

THE LAYMEN'S VOICE

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of the
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Bethel A.M.E. Church, Fantano, California

Southern California

The Christmas spirit was in action Sunday December 17, when eight churches were represented at Bethel A. M. E. church at Fantano, Calif., to encourage those loyal members who are determined that A.M.E. church will progress. Chaplin Lucy Minor opened Devotionals.

Persons participating in the program were: Rev. Frank W. Harris and choir, San Bernardino, Calif., Benjamin H. Inghram, Brother Shaw, Mrs. H. Pettigrew, Brother Pettigrew, Presiding Elder Quinn, San Diego District, Rev. J. L. Glover, Second A.M.E. church and Rev. Conquest. They all gave encouraging remarks.

Mr. Coley W. Stafford, branch president, spoke in behalf of the laymen and the loyal support they have given the circular church all during the year.

We closed with greetings for the holidays, praising God from whom all blessings flow. We were then refreshed with a delicious repast.

Mrs. Lulu White, president.

Prolong the life and beauty of plants with gentle sudsing. When dust and grime settle on the leaves, the plant has difficulty in breathing. Each leaf needs a soap-and-water sponging at least once a week to keep it healthy and glossy.

If Amos Were Living Today What Would His Prophecy Be?

Nebraska Conference.
By Mrs. O. M. Blount, Kansas
City, Kans.

IF AMOS WERE LIVING TODAY, what would be his prophecy; to whom would he prophecy; where would he go to deliver his message? These questions leap forcibly before me, when I think of my subject.

When we think of the lawlessness in America; lawlessness in Europe; lawlessness in Asia, in Africa and in every continent upon the globe; when we read that the vast majority of defendants in our courts today are under twenty years of age, then we would think that Amos would begin here his prophecy thusly:

WE WHO ARE CHRISTIANS, concerned about the youth of today, it is a most distressing problem. What is going to become of our country when the youth of today come to be its citizens of tomorrow?

Are the ideals of the stage, are the ideals of the divorce courts, are the heroes of the brutal fights, are the dealers in white slavery, are the traitors of the Constitution, are the would be assassins, are those who forget God's house and his worship, are those who rob God of his tithe and who turn the "Lord's Day" into revelry and gain, drunkenness and debauchery, are these people who will make our nations?

"WOE TO YOU WHO ARE AT EASE, woe unto you Europe, woe unto you Russia, woe unto you America. You are tithing mint and anise and cummin, but leaving undone justice, mercy and faith.

"You have forgotten: the worth of the individual, you have sold human beings as mere chattel, you have exploited the poor, the widows and the orphans, by your excess taxes. You have flaunted your possessions openly before innocent children because of your selfishness. You have crushed the humble and needy. You have laid waste your field of plenty for personal gains. You can no longer find security in barriers of steel. You have been warned time after time. Your walls have crumbled, your fortresses have toppled.

"Have you so soon forgotten the agony, heartaches, distress and wantonness you experienced in World War I? The forces of destruction have brought low the puny boundaries you labored so long to establish.

"TURN YE, TURN YE, ye supposed-to-be Christian people. Turn

ye to God; the God of Abraham, of Jacob and of Isaac. The God of Martin Luther, of Livingstone and Richard Allen, the God of the brave and dauntless missionaries who have sacrificed even their lives to help men know the true and forgiving God.

TURN YE TO THE GOD OF YOUR FOREFATHERS, Repent and acknowledge your sins and transgressions. Assemble yourselves in the high seats in your congress, in your parliament, in your state legislatures in your county and city meetings, your Chambers of Commerce, your town halls, your civic organizations, your clubs, yea in your churches. Can't you see what is going on in this land of yours; in homes of the poor, in homes of the rich, in your market places, in your capitol, the very seat of your government, in your places of worship, your mock worship? Remember "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me," said the Lord.

"HEAR, O HEAR AMERICANS, lift up your heads, awake from your day dreaming. You are no longer slaves to the past. The light of understanding, broadens these modern days. You have vision. No longer do you need walk in darkness. You have a Saviour, Jesus Christ The Lord who came upon this earth — lived and dwelled among you, teaching and preaching the will of God, and who is the embodiment of the will of God revealed to you. Why would you continue to store up violence and hover robbery in your palaces? Why would you young beautiful maidens give your body for lust and live in drunkenness? Why would you strong young men lay waste your physical strength for a passing immoral folly? Hear ye, young men, young women, older men and older women. God lives today as he has always lived. He is a forgiving God, and his promises never fail.

WILL YOU NOT HARKEN even after World War II, when your beautiful, mansions, your cathedrals, your fine historical buildings, your modern cities were hewn down by one blase of atomic energy? Would you continue in your sins and wickedness, when thousands, yes, millions and millions of your young men lay dead upon the battlefield day after day, and the wail of war guns deafened the ears of even young babies in their mothers arms, and impaired their usefulness to human-

Dr. Farrell Is Re-Elected To Presidency

The Laymen's League of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. church, Jefferson City, Missouri, has elected the following officers for the 1950-51 conference year: Dr. Alfred Farrell, president; Mrs. P. B. Eans, vice president; Mrs. Julia Brooks, secretary; Dr. Willis Byrd, assistant secretary; Mrs. M. T. Preston, treasurer, and Mr. Harry Hawkins, chaplain. Dr. Farrell, associate professor of English at Lincoln University. Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Hawkins were re-elected to their positions.

On Sunday, January 28, 1951, the League will observe Laymen's Day with a special program designed to highlight the work of laymen in the A.M.E. church.

Mrs. Julia Brooks, secretary

ity? And today you have a growing nation of man hating people.

Hear Ye the words of the great Saviour who came to atone for your sins. Who gave himself a sacrifice for you. Hear his words "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, mind and strength". Can you not perceive of this meaning for you? And—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self." Can you not see that love is the binding cord? Love is the cement that holds. Love is the connecting link. Paul gave you a fine sermon on love in his writing. 1 Corinthians 13th Chapter. Now I give you a new version. "Thus saith the Lord,"—

"Though America speaks with the tongues of men and of angels, and does not care, (not concerned about people, minorities, displaced persons, war refugees, those in bondage) she is become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though she may have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge (even to the cracking of the atom) and though she has all faith so that she could remove mountains, and does not care (actions speak louder than words) she is nothing. To care means to suffer long and be kind, not to envy, not to be proud or puffed up.

Those who care do not behave themselves unseemly, seek not their own, are not easily provoked, think no evil. They rejoice not in iniquity, but rejoice in the truth.

Those who care bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things.

Caring never fails, but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease, whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophecy in part but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part, shall be done away.

When America was young, she spoke as a child, and thought as a child (put up tariffs like a fence to guard her industries, few and as they were, made a Monroe Doctrine to protest her adolescence) but now that America is of age, she must put away childish things.

For now we are seeing through a glass darkly; but then face to face. Now America knows in part but then shall she know even as also she is known.

And now abideth faith, hope and caring, these three; but the greatest of these is—"To Care."

2nd Church Celebrated Their First Anniversary

Southern California

The Laymen's League of Second A.M.E. church in Los Angeles, Calif., celebrated their first anniversary's success on December, 21st. The affair took the form of a Christmas Dinner with a Christmas tree and exchanging of gifts, at the home of the president, Mr. M. E. Webb, who guided us through a very successful year, spiritually and financially.

Brother Webb, who has been elected to the electoral College from Second church, excels all others where courage, understanding and patients is concerned, and the laymen are proud to have him as a leader.

Mrs. Goldie Fant was in charge of recreation and songs. Brother Dupree acted as Santa Claus and Mrs. Roberta Davis was hostess, assisted by Mrs. Elsie Francious.

The table groaned under the weight of the 25 lb. turkey with all the trimmings.

Covers were laid for the following: Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Buckner, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Webb, Mrs. Clara Woodson, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Goldie Fant, Mrs. Fransoa, Mrs. H. Harrison, Roberta Davis, Elsie Francious, Virginia Alexander, the two Misses Webbs, Brother T. Mabin and Brother R. V. Dupree.

Brother Webb gave a talk on the subject of **Spiritual Guidance in Minds of the Youth of the Church**.

Virginia Alexander, reporter.

Sunday School Lesson

The Great Teacher

Scripture—Mark 3:13-14; 34.
*Memory Selection — And he said unto them, Take heed that ye hear. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you. And unto you that hath shall more be given.

Present Day Application By Frederick D. Jordan Los Angeles, Calif.

Jesus was the Great Teacher. One writer said that He used parables simply to help His hearers to understand him. He made use of this kind of teaching from first to last. His illustrations served always to set forth concretely some truth concerning the relation of men to God, or concerning His Kingdom and their relation to it. This form of teaching was welcome to His hearers and served as one of the attractions to draw men to Him. Oriental teachers made large use of illustrations, but in this Jesus stand unique, not in that He used parables but in the simplicity and effective beauty of those which He used. The parable of the seed growing secretly is striking. Jesus impresses His hearers how a man, after he has sown the seed for his future harvest, neither sees nor knows how the process of germination, springing, ripening, etc., is carried forward, but that he definitely reaps the harvest when the proper time comes. Apply this parable to your life today, remembering how plain Jesus has made it, that once we sow a seed, the harvest is sure. "How careful then ought we to live, With what religious fear!"

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