Southwestern Bible School Opens Fifth Year

Over mountain, plain and sea, by many different means of transportation, from various walks of life, and widely separated states, from farm and village and city, came the young men and women to enroll for the fifth year of Southwestern Bible School. The student who came the greatest distance was, doubtless, Miss Edith Sumrall from Gatun, Canal Zone.

When the Bugle sounded, a fine group, tho not so large as in other years, gathered in the Enid Gospel Tabernacle at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, October 1, for the first chapel service of the year.

Five of the faculty members, P. C. Nelson, president; Mrs. Annie Bamford, Wm. B. McCafferty, newly elected member of the staff; Miss Celia Swank, and Robert McCutcheon were on the platform; C. A. Samuell, recently appointed to take charge of the music department, was not present but will begin his work soon.

It was announced that there would be a radio program given by the school every Wednesday afternoon from 3:45 to 4:45 p. m., over KCRC of Enid (1370 kilocycles).

ENROLL IN SOUTHWESTERN AT ONCE
THE LOST CHRIST

By Elzie Templeton

A sermon preached by Elzie Templeton in the Enid Gospel Tabernacle:

"And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and His mother knew not of it, but they supposing Him to have been in the company went a day's journey; and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances. And when they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem seeking Him. And it came to pass that after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions." Luke 2:49-46.

The great feast was over! Old acquaintances had been renewed; new friendships formed; the passover week fulfilled; the benediction pronounced. "Good-by"s and "God bless you"s were heard and again every trail and highway was filled with worn out Jews and Galileans, returning to their various homes.

What a wonderful feast!

With minds absorbed with the many things which the celebration had brought into their experience, the parents of Jesus had gained a day's journey toward their home in Nazareth.

"But, O, where is Jesus?" They ask each other anxiously.

Where was the Christ, who just a week before had made that same trail seem so short and cheerful? Where was the heavenly smiles, and the heart cherished whispers from their wonderful prophet-child?

"We see He is not with us" they tell each other. "But there is no need to be alarmed, He must be somewhere in the company."

Yes, perhaps Christ can be found in the congregation that attends our church, or I suppose He could ever be found among our kinsfolk. Is not that the way we think today? Or we say "My mother was a wonderful Christian," trying to make ourselves content with the remembrance of some one else's experience.

The trouble with the great mass of mankind today is that they are journ-
eying the road of life alone, without
the blessed presence and help of
Christ, the Saviour.

You ask me "What is the matter
with Enid tonight?" See her young
boys and girls parading the streets at
a very late hour; theatres and ball
rooms overflowing; while fathers and
mothers are seated at a card table or
have gone to bed perfectly contented,
saying to themselves, "O, well, daugh-
ter must have a good time you know".
Can any one doubt in view of condi-
tions like these, that in such a home,
Christ is a lost Christ?

The only answer to the great crime
wave in America is that our nation
needs Christ. Three hundred and
twenty seven murders in Detroit last
year. Four hundred in Chicago.
Eighteen hundred in Chicago the last
six years and only twenty four pun-
ished. Why are there more murder-
evrs loose and unpunished than there
are clergymen of all denominations?
Why are two out of every three child-
ren in this country un instructed in
religion. Let me say again, "America
has lost the Christ."

At last the way has grown too
hard and dreary—hills too high;
valleys too lonely, and hearts too
heavy. Back again toward Jerusalem
go Joseph and Mary earnestly seeking
once more that lost Jewel.

May God help us not to sit down
when we have left the Christ behind
by reason of some alluring temptation
or perhaps by having our minds over-
charged with so many good things,
in the natural, thinking He will be
along soon and take up His abode with
us. The only thing to do is to quickly
make a start toward the very same
place where we left Him.

Notice that it is the place where
we left Him, not the place where He
left us, for the promise is "I will
never leave thee nor forsake thee."
(Hebrews 13:5) Praise the Lord.

Dear hearts, you that are here to-
night, who once knew the Lord; you
once had a ringing testimony. You
once enjoyed a front seat or a place
on the rostrum. But now coldness
and indifference has come between.
Now you can scarcely get inside the
door. Let me say that you were the
one who left the Christ, and you
surely must go back to the place you
left Him to find Him.

Back Joseph and Mary go, inquir-
ing among kinsfolk and acquaintances,
But to no avail.

"Have you seen the Christ?" they
ask. But the kinsfolk and acquaint-
ances were contenting themselves by
supposing Christ to be in the com-
pany.

Jerusalem is reached. A city wide
search is made. Passers by are stop-
ped. "Have you seen anything of the
holy child Jesus? Darkness closes
the day. Dawn brings another. Still
no trace of the lost child. Poor Joseph
and Mary, worn and sad, renew the
search but to no avail. It was not
until three days, yes, three days of
earnest seeking that they found any
trace of the child.

It is much easier to lose the Christ
than it is to find Him. To find Him
with that reality, peace, and joy, He
provided you with before you lost
Him.

Three days were almost spent.
"Where can He be? Surely He is
still here. You know this is where
we left Him."

"Shall we go home without Him?"
Joseph asks.

"O, no, no," says Mary, "that will
never do." Where shall we look?"
"Let's go to the Temple."

Thank God for the man or woman
who is anxious enough to find Christ
that it brings them to the house of
God. While of course he can be found
and has been found on street corners,
behind plows, in the homes, and on
highways, but yet a large majority
find the Saviour in the house of God.

To be continued next issue.
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