

The Baptist Builder

A Publication of First Baptist Church
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WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is missing the mark.

Sin is rebellion against God.

Sin is sensuality and pride.

Sin is the down-pull in man.

Sin is the force for unhappiness in the universe.

Sin is the devil.

Sin is the devil's work.

Sin is the accident within nature.

Sin is whatever is short of fulfillment.

Sin is selfishness.

Sin is breaking the law.

Sin is violating principle.

Sin is against the development of human values and personalities.

Sin is against life and health.

**Sin is an improper function, for an unnatural purpose,
by an unhealthy cause.**

Sin is choosing good when better, or best, is available.

Sin is whatever ought not.

Sin is failure in what ought.

**Sin is doing, or being, or thinking, or feeling that
which hurts and (or) hinders more than it blesses.**

**Sin is not doing, or being, or thinking, or feeling that which
would bless more and hurt less.**

—Adapted from C. Earl Cooper

Viewpoint

BY NATHAN C. BROOKS, JR.

Dr. Frank Laubach is being brought to Pensacola by a group of our Methodist friends. He will speak at 3:00 p.m. next Sunday at the First Methodist Church, and at 10:00 a.m. on Monday at the Richards Memorial Church. Many of our people will want to hear him. Literally tens of thousands of people around the world are able to read because of his teaching ministrv.

Rabbi Samuel H. Goldenson, of Temple Emanu-El, New York City, is to be the guest speaker at an Institute on Judaism at Temple Beth El on Monday, January 20. The ministers of the community have been invited to attend.

The Howard College Choir will sing at the Warrington Baptist Church, Thursday, January 23, 7:30 p.m. There will be no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to assist the choir with its expenses.

On Thursday night of last week I left here at 11:15 p.m. on a quick trip to Richmond on some Carver School business. It was a privilege to sit in conference with our Foreign Mission Board leaders. Drs. Cauthen, Hill, Sadler, Means, and Crawley, along with Elmer West, make a great team as they lead Southern Baptists in Foreign Mission endeavor. Dr. Goerner was absent from the meeting, but he is certainly a worthy successor to Dr. Sadler. Let us remember to pray for these leaders.

Another Trip to Jacksonville this week is giving me a look in on the State Evangelistic Conference. Our evangelistic opportunities are all about us.

Spiritual Inbreeding—I like this editorial from the August, 1957 issue of **Church Management**.

“Spiritual inbreeding in the local church can best be explained by a hypothetical example. In every church there is an inner circle of local people. They can be counted on to attend the service, support the various appeals, work on special projects like calling counseling, and personal work. This is probably a normal situation.

When the minister and the people in this inner circle begin to feel that they are the church, we see evidences of inbreeding. The situation soon develops where the minister preaches to this little group; most of his pastoral work is directed toward the people in this group; he reaches a point where he depends on them to finance special projects and become leaders in every local church enterprise.

A little farther along the members in the group have learned to speak a different language from that of the members outside the circle. They react differently to appeals. They are, they think, the real force in the church and without them the

local organization would fold up. Eventually a chasm exists between the inner circle and the membership at large. The purpose of the inner group has been reversed. Rather than seeking to enlarge the inner circle, their technique narrows it year by year.

Every church needs an inner circle of consecrated people. But it needs these people for program building which includes the expansion of the circle itself. Without new leadership the church gradually dies. If the inner circle grows smaller year by year, you have a dying church. On the other hand, if the church has discovered the method of increasing the inner circle so that each year it is stronger than before, you have a growing church. As a church grows larger the problem of inbreeding is also enlarged.

Almost every congregation of any size has leadership in its outer circle which can strengthen the program. With an inner circle in control of the church program there may develop a blindness which shuts out the possible use of such leadership.

Too many ministers plan their work for and with the inner circle. Too many denominational publications edit their pages for those in the inner circle. A reversal of this tendency is difficult to achieve but is necessary if the congregation is to become a living Christian organism.”



Associational LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE Monday, January 27 Whitfield

Dr. Elmer West, the Personnel Secretary of our Foreign Mission Board, will be the inspirational speaker at the Leadership Conference to be held at the Whitfield Memorial Baptist Church Monday, January 27. Members of our church should plan now to attend this meeting. The afternoon session will begin at 3 o'clock. The evening session will begin at 7 o'clock.

IT'S HERE

The New
Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists
Presenting Their History, Doctrine, Polity,
Life, Leadership, Organization,
and Work
Is Now in Our Library.
Published in two Volumes, this important
reference work, sells for \$16.50. Some of
our people may want their own copy.



MISSIONS CONFERENCE

A special conference for youth who have made commitments to full-time service is being planned for the weekend of April 18-19 in Jacksonville. We are hoping that a good group of our youth can attend.

We are planning a meeting of our Life Service Group for Friday, February 28th.

YOUTH WORLD CONFERENCE

The 5th Baptist Youth World Conference sponsored by the Youth Department of the Baptist World Alliance is being held in Toronto, Canada, June 27-July 2. Mr. Bizzell has the details concerning this meeting for any who might be interested.

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUTH WEEK OFFICERS

This past Sunday members of our Intermediate, Senior and Young People's Departments had an opportunity to make suggestions to the Nominating Committee for the 1958 Youth Week Officers. Again next Sunday slips will be available in these departments for those who did not turn in one last Sunday. The Committee is asking that each person turn in only one list of suggestions. Each suggestion will be considered by the Nominating Committee as they meet to suggest these Youth Week leaders.

Associational RECREATION WORKSHOP January 28-31

Mrs. Agnes Lake Pylant, Secretary of the Recreation Service, Baptist Sunday School Board, will be in our Association to lead in a four-day Recreation Workshop January 28-31. There will be conferences each evening at 7:30 p.m. led by Mrs. Pylant and Mr. John Bewley of Lake Charles, Louisiana.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, January 19, 5:00 P.M.
in Adult "A" Department

Attendance at the last Executive Committee Meeting, which was just before Christmas, was an all-time low. To make up for this, we are hoping to have a full attendance of all General Officers, Department Officers, Leaders, Sponsors and Presidents. The film strip on the work of the Executive Committee will be shown.

MONTHLY OFFICERS' COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 20

6:30 p.m.—Supper

6:55 p.m.—General Promotion Period

7:15 p.m.—Department Meetings

7:30 p.m.—Unions Meet for Planning

8:00 p.m.—Closing Period

We are moving our Officers' Council Meeting a week early because of the Associational Leadership Conference to be held on the 27th. We hope that this will not affect our attendance and that every union will be well represented Monday night.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

OUR KNOWN SICK: Baptist Hospital—Mrs. Nina Frye, Mrs. W. B. Townley, Mrs. Bert Heine, Mrs. Jessie C. Brown. Sacred Heart Hospital—James Atchison, Miss Bessie Johnson, Mrs. Floyd Lee Thompson. Naval Hospital—Mr. Harry Sampley.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Smalley, upon the birth of their daughter, Susan Jane, January 8. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Smith upon the birth of their daughter, Susanne, January 13.

SYMPATHY TO: Mr. Lon Roberts upon the death of his uncle; Mrs. W. T. Osborn in the passing of her father.

BROTHERHOOD SUPPER MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 6:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: MR. E. DIXIE BEGGS, JR.

Tickets are now available from the following persons: Lon Roberts, Jr. in Adult A; W. L. Warren and Joe Ladner in Adult B; T. A. Wash in Adult C; Claude Vice and U. E. Jutila in Adult D; R. C. Merritt and John Myrick in Adult E; Jim McCaskill in Young People A; Robert Jernigan in Teacher Training Class; Jim Drexler, W. P. Mooty, Clyde Bizzell, R. L. Kendrick, and the Church Office.



Music Notes

By JESS MILLER

One Sunday my father sang a solo in a service attended by one of the greatest voice teachers and one of the severest critics of singing and singers in the country. After the service this teacher-critic complimented my father quite profusely. Dad blushed and stated that he knew there was much to be criticized. The teacher-critic then stated that he listened to volunteer singers in churches for worship and enjoyment, not criticism. This man has been known to get up and walk out on professional singers' concerts because the singers "changed their method of tone production just once," yet he goes to church and is moved by the dedicated efforts of amateurs. I believe that there is an obvious lesson there for all us: for the singers, dedication to our contribution to the worship services; for the congregation, worshipful listening.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Take good care of my robe. Hang it up neatly and in the right place.

Take care of my music. Take it out of the folder and put it neatly on the stack after church. Put my folder and hymn book back in their niche.

Attend every choir rehearsal. Why every one? There is just too much going on to miss any. We work on music for seven weeks or so ahead. We have a great obligation to the worshippers and to God to do the very best we can.

If I just cannot make it to rehearsal, call the director and let him know for planning purposes. You, indeed, are important. Your absence may necessitate a change of plans, so please call if you cannot make it.

* * *

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Letter:

34. James Ronald Shelley, 838 W. Mallory Street.

* * *

LOOKING AT LAST SUNDAY

Sunday School Attendance.....	926
Members Present.....	891
New Members.....	4
Visitors.....	31
(Attendance one year ago.....)	(1027)
Escambia County Jail.....	17
Total Sunday School Attendance.....	943
Training Union Attendance.....	260
Members Present.....	239
New Members.....	2
Visitors.....	19
(Attendance one year ago.....)	(282)
Additions to church membership.....	1
TITHES AND OFFERINGS:	
Budget.....	\$2,922.57
Special.....	328.05
Building Fund, First Baptist.....	566.74
TOTAL OFFERING.....	\$3,817.36



SUNDAY, JANUARY 19—

- 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages. Theron Guthrie, Supt.
- 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Pastor
- 4:30 p.m.—Youth Choir Rehearsal in Chapel.
- 5:00 p.m.—Training Union Executive Committee Meeting in Adult "A" Dept.
- 5:05 p.m.—Baptist Hour on WCOA. Speaker: Dr. Roy O. McClain. Subject: "Three Cheers!"
- 6:10 p.m.—Training Union for all ages. Clarence Taylor, Director.
- 7:30 p.m.—Evening Worship. Pastor.
- 8:30 p.m.—Intermediate Fellowship. Married Young People's Dept.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20—

- 6:30 p.m.—Training Union Monthly Officers' Council Meeting begins with Supper. Young People "B" Department serving.
- 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts meet in Lower Auditorium.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21—

- 10:00 a.m.—Missionary Round Table.
- 4:00 p.m.—Beginner Sunbeams.
- 6:30 p.m.—Brotherhood Supper Meeting. Mr. E. Dixie Beggs, speaker.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22—

- 4:45 p.m.—Cherub Choir (6-8) in Junior 10.
- 4:45 p.m.—Carol Choir (9-12) in Junior 9.
- 4:45 p.m.—Concord Choir (13-14) in Adult "B" Dept.
- 6:00 p.m.—Sunday School Officers' and Teachers' Meeting begins with supper. Ruth Class of Adult "A" serving.
- 6:30 p.m.—Primary 6-7 Sunbeams meet in Room 27.
- 6:30 p.m.—Primary 8 Sunbeams meet in Room 26.
- 6:30 p.m.—Junior 9 G. A. meets in Room 23.
- 6:30 p.m.—Junior 9-10 R. A. meets in Intermediate Department.
- 6:30 p.m.—Junior 10-11 G. A. meets in Rm. 25.
- 6:30 p.m.—Junior 11-12 R. A. meets in Married Young People's Dept.
- 6:30 p.m.—Intermediate G. A. meets in Rm. 24.
- 6:30 p.m.—Intermediate R. A. meets in Lower Auditorium.
- 7:00 p.m.—Teacher Improvement Period.
- 7:45 p.m.—Prayer Service and Business Conference.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23—

- 9:30 a.m.—CHURCH
- 2:30 p.m.— WIDE VISITATION.
- 7:00 p.m.—
- 7:15 p.m.—Church Choir Rehearsal.

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Jesse Miller, Interim Minister of Music..... HE 3-7596
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