



# OUR CHRIST for OUR COUNTRY

J. B. LAWRENCE

*The great principles of the Christian religion, if applied in actual life, will make all living Christian. We need Christ for our country in order that these principles may become dominant in our country's life.*

HOME MISSION BOARD  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Atlanta, Ga.



## **OUR CHRIST FOR OUR COUNTRY**

**C**HRIST has called us into a campaign for the conquest of the world through the preaching of the Gospel. Every resource we have in men and money, every institution and every church must be mobilized for and dedicated to the God-given task of preaching Christ and Him crucified to a lost world.

The strategic point of approach to this world-task is the homeland. Christ must conquer in the homeland if we expect to win victories for Him in lands afar. We must show that the Gospel of Jesus Christ can solve the problems of the modern world by solving those problems here at home.

### ***Our First Task***

Our first task in giving our Christ to our country is the evangelization of our land. The Gospel must be preached to the Indians, the foreigners, the underprivileged, the Negroes—to every race, nationality, kindred, tribe and cast—that all may know of His saving grace and may accept Him as Master and Lord.

The Gospel must be preached to all our people. The up and out, and the down and out must have the claims of Christ pressed in upon their hearts. This must be the burden of our hearts until all in our land have heard and heeded the call of Christ to repentance and faith.

## ***Christ in Education***

The forces that make for culture must be brought under the control of the forces that make for character.

A godless educational system means ultimately a godless nation. If knowledge is used without fear of God or regard for man, it releases forces that will destroy the very civilization it creates. We must win for Christ in the field of the intellect if we would make Him supreme as King of kings and Lord of lords in the modern world order.

### ***Solving Economic Problems***

The forces that make for wealth, progress and prosperity must be brought under the control of the forces that make for the building of the kingdom of God.

We have on our hands a social, economic, and moral problem of tremendous significance, a problem that has in it a threatening menace to the present structure of society. We cannot go on in the old order. Men who are selfish and grasping using the machinery of this present age and controlled exclusively by the profit motive will produce a social order in which there are a few immensely wealthy men at one end of the line and the great mass of humanity completely pauperized at the other end of the line. Never have we needed the Gospel more than we need it now.

### ***A New Social Order***

The forces in our social order that shape and mold our social life must be brought under the

sovereignty of Christ so as to establish a Christ-like social order among men.

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### *Giving Christ to Our Country*

As Christians, we believe that only Christ for our country is the solution for our problems. Only the Great Physician can heal our hurt and restore our health.

The Home Mission Board is giving itself to the task of giving our Christ to our country. The Board believes that the heart and soul of missions is the making and baptizing of disciples. It is therefore majoring on preaching the Gospel among the Indians, the foreigners, the Negroes, in the congested sections and centers of our land, and in Cuba and Panama. We do not believe that the mission task in the homeland is completed until all the life of the homeland is brought under the dominion of Christ. To this end we are working.

The past year has been a year of glorious achievements for Home Missions. We have now 411 missionaries working in 863 mission stations. During the year our missionaries have distributed 40,362 Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scripture and 660,847 tracts. They have led over 9,000 to make profession of faith in Christ, and received into fellowship with the church 4,672.

### *Foreigners*

Home Mission work among foreigners includes, first, those people who were born in other lands and their children—Mexicans, Italians, Cubans in the United States, Europeans, and Chinese; and, second, native Americans who speak another language, chiefly the French-speaking people of Southern Louisiana and the Spanish-speaking people of New Mexico. These are fields of great magnitude, challenging us to the task of evangelizing more than 5,000,000 people.

In this field, the Board has 162 missionaries who supply 503 churches and mission stations. The missionaries opened 61 new missions last year, won 3,793 converts, and reported the distribution of 2,469 Bibles and 181,784 tracts.

### *Deaf-Mutes*

Two faithful missionaries, Rev. J. W. Gardner and Rev. C. F. Landon, assisted by a number of volunteer workers, are doing their best to give the Gospel to 45,000 deaf-mutes. There have been organized for the deaf 122 classes or mission stations in important centers. There were 168 conversions and 99 baptisms last year.

### *Indians*

Mission work among the Indians is located in North Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. The total Indian population of 200,000 includes over 40 tribes who speak about 30 different languages

and dialects. Many of these Indians have never heard a Gospel sermon.

We have 72 missionaries among them, of whom 52 are native Indians and 20 are white. The workers are caring for work in 104 churches and mission stations. Last year they baptized 570, constituted 2 new churches and opened 12 new missions.

### *Panama*

The present extent of our mission work in Panama is the Canal Zone, the two terminal cities, and the surrounding territory. In this field the Home Mission Board has eight churches, one of which, Balboa Heights for white Americans, is self-supporting. This church worships in the building erected and owned by the Home Mission Board. The other seven churches are composed of West Indian Negroes who were brought to the Canal Zone from Jamaica during construction days and have remained after the Canal was completed. Three ministers and their wives make up the missionary force.

### *Cuba*

The Cuban field of the Home Mission Board includes the four western provinces of the island, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas, and Santa Clara, a territory of approximately 20,000 square miles, with a population of 2,500,000.

Under the leadership of Dr. M. N. McCall, superintendent, we now occupy 33 important centers. There are 53 churches and 97 additional mission stations, making a total of 150 places of

work. Labors of the 73 missionaries include preaching, house-to-house visitation, Bible and tract distribution, personal work, Sunday School and Young People's work, publication of literature, and teaching in day schools.

Our missionaries and volunteer workers last year baptized 437, made 38,761 missionary visits, and distributed 432,911 tracts and 17,694 Bibles and Scripture portions. There are 32 B.T.U.'s and 107 Sunday Schools.

### *City Missions and Good-Will Centers*

In several centers, such as cities and thickly populated mining regions, the Board is doing a very much needed mission work. The needs in these fields call for a highly specialized service, and the Board is trying to meet these needs through eight Good-Will Centers and two Rescue Missions.

*Rescue Missions.* The Rescue Mission in New Orleans in twelve years of service has been the means of salvation of over 5,000 men, 600 of whom were won last year.

Similar work has been done in Jacksonville, Fla., in the Board's other Rescue Mission.

*Good-Will Centers.* Our Good-Will Centers are located in Christopher, Illinois, Miss Mary E. Kelley in charge; Ensley, Alabama, where the salary of Miss Bertha Wallis is provided by the Board; Herrin, Illinois, three Good-Will Centers, Miss Mary Headen, missionary; Baltimore, Maryland, where there are two Centers under the direction of Miss Hazel Robb and Mrs. George

B. Johnson; and New Orleans, Louisiana, Miss Gladys Keith, missionary.

### ***Negroes***

In this department there are now 20 workers who are teaching in 19 colleges in 12 states and the District of Columbia. These teacher-missionaries have enrolled in their various classes on the campuses and in extension classes more than 3,500 Negro students, 1,500 of whom are pastors of churches. These teacher-missionaries direct the activities of the entire student bodies. They also hold institutes during the summer months for the ministers in their respective states. This work, under the direction of Dr. Noble Y. Beall, is one of the most far-reaching pieces of work ever undertaken for the Negroes by the Home Mission Board.

### ***Church Schools of Missions***

The Home Mission Board is promoting a distinctive type of Church Schools of Missions under the direction of Dr. Noble Y. Beall. In these schools of missions we are endeavoring to enlist the whole church under the leadership of the pastor and other church officers in the study of missions, according to a definite planned program. We are giving special emphasis to city-wide and county-wide schools of missions. Brother Beall has outlined a five-year program of missionary education on Home Missions, emphasizing stewardship, evangelism, and direct missionary endeavor.

Many city-wide schools have already been

held with eminent success and many are planned for the next year.

### ***Missions in the Mountains***

The mountain section of the Southern Baptist Convention territory is one of the largest and most difficult mission fields. Only men and women whom God has called and equipped can succeed in winning and developing the people of the highlands. The nine missionaries last year baptized 169 converts, opened one church and one new mission station, and conducted 15 revival meetings.

### ***Mission Schools***

Missionaries of the Home Mission Board are operating eight schools. These schools are great evangelistic agencies.

*Colegio Bautista*, Havana, Cuba: Through the enlargement of its space in the reconstruction of the Baptist Temple in Havana, it has been possible to double the enrollment of *Colegio Bautista*, last year's total being 215.

*Anglo-Mexican Institute*, El Paso, Texas: Professor A. Velez, missionary-pastor, is superintendent. He is assisted by Miss Lillie Mae Weatherford, Miss Gladys McLanahan, and Miss Gloria Ruiz. This school reports 170 students and 31 baptisms the last year.

*Mexican Baptist Institute*, Bastrop, Texas: Rev. Paul C. Bell, director, is assisted by six teachers. The 47 students last year delivered 474 sermons plus 747 other religious addresses and led 74 to make profession of faith.

*Acadia Academy*, Church Point, Louisiana: Rev. J. T. Fielder, superintendent, is assisted by eight cultured Christian teachers. The school reported 110 students the past session, many of whom, under the direction of the teachers, were engaged in definite mission work every Sunday. This is the center of our work among the French in southern Louisiana.

*Pointe au Chien*: In the mission school on Pointe au Chien among the French Indians in southern Louisiana, 62 pupils were enrolled last year. The workers with these neglected people are Rev. and Mrs. Berkman Deville, and Mrs. L. Grace Thompson.

*Kindergartens*: Three kindergartens doing effective mission work are operated at Pharr and San Antonio, Texas, both among the Mexicans; and on the Italian field in Tampa.

### ***Jewish Evangelism***

Rev. Jacob Gartenhaus and Miss Mollie Cohen are the Board's missionaries to 500,000 Jews in the South. The message of our responsibility to this race is getting a wider and more sympathetic reception each year.

### ***Department of Evangelism***

The purpose of the department of evangelism, Dr. Roland Q. Leavell, superintendent, is to promote and intensify the growing spirit of soul-winning, which quickened spirit has brought a great increase in converts throughout the South.

### ***Field Work***

The Board has four special field workers: Dr. J. W. Beagle, field secretary; Miss Wilma Bucy, field worker for the women; Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence, mission study editor; and Rev. Joe W. Burton, publicity secretary; Dr. Noble Y. Beall, field secretary. These are very busy carrying information about Home Missions to Southern Baptists.

The Board has a building and loan department with \$1,361,612 loaned to churches.

### ***Debts Being Paid***

The Board has endeavored faithfully to perform its stewardship by pushing the mission work, and at the same time handling its finances so as to retire the indebtedness. An appreciable amount has been paid each year on its debts.

A debt payment program has been mapped out which will liquidate all the debts of the Home Mission Board by 1945, provided receipts do not fall below the receipts of last year. The Board gives its unqualified endorsement to the Hundred Thousand Club and sincerely hopes that this movement may be pushed to a successful consummation by 1945.

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