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Walter Oliver Stephens

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The Louisiana Christian.

DEVOTED TO THE PROMOTION OF THE SIMPLE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Volume II.  Crowley, Louisiana, April 20, 1904.  Number 15

HOME MISSIONS NUMBER

Nailed to the Mast

OUR HOME BOARD—ITS GREAT WORK AND CRYING NEEDS.

Look at these figures: 53° Missionaries, 4951 Baptisms, 7863 additions otherwise; 14,814 total additions; 121 new churches organized.

What a field for work! J. H. Hardin says if we could enter New England in force, sectarianism will occupy this entire home field. Now is our day and our time to do the work of the Master. Home Missions is as much the work of the local congregation as the support of the local congregation.

Let us seize upon these "days" as high days of the continual feast of serving. The Lord help us to see with our eyes, to hear with our ears, and to understand with our hearts.

O. P. SPIEGEL,
General Evangelist of the Home Mission Board of the South. Postoffice address, Birmingham, Ala. At present in a meeting with Claude L. Jones, Shreveport.

TOO MANY DAYS.

Sometimes we hear of preachers who say there are too many days and too many offerings. Suppose we eliminate the days and pass by the offerings. What happens? Why, the church narrows down to a selfish life, lives alone and soon dies alone. The preacher wanders off to "green fields and pastures new," and when he has pastured that bald, repeats the performance again and again—only upon the descending scale. This is not theory, but fact. The days and the offerings are the bubblings over of bursting fountains of love and service which never fail. They are the signs of the indwelling power of the Christ life, springing up into everlasting life. It is not days that should concern us, simply duty. Each day should be a welcome privilege wherein the joy of serving the Christ should find its free expression in the gift. Why should we hold back of time or talent, or wealth, or anything from the Lord of all. We are His, all that we call ours is His. Let us bid God-speed every plan and every prayer and every pulse that carries out in any part His divine will in the earth. Let us seize upon these "days" as high days of the continual feast of serving. The Lord help us to see with our eyes, to hear with our ears, and to understand with our hearts.

HELP THE WORKERS.

The workers in the Home Missions fields are our brothers and sisters. We owe it to them to help bear their heavy burdens, to cheer their hearts with every encouragement, and above all, to make them realize that we recognize the responsibility of saving America to be as much ours as theirs. We ought to pray for them in public and in private. We ought to seek to know the progress of their work and to make it possible, through our liberal support, for them to do more glorious work for the Master year by year. Home Missions is as much the work of every disciple as is the support of the local congregation.

There is a deeply rooted desire widely spread and rapidly growing in the hearts of the people everywhere, that the cause of New Testament Christianity shall advance upon liberal lines, and with inescapable emphasis compel the recognition of the Apostolic Church. Churches are demanding better organization, more effective methods and tangible results. Preachers that cannot answer these requirements are losing place. The fervor for results extends to the mission fields, and the same churches are demanding to see for themselves the workers, the work and the results. All this inspires hope and confidence. The minds and hearts of the people are coming out of the nebulous and sentimental to the actual. The distinct needs of mission fields will thus be more readily and immediately felt and responded to.
**The Louisiana Christian.**

**Notes and Personals**

The Lord is opening more doors for us than we are entering.

O. P. Spiegel is holding a meeting for Claude L. Jones at Shreveport.

Bro. Frank Lanehart spent several days lately visiting friends at Independence.

Bro. Kirby Ferguson has located at Hammond and will preach for the churches at that place, Independence and Roseland.

The date of our State Convention has been definitely set for June 14-16. Don’t forget the date and begin now to prepare to attend the best convention we have ever had.

The program committee for our State Convention is hard at work and its success in securing speakers is quite gratifying. Already several of our most prominent orators have promised definitely to be with us and have been assigned on the program.

**Growth of the Disciples of Christ.**

Bro. M. L. Buckley, of Harrison, Ohio, has been compiling the number of additions reported in our religious journals for the last six months. His reports indicate that there have been 48,887 baptisms, 13,779 added by letter, and 2,250 from the denominations, unifying our churches. As those coming by letter simply indicate changes from one congregation to another, we leave those out of consideration. Adding those turning to the Lord and those coming from the denominations, we have 51,807 as the gross gain from

**Remember the State Convention meets in Alexandria on June 14, 15 and 16, 1904.**

The true basis of the offering for Home Missions the first Lord’s day in May should be threefold. Our appreciation of the goodness of God in so many gifts to us, culminating in the ample gospel of the New Testament. Our appreciation of the great home field, so near, so accessible, so ripe, and our appreciation of ourselves, standing between those two great gifts and responsible to bring the two together. Our great land is worthy of our great plea, and ours is the responsibility and opportunity.

O. P. Spiegel held a short meeting for Frank Lanehart at Leesville which closed the first Sunday in April. Tho there were but three additions, the meeting was quite satisfactory. Bro. Spiegel’s preaching was pure and simple and his language chaste and forceful.

October 1 to April 1. To this must be added at least 10 percent of unreported persons coming into our churches. This would make 56,988. This is a most wonderful result. We are only limited in our accessions by the number of our ministers. There are thousands more ready to come into our churches if we had the ministers to present the gospel to them and urge them after they come. Brethren, do all in your power to help young men discover that they are called to preach the gospel of Christ, and by your liberal offering for Home Missions, on the first Lord’s day in May, aid the American Christian Missionary Society to send out a larger number of laborers into the field.

Remember that the Louisiana Christian is only 50 cents a year postpaid to your address.
THE LOUISIANA CHRISTIAN.

A HOME MISSIONARY.

Brethren, the South is going to grow with giant strides during the next twenty-five or fifty years.

A NORTH CAROLINA CHURCH

Which owes its existence to Home Missions.

A RESULT OF HOME MISSION EFFORTS IN FLORIDA.

The field of America responds instantaneously to the simple gospel plea. It is no difficult matter to organize churches. We could organize them from three to five times as rapidly as we do, were it not for the question of their after nurture. The work of our National Home Mission Board is not only to preach the gospel in destitute places, but to preserve the results already attained by helping weak places to have regular services. This work of conservation and nurture is the work that requires the money. Our National Board ought to have enough money to be enabled to do not only this work but the advance work of initial evangelism. Our preachers and churches should see to it that a much larger offering is made for this pressing work than last year. Two hundred thousand dollars to expend in all America, including Canada and Porto Rico, is a very small amount for one million, two hundred and fifty thousand followers of Jesus the Christ. Last year $24,947.02 was expended in state work in Kentucky alone, $102,246.10 was placed into the Church in Canada, and Porto Rico was $56,000 immediately available for missionary purposes.

THE GREATEST MISSION FIELD.

The South.

Our Home Missionaries feel the need of prayer constantly. They know that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. They ask the prayers of the brethren every where and constantly in their behalf.

A CALIFORNIA INFANT.

Indeed for its existence to Home Missions Money.

$142,721.37 in all states for state work. The American Christian Missionary Society does work in all but eight states, besides all Canada and Porto Rico. Last year only $102,246.10 was placed into its sufferers, but $56,000 was immediately urgent for missionary purposes. We cannot do large things upon such terms. Our missionary agencies are to raise the money we require and give it out of our abundance. We urge all preachers to bring these parts to the attention of the churches before May 1st, 1904.

We must have $200,000 this year.

The Home Missionaries are wholly our substitutes in the field, doing personally and generally at considerable sacrifice the toilsome service of the"
A Dollar a Member to Evangelize America.

C. W. B. M.

OFFICERS.
Mrs. J. J. Zigler, pres., New Orleans.
Mrs. J. C. Ramsey, vice-pres.
Mrs. George G. Earl, corresponding secretary, New Orleans.
Miss Grace Jackson, treas.
Mrs. J. B. Houston, junior secretary, Shreveport.

PLEASE REMEMBER.

The request comes from Mrs. Helen E. Moses to please remember that the 8th day of May, 1904, the Missionary Tidings was discontinued to those whose subscriptions are unpaid. She says: "We do not want to decrease our list by even one name; we had far rather enlarge it. Please help us by paying your subscription, if you are in arrears, and by recommending the Tidings to your friends. Look at the date given in connection with the address on your Tidings—it indicates when your subscription expires."

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Mrs. Geo. G. Earl, 1307 Valenci Street, New Orleans, La.
Mrs. J. C. Ramsey, 413 Johnson.
Mrs. J. B. Houston, New Orleans.
Miss Grace Jackson, New Orleans.

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