated shack of a family with two sons. As he was preparing to leave, he saw the older boy admiring his car. The minister explained that his brother had given him the auto.

Whereupon the little fellow looked up and said, "Gee, mister," (now all of you think you know what the little boy said. You think he said, "I wish I had a brother like that," but it is what he really said that is important). The little fellow looked up and said, "Gee, mister, I wish I could be a brother like that."

## A Coke A Week

He was a layman speaking in opening exercises when my attention was arrested. He was one of those with the rare art of taking statistics and bringing home the point.

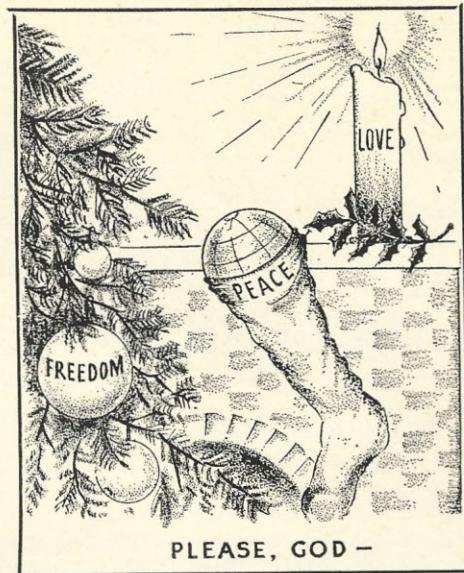
"A coke a week (or its equivalent) is what we Baptists gave in our association to missions last year," he said. Then searchingly he cast his eyes upon the adults—well over 100 of us. "And most people drink several a day."

I don't remember the rest of the talk. He'd already said too much,—or perhaps not enough. I just remembered that I was in one of the South's largest associations, seventy churches, and I felt more determined to keep missions at the forefront. We needed more than a "pause that refreshes"—rather a cause that convicts!

—ANDREW M. HALL

## What Do You Know About God?

Daniel A. Poling, editor of the *Christian Herald*, says that he was once asked by a young man, "What do you know about God?" Dr. Poling answered, "Mighty little, but what I know has changed my life."

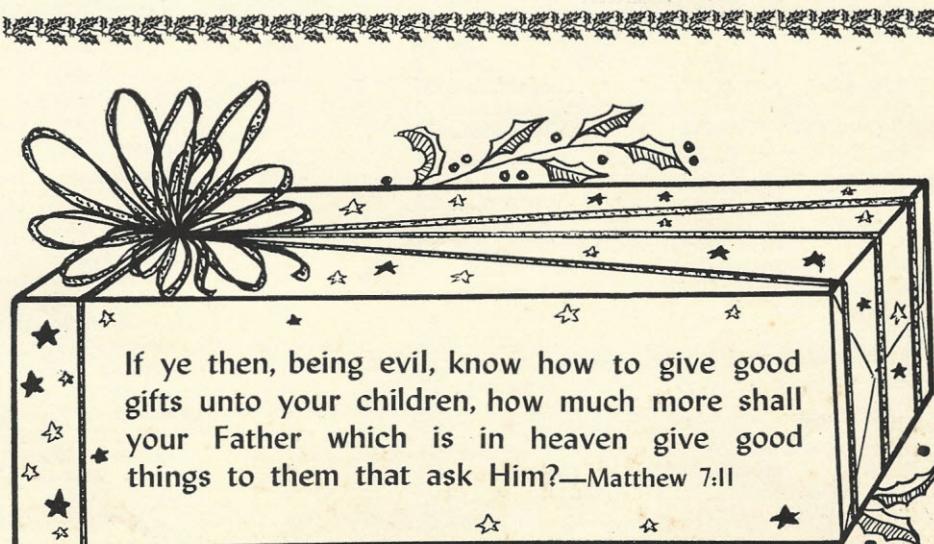


## Pardon for Eternal Life!

Some years ago an evangelist stood in the Illinois state prison at Joliet and preached to two thousand inmates. Fifty-seven were there for life. After the evangelist had preached a powerful sermon, he drew from his pocket a large envelope, and said, "I hold in my hand a pardon for one of your number."

The two thousand auditors were in breathless silence. The evangelist said, "It is a pardon for one under life sentence." Fifty-seven men grew pale with anxiety.

When the evangelist read the name of the man, he fainted, overcome with the joy of the glad tidings. When the man had received his pardon, the evangelist held up the Bible and said, "Now I hold in my hand a pardon for every one of you. This pardon was only for life. Here's a pardon for eternal life. Who will accept it?"



## Another Word for Christmas

One Christmas season General William Booth of the Salvation Army decided to send greetings to every unit scattered across the six continents. But cable rates were so expensive he knew he would be forced to confine his messages to a single word.

What would best express the spirit and challenge of Yuletide?

Finally, after deep thought, he made his choice. The messages read simple: "Others."

"That's Christmas in a word," the entire Salvation Army staff agreed.

—PHILIP JEROME CLEVELAND



He's our oldest missionary. He'll be ninety-seven December 18. Wouldn't you like to send him a birthday greeting? He's Dr. James Garvin Chastain, of Poplarville, Miss. With him are Stewardess Marion Peterson and his son, Dr. Judson Chastain.

## Christ Our Example

A gentleman had a lovely Chinese plate with curious raised figures upon it. One day it fell from the wall on which it was hung, and was cracked right across the middle.

Soon after, the gentleman sent to China for six more of these valuable plates and, to ensure an exact match, sent his broken plate as a copy. To his intense astonishment, when six months later he received the six plates, and his injured one, he found the Chinese had so faithfully followed his copy that each new one had a crack right across it!

If we imitate even the best of men we are apt to copy their imperfections, but if we follow Jesus, and take him as our example, we are sure of a perfect pattern.

## God With Us

Christ is easily lost in the Christmas confusion. Glittering street decorations, fancy gifts, and feasts can easily obscure the significance of the Nativity. For God blows no trumpets, sounds no fanfares, rings no bells, struts no jewels, bestows no purple robes. If showy ostentation had the answer, Bethlehem would not have been needed. Rome had that aplenty. It takes Christ to make a Christmas. The heart of Christmas is Emmanuel, which means "God with us," beside us to soften our sorrows, strengthen our weakness, lift our despair, and with the tangled threads of our lives weave a tapestry of beauty.

—RALPH H. RICHARDSON

## Still a Missionary at Ninety-Seven

"If I go down with the plane, it will be in the interest of foreign missions," said a ninety-seven year old retired Baptist minister and missionary as he prepared to take his first airplane ride.

The missionary was Dr. James Garvin Chastain, guest of honor at the Baptist Foreign Missions Conference at Ridgecrest in August. His flight was to Ridgecrest.

When Dr. Chastain, the oldest person connected with Southern Baptist foreign missions, was invited by the Foreign Mission Board to go to Ridgecrest, he was not sure he could make the trip by train or automobile from Poplarville, Miss., where he lives with his son, Dr. F. Judson Chastain, pastor of the First Baptist Church there. A plane trip was the only other way.

The aged veteran of missions traveled from Poplarville to New Orleans, the nearest passenger airport, in an ambulance. Another ambulance was waiting when the plane arrived at Asheville.

Dr. Chastain was born December 18, 1853, in Rara Avis, Itawamba County, Miss. He graduated from Mississippi College as valedictorian of his class in 1883. He received his Master of Theology Degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, 1888. It was that year, at the age of 34, that he went to Mexico as a missionary.

On his way to Saltillo, Mexico, Dr. Chastain was requested by his mission board to meet two young lady missionaries from Virginia, to serve as their escort. He met them in New Orleans, but in less than three weeks he had

persuaded one, Miss Lillian Wright, to become his bride.

Dr. Chastain's feebleness prevented attendance at all the conference gatherings, but he was helped to the platform to speak briefly on Friday evening when missions in Latin America was presented. His plea was for missionaries to Mexico and his greatest desire was to return there.

At another session Dr. Chastain expressed the feeling of each one present in the highest moment of the conference. It was at the Sunday night service. Five foreign mission appointees and one young German student from the Baptist Seminary in Zurich had told of their experiences in answering Christ's call. Dr. Baker James Cauthen had spoken earnestly on "Surrendered Lives." Then he had asked for volunteers. As the congregation sang "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go," one hundred twenty-two young people from all over the auditorium quietly left their places and walked onto the platform. Sixty-eight of the volunteers came for foreign mission service.

"Lord, our souls are about to burst our bosoms," Dr. Chastain said as he began the prayer of dedication.

Everyone who attended the Foreign Missions Conference had been helped by the presence of the oldest missionary. And he had clasped hands with a new missionary appointee to Mexico, he had spoken a word for his beloved mission field, and he had glimpsed in the hearts of today's young people a missionary consciousness that would surely carry some of them to undermanned Mexico. "I was shouting glad," he said.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

	Enrol.	Present	Contacts
By Comparison	1950	1949	
Enrolled	1402	1413	
Present	952	947	
Gen. Officers	10	10	78
Adult 1	128	82	97
Adult 2	112	80	105
Adult 3	252	198	269
Young People 1	102	53	38
Young People 2	49	22	48
Senior	79	46	52
Intermediate	79	60	60
Junior 1	121	88	85
Junior 2	93	66	75
Primary 1	46	30	10
Primary 2	46	33	22
Primary 3	60	36	20
Beginner 1	60	46	39
Beginner 2	48	35	
Nursery 1	9	6	9
Nursery 2	15	10	19
Nursery 3	62	32	40
Nursery 4	31	19	5
Total	1402	952	1063

Congratulations are in order for our Adult Departments. Ten new members were enlisted on last Sunday. Adult 1 led the way with seven. This puts us over the 1,400 mark in enrollment. Let's make it 1450 by January 1.

As we think of 1951, the first important date for our church activities is our ALL CHURCH BIBLE STUDY — January 15-19.

\* \* \*

## AMONG OUR MEMBERS . . .

The known sick:

Mrs. O. C. Butler underwent an operation at Sacred Heart Hospital. Mr. M. C. Gullott is ill at home. Mrs. M. P. King is ill at home.

Sympathy:

To Mrs. Minnie Cooper in the loss of her sister.

To Mr. M. B. Dawson in the loss of his mother.

\* \* \*

## GIDEON SUPPER

The Pensacola chapter of the Gideons will hold a supper meeting in our church on the evening of December 18, at 7:00. This organization has rendered a glorious Kingdom service throughout the years in reaching many for the Savior. Several of our men are members.

## SATURDAY AT 8 A.M.

## FINAL SERVICE

## OF WEEK OF PRAYER

## FOR WORLD PEACE

## TRAINING UNION

TRAINING UNION IS A FACT — You can't prove it worthless.

TRAINING UNION IS A FACTOR — It greatly aids in Church work.

TRAINING UNION IS A FACTORY — It turns out leadership.

	Enrol.	Present	Contacts
Gen. Officers	10	10	40
Adult 1	37	26	0
Adult 2	43	28	0
Young People	55	34	0
Seniors	34	23	0
Intermediates	42	24	0
Junior 1	44	23	35
Junior 2	33	19	50
Nurs'y Story Hour	20	16	0
Begin. Story Hour	9	4	0
Prim'y Story Hour	28	10	0
	364	217	125
New Member Class		1	
Total Present		218	

## BANNERS

Attendance — Visitors Union 88%  
Efficiency — Original Union 79%

\* \* \*

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Kingry Elected

The following Youth Council officers were elected on last Sunday: President, Bill Kingry; 1st Vice President, Mary Kay Denham; 2nd Vice President, Judy Smith; 3rd Vice President, Betty Graham. The other officers will be appointed by the Council representatives at an early date. The places to be filled are: Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Youth Paper Editor, Y. W. A., Morning Watch, Singspiration representatives and five councilmen each from Young People, Senior and Intermediate departments. Pray for our young people in all their endeavors.

We rejoice in the election of Ralph Chandler to the presidency of the Alabama State Hi-Y Convention.

## ONLY 3 SUNDAYS REMAIN

Yes, only three more Sundays remain in 1950! Three weeks that give us an opportunity to present our tithes and offerings to the Lord and His church for the current year.

Three more weeks to complete our 50 in 50 Building Fund Pledges and three more weeks to make our gifts to the Lord upon which we can claim credit on our Federal Income Tax report for 1950.

As the year draws to a close, many will receive additional monies in the form of bonuses and dividends. Let us remember to make our Love gifts to Christ at Christmas. He is God's love gift to us.

## CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PROGRAM — SUNDAY EVENING AT 7:30

## OPPORTUNITIES OF THE

### WEEK

#### DECEMBER 17 - 23

##### "ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK"

8:30 — Worship. Pastor Preaching.  
9:40 — Sunday School. 1,100 goal.  
11:00 — Worship. Pastor Preaching.  
Broadcast over Station WEAR  
4:00 — "Youth in Religion", WCOA.  
6:15 — Training Union.  
7:30 — Special Christmas Musical Program by combined choirs.  
8:30 — Singspiration in lower auditorium.

##### MONDAY —

7:30 — Reflectors Christmas Party at the home of Mrs. Irvin Roberts, 1610 W. Chase.

##### TUESDAY —

2:30 — Willing Workers Class Christmas Party in the home of Mrs. J. T. Mackey, Beach Haven.  
6:30 — Youth choir practice.  
7:30 — Adult choir practice.  
7:00 - 8:30 — Junior 1 Christmas Party in Junior 1 Sunday School room.

##### WEDNESDAY —

7:00 A.M. — Morning Watch.  
6:15 — S. S. Workers Supper. Martha Class will assist the dietician.  
7:00 — Departmental meetings.  
7:45 — Prayer and Praise Service.

##### THURSDAY —

10:00 A.M. — Convention Bible Class all day Christmas Party at the home of Mrs. A. V. Freeman, 1610 East LaRue. Luncheon at 1 p.m.  
7:30 — Faithful Workers Business and Social meeting at the home of Mrs. J. S. Baisden, 1818 E. Strong.  
7:30 — Martha Class Christmas Party at the home of Mrs. E. L. Skiles, 140 N. Spring. All honorary members are invited.

\* \* \*

## LAST SUNDAY AT A GLANCE

Sunday School ..... 952  
Training Union ..... 218

### OFFERING:

Local and Missions ..... \$1,743.91  
Building Fund ..... 314.23

Total ..... \$2,058.14  
576 Offering Envelopes Used.

\* \* \*

### MEET AND VISIT OUR NEW MEMBERS

For Baptism:  
11 — Alice Lynn Henderson, 1006 E. Gonzalez.  
12 — Billy Kreitlein, 1520 1/2 E. Scott.

### THE BAPTIST BUILDER

Published weekly by The First Baptist Church, 500 N. Palafox St., Pensacola, Fla. Subscription price 50 cents per year. Entered as second class matter April 21, 1950, at the post office at Pensacola, Florida, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Tom Draper, Editor.