Dewey Dye

...u supper prepared by the ...o Brotherhood will be a ...ure of the Florida State ...nvention on January 18th. ...nd evening session of the ... the eighteenth will be at ...ist Church instead of in ...his change was made in ...t the cordial invitation of ...nen to take charge of the ...n the church dining room. ...i will assist.

...o Church is approximately ... the Bradenton Church, so ...e no substantial change in ... arrangements.

...and Laymen's Conference ... in Bradenton, Wednesday ...uary 19th, at First Presby- ... This building is approxi- ...block from the Bradenton ... Church.

...l program will stress out- ...irational speakers both af- ... evening. Some who will ...e Brotherhood program are, ...p, Southwide R. A. leader; ...rter and Dr. A. W .Mathis, ...son, and Dr. W. H. Anderson ...s D. Newton, in the evening. ...fficers is also scheduled for ...

Afternoon program starts ...ning program at 7:30. Plant ...rhood is providing special ...rtainment.

...es indicate many men from Palmetto will attend the af- ... evening meeting and then re- ...r homes—though requests for ...ations show a record attend- ...spect.

"And Paul said, I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day were both almost and altogether such as I am, except these bonds" (Acts 26: 39).

Debt a Form of Bondage

Paul well knew the meaning of bondage. Once he had been bound by the shackles of ignorance and unbelief. After he received his freedom through Christ, more than once Paul suffered "bonds and imprisonment" for the Gospel's sake. He knew also the joy that came from release.

Debt is a form of bondage. "Bonds," in the language of business, represent an obligation or deed by which the debtor is bound to pay back borrowed money on or before a certain date. All business men know the value and occasional necessity of borrowing. In the present war emergency, were it not for our nation's ability to exchange its bonds for cash we would be hopelessly defeated.

The Joy of Freedom from Debt

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was compelled to enter into the bondage of debt because the financial crash of 1929 made impossible the collection of pledges to the building fund which, if paid, would have delivered the splendid new property to the denomination debt-free. When Dr. Sampey became president we applied every available dollar in the Seminary's possession to the debt of practically one million dollars. Expenses were cut to the bone. Threat of foreclosure was met by fortunate refinancing. Gifts from the Hundred Thousand Club were matched with payments squeezed from operating resources and by special donations. Gradually the debt was reduced until on October 13, 1943, a check from the Executive Committee of the Convention in the amount of $26,413.07 wiped out the balance due and freed the Seminary from its

Every advance of the Seminary ... out its long and glorious history has brought new demands. Success in Greenville led to removal to Louisville. Success in the old hotel building led to the erection of Norton Hall and New York Hall in the down-town location. Continued growth made necessary removal of the Seminary to its present suburban site. After seventeen years of steady growth the school is faced again with imperative needs.

Money was in the bank for a chapel when Dr. Sampey became president. It was promptly applied to the debt. A large room intended for other use was pressed into service for assembly purposes. Scarcely more than half the Seminary family can now be crowded into this room at one time. A worthy and adequate chapel is an imperative need.

The two original apartment houses for married students have long been outgrown. Scores of families must live off the campus, to their great inconvenience. This year many students had to be turned away because living quarters were not to be had at any price. Another apartment building is an immediate necessity.

Classroom space was provided in Norton Hall for a maximum of 500 students. Into these rooms are now crowded over 700 students. No argument is necessary to convince one who sees the daily jam of students in the packed hallways and overflowing classrooms that additional facilities should be provided to meet this crucial need.

For years there has been a mounting demand for Seminary-trained lay workers as educational directors, church administrators, pastors' assistants, ministers of music. In order that this demand might be supplied without interfering with the great main business of the Seminary, the education of preachers and

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C. ROY ANGELL, D.D.
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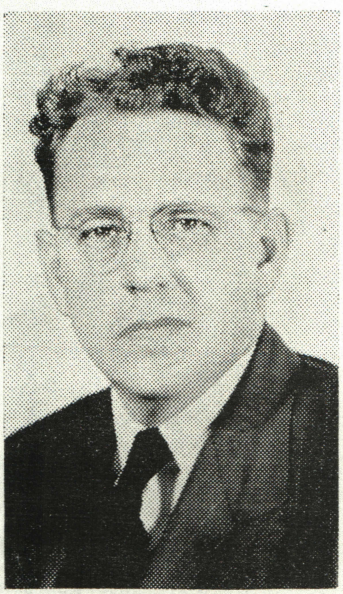
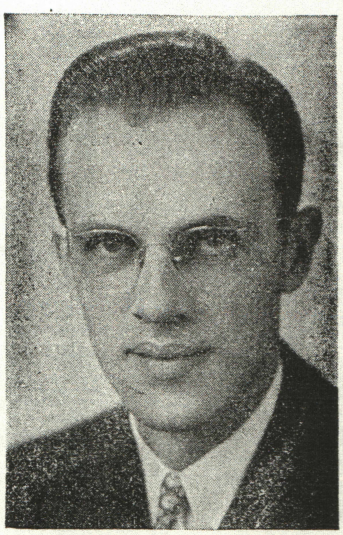


DR. WALLACE R. ROGERS
Pastor First Baptist Church, Pensacola
Member Relief and Annuity Board



REV. W. G. STRACENER
Pastor Riverside Baptist Church, Miami
Member Sunday School Board

Florida Baptist Witness Jan. 13, 1944

DR
Secre

On the Bay
on the Hill

XII

Salute The Brethren

Romans 16:14

W. R. Rogers: 1939 — 1947

The first week in July, an annual week for celebrating, took on added excitement at First Baptist Church, Pensacola, in 1939. A large congregation welcomed Rev. Wallace Roland Rogers, his wife, and two daughters. After Rogers preached his inaugural sermon, the people departed feeling confident that good things lay ahead.

Getting Acquainted

Wallace R. Rogers

Earlier on that hot July Sunday, Rogers had ventured from the San Carlos Hotel down to the foot of Palafox Street to enjoy the serenity of a sunrise over Pensacola Bay. He probably noted the numerous seagulls and an occasional pelican gliding through the skies, while trying to quell the activity of his own butterflies inside. In a few hours, he would be embarking on a new and serious responsibility. In the stillness of the moment he prayed about his new ministry in the beautiful city.

Rogers became aware that, even at that early hour, he was not alone. Being naturally friendly and a preacher, too, compelled him to approach the solitary figure standing near the water.

"Morning. Live here?" he asked.

"Well, yes and no," came the reply.