

BRANSCOMB, BISHOP JOHN

Arthur J. Moore, Atlanta, Ga., and
Bishop Roy H. Short, Nashville, Tenn.

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Florida Annual Conference; Bishop
Short the Cuba Annual Conference.
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in former years.

This arrangement will continue until
the assignment of a bishop to the Jack-
sonville Area by the quadrennial South-
eastern Jurisdictional Conference at
Lake Junaluska, N. C., July 13-17, 1960.

The Florida Methodist

February 1, 1959

TAMPA, FLORIDA



JOHN WARREN BRANSCOMB
May 11, 1905 - January 16, 1959

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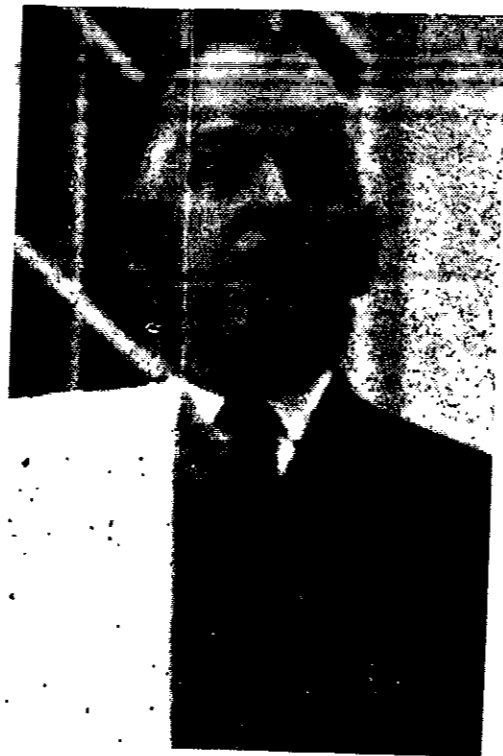
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So Methodists Say . . .

"The idea of Communism as a 'secular religion' doesn't quite come off. Religion requires something more than scientific materialism. It requires the supernatural."—The Rev. Dr. T. Otto Nall, Chicago, editor of The New Christian Advocate, in an interview upon his return from leading a party of churchmen on a tour of the Soviet Union.

"The gospel is the only really authentic and substantial good news that can be offered the world."—Bishop Donald H. Tippett of San Francisco, in an address at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 16.



The above picture is an enlargement of a snapshot of Bishop Branscomb made as he preached his last sermon in the pulpit of First Church, Ocala, on January 6, only a matter of a few hours before he entered the hospital in Orlando. We also believe that the "Amen Corner" dictated from his bed and printed in the last issue of The Florida Methodist was his last public statement.

The Amen Corner

(In Memory of Bishop Branscomb)

Word came today our friend had slipped away—
There was no final closing of a door,
Beyond which lay a land of shadows gray—
Rather it seemed that often, as before,
He was but absent for a little space,
Working among his people; soon again
He would be back in his accustomed place
And we would hear once more his glad "Amen!"

Beyond that door which he has left ajar,
May it not be our listening souls can hear
Faintly at first, then joyously and clear,
Him shouting from his Amen Corner there?

—A Friend

DO YOU REMEMBER . . .



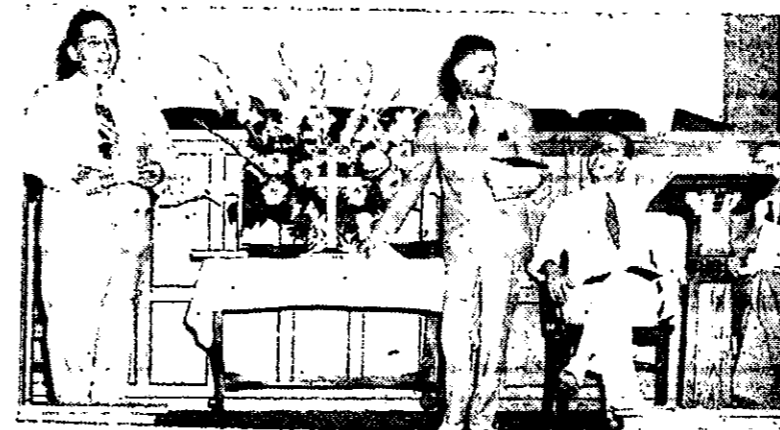
When the Conference Youth Camp was being established? Here is an historic picture, made in 1947. Left to right are: the Rev. J. Milburn McLeod, pastor at Morrison Memorial, Leesburg; Ivan Beyers, Leesburg layman; Carlisle Rogers, Chairman of the Official Board at Leesburg; Bishop Arthur J. Moore, presiding Bishop; the Rev. John Branscomb, director of the Conference Youth Camp Campaign; the Rev. Warren W. Willis, Conference Director of Youth Work, and Dr. R. Ira Barnett, Executive Secretary of the Conference Board of Education.



The first "Rankin Day" at First Church, Orlando? Left to right: the Rev. Victor Rankin, Dr. John R. Mott, Tom Bird, E. H. Allen, Dr. John W. Branscomb, the Rev. Richard Blanchard.



This photograph, which was always a favorite with many of the Bishop's friends?



The opening of the new College Park Church in Orlando? Pictured left to right are: the Rev. Harris M. DeWese, a former pastor; Dr. John W. Branscomb, pastor of First Church, Orlando; the Rev. H. Maurice Felton, pastor; and Dr. Laurie G. Ray, pastor at Lake Wales.



The Florida Delegation to the General Conference held in Boston in 1948? Front row, left to right: Fred B. Noble, Dr. Glenn C. James, Mrs. F. B. Godfrey, Mrs. E. B. White. Back row: Fred T. Mickler, Dr. R. C. Holmes, Dr. Harry H. Waller, Dr. H. W. Blackburn, Dr. John W. Branscomb, Chairman.



The Florida Delegation to the General Conference of 1952 in San Francisco? Left to right: front row (Dr. E. J. Pendergrass's shoulder and badge are visible), Dr. H. W. Blackburn, Dr. Harry H. Waller, Dr. Don A. Cooke, Dr. John W. Branscomb. Back row: C. B. Peeler, R. H. Berg, Mrs. F. B. Godfrey, Mrs. W. H. Backham, and Fred B. Noble.



Bishop John W. Branscomb, a Bishop of the Methodist Church. This picture was made at the time of Bishop Branscomb's consecration on the night of June 29, 1952, at the closing session of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference held in Roanoke, Virginia.



The newly elected Bishop is escorted to the platform following the announcement of the results of the electing ballot. Left to right: applauding are Dr. Nolan B. Harmon and Dr. Walter Gum of the Virginia Conference (Dr. Harmon later was made a Bishop at the Jurisdictional Conference of 1956); Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Bishop-elect Branscomb, and Bishop Ray H. Short.



Here is the Bishop-elect with the Florida delegation at the Jurisdictional Conference at Roanoke, Virginia. Seated, first row, left to right: Glenn M. Hastings, Mrs. Bruce F. Gannaway, Mrs. W. H. Beckham, R. H. Berg. Seated, second row: Fred T. Mickler, Dr. P. M. Boyd, Dr. E. J. Pendergrass, Dr. Shuler Peele, Dr. Joe A. Tolle, Dr. George Foster, Dr. John G. Stradley. Standing, left to right: the late Nathan R. Graham, Dr. Robert C. Holmes, Dr. H. W. Blackburn, Dr. Harry H. Waller, Dr. Don A. Cooke, and Bishop-elect John W. Branscomb.

Women Take Stand on Many Issues

The national organization representing 1,800,000 Methodist women has called for an end to the draft, a greatly expanding foreign aid program, federal aid to education and a complete revision of U.S. immigration policy. In resolutions adopted at its annual meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., Jan. 17, the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions also outlined a housing program which it said would provide "a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family." Most of the resolutions asked that the Woman's Division president, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Lewisburg, Tenn., communicate the Division's views to President Eisenhower and other government leaders.

Mrs. John W. Branscomb, the former Miss Elizabeth Keller, the Bishop's beloved companion since 1928, the same year he became a member of the Florida Conference. There are two children, Betty Joan (Mrs. Milton Davis) and John Rufus, both of Atlanta.



It was a tender moment when the newly elected bishop and his wife tried to express their gratitude to the group of friends that gathered for a testimonial breakfast on the morning following the bishop's election. The bishop was literally in tears as this intimate moment was captured by the lens. The others sitting at the head table are Dr. W. A. Smart, extreme left, and Dr. Don A. Cooke, at the far right. Dr. P. M. Boyd looks on in the foreground.



The Bishop-elect smiles his response to the congratulations of friends at the Roanoke Conference.



The new Bishop lays the cornerstone for the new building of the Conference Board of Education while Dr. George Foster, president of the Board, looks on.



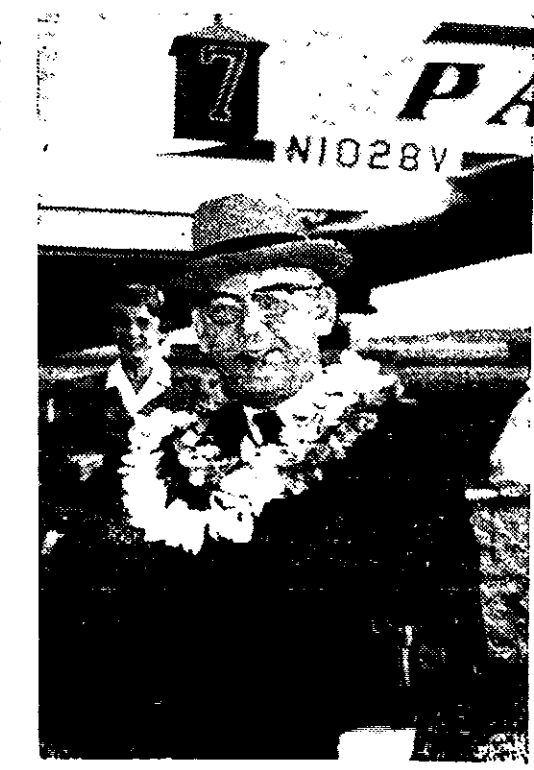
Pictured here are, left to right, Dr. H. W. Blackburn, Bishop Branscomb, the late Dr. John W. Pearson, Dr. Paul Fletcher, and the late Dr. O. Alton Murphy.



Presiding over the Cuba Conference, Bishop Branscomb accepts a large bust of John Wesley and leads in the applause for Antonio Lopez, its creator.



Above he is shown breaking ground at Lakewood, Jacksonville, while the late Dr. A. Fred Turner, a layman, the Rev. Walter Jessup, and Dr. P. M. Boyd look on.



Bishop Branscomb lands in Honolulu on Sept. 7, 1955, on his trip around the world—his first tour of episcopal visitation.



A characteristic pose of the Bishop. Above he is seen on the right with the Rev. W. W. Roughton and Dr. C. M. Cotton.

Bishop Branscomb Passes

Bishop John W. Branscomb, beloved bishop of the Florida and Cuba Conferences of The Methodist Church, died in his sleep January 16 at the Orange Memorial Hospital, Orlando, following a heart attack. He was 53.

On Monday, January 5, he had preached twice at the District Conference of his long-time friend, Dr. Mack Anthony, at Ingleside Church, Macon, Georgia. He then drove to his home in Jacksonville where, that same night, he suffered what he thought was an attack of indigestion.

Despite the continuing pain in his chest, he drove to Ocala the next day, where he preached at the Evangelistic Rally held in that city. Following the service he entered the hospital for an examination, where it was discovered he had suffered a heart attack. While it was known that his condition was serious, he was believed to have been getting along very well and his death came as a great shock.

Bishop Branscomb was physically exhausted when he returned home on Decemtr 3rd from a six-weeks visitation to Methodist work in South America, but he plunged immediately into the annual series of District Conferences in his characteristic eagerness to share all he had seen and experienced. His itinerary, as published in the January 1st issue of The Florida Methodist, is indicative of his tirelessness in promoting the work of the Kingdom.

The bishop spent his entire ministry in Florida, starting in 1928 as pastor of the Boca Grande Church. Later pastorates included churches in St. Petersburg, Arcadia, Tampa and Orlando.

Bishop Branscomb was a graduate of Emory University, receiving the A.B. and B.D. degrees in 1926 and 1928, respectively. He did graduate work at Garrett Biblical Institute and held honorary doctorates from Emory, Florida Southern College and Bethune-Cookman College.

Bishop Branscomb was chairman of the College of Bishops of

the Southeastern Jurisdiction; vice president of the Advance Committee; a member of the General Board of Missions and the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations.

He was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Paine College, Augusta, Ga., and was a trustee of Wesleyan College, Florida Southern College and Bethune-Cookman College. He was vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Lake Junaluska Methodist Assembly. In 1944 he was vice president of the Florida Centennial and he was the outstanding leader of many other Conference projects and enterprises during his ministry.

Widely known for his vigorous preaching and his missionary zeal, Bishop Branscomb was in constant demand as an evangelist and platform speaker. His reluctance to refuse any engagement he could possibly fill must have contributed much to his early and untimely death.

Funeral services for Bishop Branscomb were held January 17th at First Church, Orlando, where he was pastor from 1944 to 1952. Bishop Arthur J. Moore of Atlanta and Bishop Roy H. Short of Nashville participated in the service and spoke words of personal appreciation of their fallen comrade and colleague. Dr. E. J. Pendergrass, pastor at First Church, conducted the service and he was assisted further by Dr. Joe A. Tolle, Dr. P. M. Boyd, and Dr. J. Wallace Hamilton, all of whom were intimate friends of the bishop. The choir sang anthems of praise and each speaker—in the midst of his grief—sounded the note of victory that was so characteristic of the one he eulogized.

As stated elsewhere, the bishop is survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Keller; a son, John Rufus, and a daughter, Mrs. Milton Davis, Jr., both of Atlanta, and two grandchildren.

Burial services were held on January 18th at Union Springs, Alabama, the bishop's home town.

Bishop Branscomb Is Widely Eulogized

Seldom, if ever, has the passing of a religious leader called forth more expressions of appreciation, loss and sorrow in the area where he was best known than has the death of Bishop Branscomb. Editors throughout the state have paid tribute to him in their columns; organizations of all sorts have passed resolutions; ministers in their pulpits, bulletins and news letters to their congrega-

tions have expressed their sorrow and love; and many, many Florida Methodist readers have written to tell of their sense of personal loss in his passing. Truly all who knew him knew that they shared his love with many others yet each individual felt that he was one of his closest friends. The bishop's supply of love for his fellows was inexhaustible.

There is a Retired Minister's

Club in Lakeland that includes members from many states and conferences. More than 100 persons were present at the January meeting, and the Rev. Henry Liddicoat, a retired member of the Michigan Conference, read a statement which the club adopted and asked to have reproduced in these columns. We quote from it:

"... On hearing the news, Mrs. Liddicoat exclaimed, 'There was a man sent from God whose name was John!' And you know that John, in the Hebrew, means 'the gift of God.'

"He was so cordial in all of his relations. There was always time for greetings, shaking hands and memorable responsiveness. The lowliest souls would never be brushed aside. We loved to hear him preach... We shall not soon forget his enriching sermon on 'The Four Books of Methodism.' 'The Bible—Methodist are lovers of the Good Book'; 'The Methodist Hymnal—we are singing Methodists,' known around the world. Charles Wesley imbued us with his love for musical Christian experience; the Methodist Discipline tells us how to conduct our meetings and ourselves;... Then his reference to his little grandson's 'soft spot' to be careful about, where God has granted the baby's brain an opportunity to grow while we older ones are calcified with encrusted attitudes and prejudices; The Methodist Pocketbook.

"He seemed so perfect in his positions as Bishop of Florida Methodism. He loved and was so proud of his Area churches. I see him now at the last Florida Conference with the telephone on the pulpit calling the Methodist Bishops and leaders of Advance Specials, telling them of this significant conference, that Florida Methodists were leading all the conferences of Methodism in giving to Advance Specials. In this day when many Southerners are disturbed over Race Relations, he stood as a poised personality. He is still needed in this field... we pray, 'Thank God, for His good gift of JOHN!'"

Mrs. Branscomb Entered Hospital For Surgery

On Tuesday, January 20th, Mrs. John Branscomb entered the Orange Memorial Hospital, Orlando, for surgery. She is making a good recovery and will have been dismissed from the hospital before this story reaches our readers.

Mrs. Branscomb had gone to Central Florida for this surgery when the bishop was stricken. She has had and will continue to have the love and prayers of thousands of Florida Methodists throughout her ordeal.

To Administer Jacksonville Area



Bishop Arthur J. Moore

BUCK HILL FALLS, Pa., Jan. 22—Administration of the Jacksonville Episcopal Area of The Methodist Church, made vacant by the death of Bishop John W. Branscomb, will be added to the duties of Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Atlanta, Ga., and Bishop Roy H. Short, Nashville, Tenn.

Bishop Moore will supervise the Florida Annual Conference; Bishop Short the Cuba Annual Conference. Both bishops are familiar with these conferences, having presided over them in former years.

This arrangement will continue until the assignment of a bishop to the Jacksonville Area by the quadrennial Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, N. C., July 13-17, 1960.

Bishop Branscomb, 53, died in Orlando January 26. He had administered these two conferences



Bishop Roy H. Short

since his election to the episcopacy in 1952.

The late Bishop Branscomb was chairman of the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the body empowered to fill such vacancies. The decision was made by Southeastern bishops here attending the annual meeting of the Board of Missions. Those not present were consulted by telephone.

The official statement follows: The Southeastern College of Bishops of The Methodist Church announces through Bishop Roy H. Short, the secretary of the Council of Bishops, the appointment of Bishop Arthur J. Moore to supervise the Florida Conference and Bishop Short the Cuba Conference for the balance of the quadrennium.

This temporary arrangement reverts to the pattern followed in 1940-44 when the Florida Conference was part of the Atlanta Area and the Cuba Conference was part of the Nashville Area.

Bishop Moore's Schedule

Recent press releases have announced the assignment of certain extra responsibilities given me by the Council of Bishops. The death of Bishop Ralph A. Ward in Hong Kong, China, on December 11 and Bishop John W. Branscomb in Orlando, Florida, on January 16 created vacancies in our plan of Episcopal supervision. My colleagues have asked me to share the carrying-on of the work in both places. To look at these additional responsibilities apart from all other considerations one might conclude that the load is greater than any one man can carry very long or very well. That is a correct assumption. But when one recalls other factors maybe the additional assignments are

not without some foundation in necessity and wisdom.

Bishop Ralph Ward was retired at the General Conference of 1952. Immediately thereafter he was re-activated and appointed to the Taiwan-Hong Kong area because he was the only available Bishop prepared by experience on the Mainland of China to wisely direct the new work on the Island of Taiwan (Formosa) and in the City of Hong Kong.

When the Republic of China was overthrown by the Communists, Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek took his Government to Taiwan. He was followed by hundreds of thousands of patriotic Chinese who simply would not bow their knees to atheistic Communism.

Among these were thousands of Christians and hundreds of our loyal Methodist people. In Hong Kong literally millions of Chinese, rich and poor, have found a place of refuge from the new regime on the Mainland of China.

In both Taiwan and in Hong Kong the Methodist Church has been established. Churches and schools have been organized and built. Our great Soochow University, the pride and joy of Southern Methodists, has been set up on a new campus in Taipei and has enrolled thousands of students. In Hong Kong churches are flourishing, relief stations have been organized and the flag of our church kept floating. It is a fascinating story of the irresistible faith and unconquerable courage of our people.

Bishop Ward has presided with wisdom and by his own solicitations has secured practically all of the funds needed to sustain and develop this network of churches and institutions. His death has created a vacancy no man can fill adequately. When the Council of Bishops said to me that, because of some previous experience on the Mainland of China, I was the one who should go out to defend and promote these young churches, I could not do anything but say, "I will go."

On Tuesday, February 24, I will leave Atlanta by air, flying to San Francisco, Honolulu, Tokyo and, if all goes well, Saturday, February 28, will find me in Hong Kong. I shall remain in Hong Kong for ten days and then fly on to Taiwan, where, for another ten days, I will be in touch with leaders, both in the church and government, trying to support and guide our brave Methodist Churches on this island where there is a total population of ten million.

I hope to return to the United States by March 22 and resume my work here. I earnestly entreat all my friends to uphold me with their prayers.

At a very early morning hour on January 17 I was called over long distance in New York City and told that my dear young and useful colleague John Branscomb had slipped away to live in God's house. This is not the place for a tribute, but I must say we have had no more devoted and useful Bishop in my day than John Branscomb. I was the Bishop in Florida from 1940 to 1948 and watched his superb leadership in First Church in Tampa and First Church in Orlando. His flaming urgency, his passion for the whole world made his election as a Bishop of the church in 1952 inevitable. Who can tell how much he has crowded into these seven short years of travel, hard work and spiritual concern. I can hard-

ly realize yet that he will walk no more among us with that persistent song of good cheer. He was so generous in his nature, so unselfish with his time and strength, so rewarding in his friendships, so sacrificial in his labors. Now that he is gone, there is a lonesome place against the sky.

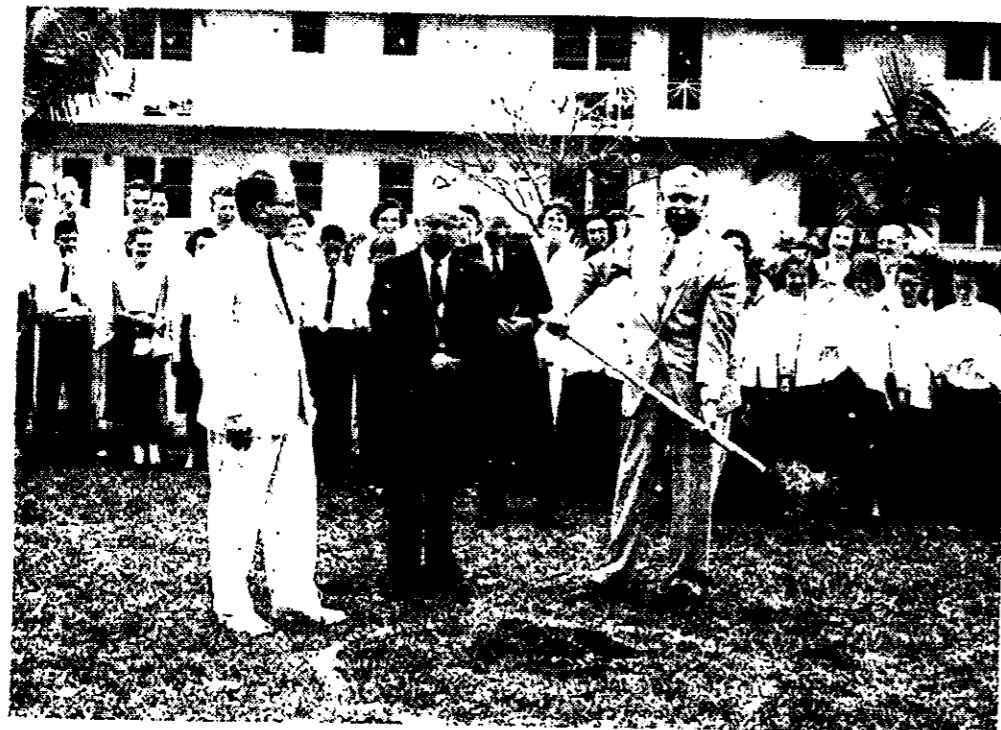
Immediately following Bishop Branscomb's funeral service, the Cabinets of both Florida and Cuba urged that Bishop Roy Short and I try to administer the work in Cuba and Florida until General Conference in 1960. We seem to have all that frail men ought to undertake, but once more we said if our fellow Bishops think that what the church needs, we will do our best. Bishop Short will leave in Cuba and I will try to be a faithful administrator in Florida. Neither of us nor both of us put together can do all "Brother John" was doing, but for the dear Redeemer's sake and in loving memory of "Brother John," we will carry on. I am sure the

preachers and people in both Areas will recognize the heavy load we are under and will excuse us wherever possible from duties which others are so willing to share with us.

The forces of evil around the world are arrayed against Christ's call for aggressive and sacrificial action. The many duties which challenge us all demand hope, courage and sacrifice. Certainly a self-indulgent formal Christianity will not suffice for a crisis such as is now upon us. My prayer to God is that, although the work may rest heavily upon my heart, it will not rest upon my nerves. Every day somewhere in this wide field of service I shall rise, do a full day's work, ask God to take my weakness and add to it His mighty power. His presence has been assured to all who seek to serve. I shall claim that promise and work cheerfully. Fray for me.

Sincerely,
Arthur J. Moore

Ground Breaking At Riverside, Miami



Figures in foreground, left to right: the Rev. Donald M. Mackay, pastor; Dr. Homer L. Pearson, chairman, Building Committee; Dr. P. M. Boyd, Miami District Superintendent; Herman Tanaw, Lay Leader.

Riverside Methodist Church, Miami, celebrated Charter Day and Groundbreaking Day on January 4, 1959, with Dr. P. M. Boyd serving as guest preacher. Nineteen charter members, who had been part of the founding group in 1921, were present for the service, and each of these received an orchid corsage, presented by Mrs. Thomas W. Godbold, on behalf of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism.

As a part of the morning service, the congregation moved out from the sanctuary to the area on which the new building is to be constructed and various leaders of the church wielded the shovel to launch the construction program. Dr. Homer L. Pearson, Chairman of the Building Committee, assisted by Herman Tanaw, Lay Leader, turned the first spade, followed by other leaders of the church, representatives of the ministry and, finally, the architect and contractors.

The 127'x40' building will cost approximately \$150,000, furnished. It is a two-story building with a small portion of it three stories in height.

Washington News Notes

(Methodist Information)

Methodists continue to lead all denominations in the religious affiliation of members of Congress with a total of 105.

There are 17 Methodists in the Senate and 88 in the House of Representatives, according to a survey by the Library of Congress.

Next are the Roman Catholics with 103, a gain of 10. There are 12 Catholics in the Senate and 91 in the House.

Protestants in general total 413. Jewish members number 12, one is a Hindu, and 5 chose not to reveal their affiliation, if any.

The 68 Presbyterians comprise the second largest Protestant group, followed closely by 64 Baptists and 61 Episcopalians. There are 26 Congregationalists and 20 Lutherans.

Methodist Senators are: Sparkman and Hill, Alabama; Holland and Smathers, Florida; Case and Mundt, South Dakota; Bible, Nevada; Butler, Maryland; Dworshak, Idaho; Eastland, Mississippi; Engle, California; Hickenlooper, Iowa; Jordan, North Carolina; Russell, Georgia; Schoepfel, Kansas; Smith, Maine, and Williams, Delaware.

On the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Charles Evans Whitaker is the only Methodist. Chief Justice Earl Warren has a Methodist background, and attends the Baptist Church occasionally with his wife.

Presbyterians lead in the number of justices with three—William O. Douglas, John Marshall Harlan and Tom C. Clark.

Hugo L. Black is a Baptist, Potter Stewart, Episcopalian; Felix Frankfurter, Jewish, and William Joseph Brennan, Jr., Roman Catholic.

Two Methodists in the President's Cabinet are Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Robert B. Anderson, Secretary of the Treasury.

News From Wesley Foundation at FSU

A banquet honoring foreign students on the FSU campus took the place of the regular Sunday evening fellowship supper Jan. 18.

Speaking at the event was University President Robert Strozier. His topic, "One World—Too Small, Too Large?" dealt with the provincialism, selfishness, propagandization, and fear that keeps our world ununited.

Adding to the occasion was an interpretive dance, "Creation," rendered by a student dance major. 150 persons attended.

The YOUTHFUL ACCENT

By HOOVER RUPERT

The Rev. Dr. Hoover Rupert, minister of First Church, Jackson, Mich., for nearly nine years, has been appointed pastor of First Church, Ann Arbor, Mich., effective February 15. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Merrill R. Abbey, who has become professor of preaching at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.—Editor's Note.

I WANT TOMORROW

A few years ago, Marguerite Higgins, a war correspondent, received the much-coveted Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. The award was based on her coverage of the Korean War. In her articles she told of many interesting and deeply-moving experiences. One is mentioned in an account of the Fifth Company of Marines, which originally numbered 18,000 men. They were in combat with more than 100,000 Chinese Communists. It was intensely cold—as a matter of fact it was reported then to be 42 degrees below zero. On this particular morning the reporters and photographers were standing around near a group of war-weary soldiers who had been in the front lines for a long spell. The tired soldiers, half-frozen, stood by their dirty and equally weary trucks, eating from tin cans.

A huge Marine was eating cold beans with his trench knife. His clothes were frozen stiff as boards. His face was covered with a heavy beard which was crusted with mud. A magazine photographer saw there all the weariness, disillusionment, indeed all the unhappiness of youth caught in the meshes of modern warfare in a distant land. He used the trick which photographers sometimes use to get a particular expression. He said to this tired soldier just off front-line patrol, eating his cold beans in weather 42 below, "Son, if you could have just what you want what would you want right now?"

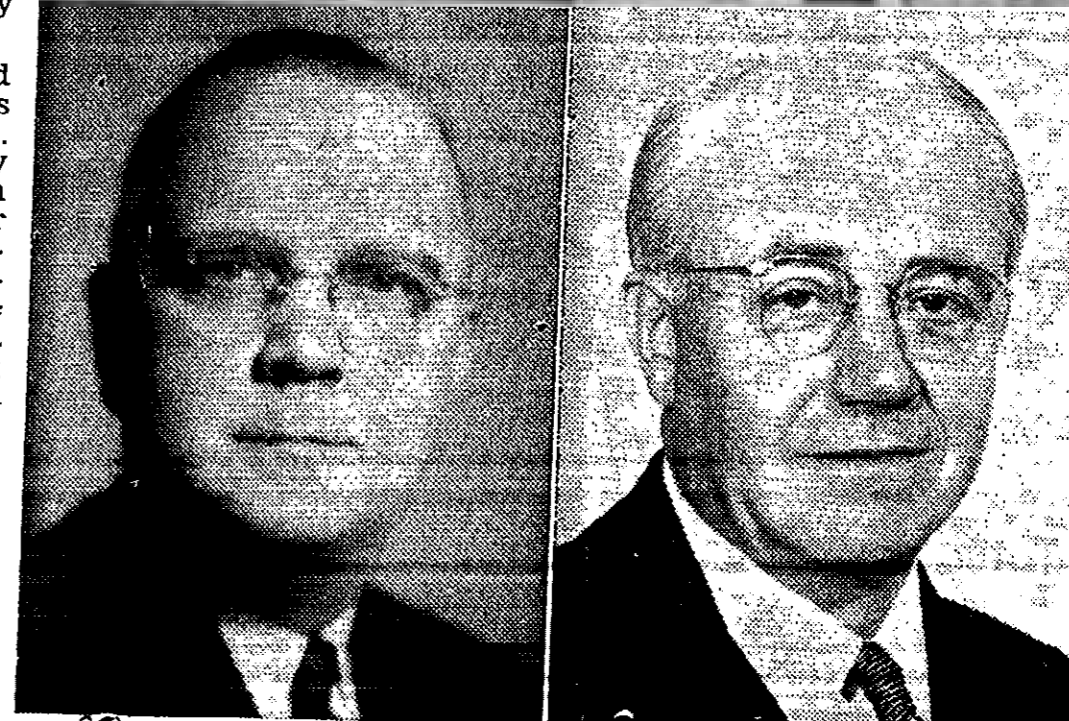
He thought the boy would reply that he wanted to be home, that he would like a piece of his mother's apple pie, that he would like to be with his girl-friend—or something else of a sentimental nature like this. But without changing his expression, the youth said, "I want tomorrow!"

Well, that's about the true view from any youth—at war or in peace, isn't it? Seems to me that

youth today are terribly apprehensive about there being a tomorrow for them. They are well aware that some fool adult in a position of responsibility, for personally selfish reasons of pride, or pure political self-interest, could trigger a world-wide atomic war. And it would be over in a matter of days as far as modern civilization is concerned. Their tomorrow thus would be in some other world—not this one. And that's enough to jar a mature adult as well as a young person.

About the only way I can see for today's youth to be tomorrow's adults is for today's adults to step

up and be responsible citizens of the world. The only hope of the future lies in the cultivation of integrity, good will, and honest faith in God and fellow man. That's why I believe the Church has such a large stake in the process. As a parent, I will leave no stone unturned to make certain my youngsters get religious training through church and MYF so they may be exposed to those forces that make for character growth in the direction of Christian spiritual maturity. And I hope you who are parents feel that way about your youngsters. Christ is our only hope!



TO ADDRESS CONVOCATION—Among speakers at the Fourth Quadrennial Convocation of The Methodist Church February 17-19 in Atlanta will be, left to right beginning at top: Bishop William C. Martin, of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area; Dr. J. Wallace Hamilton, pastor of Pasadena Community Church, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Bishop Paul N. Garber, of the Richmond Area and Bishop Donald H. Tippett, of the San Francisco Area.

GLEANINGS FROM HERE AND THERE

The Annual Pastors' Retreat of the West Palm Beach District was held at the new Lakeside Church parsonage on Lake Osborne on January 13. Ministers speaking to their brethren on assigned subjects included Durward McDonnell, Goddard Sherman, Robert Chapman, V. J. Ragsdale, Richard Blanchard, Charles Voss, Dale Hagler and District Superintendent H. W. Blackburn. The Rev. John Bass was the host pastor.

The Methodist Men of St. Paul's will again be hosts as they sponsor the third annual Laymen's Retreat for the men of the Tallahassee District at the church on Saturday, February 14. Featured speaker will be Leroy Ussery of Montgomery, Alabama.

The Senior M.Y.F. of First Church, Chattahoochee, has painted Fellowship Hall there as one of its projects of the year.

The wives of the ministers in the Miami District meet for a luncheon once a month as the Parsonettes.

The churches of the Lake Area are holding a Christian Workers' School at Belle Glade, February 1-5. The Rev. Clare Hall is dean of the school and courses are being taught by Mrs. W. L. Kennedy of DeLand, the Rev. James Roy of Boynton Beach, and Dr. Arthur Charlesworth of Delray Beach. The Rev. John B. Gill, Jr., is the host pastor.

Charles J. Belden, internationally known photographer, spoke on "Highways and Byways of Europe" to the Methodist Men of First Church, St. Petersburg, last month.

The Retired Methodist Ministers Association of Lakeland had charge of the annual Tourists' Night program at First Church on the last Sunday in January.

Led by the Rev. T. Gerald Williams, Tallahassee Heights has reactivated its M.Y.F. and plans to build a new parsonage.

Dr. Garfield Evans spoke at Palm Harbor recently and received an offering of \$43 for his work in Cuba.

Thanks to the efforts of Miss Marion Worley, the Rev. R. C. Joyner of Jasper reports 81 subscriptions to The Florida Methodist with a membership of 380.

The Fellowship Class of Christ

Church, St. Petersburg, recently presented a set of The Interpreter's Bible to the church library.

An M.Y.F. and a W.S.C.S. have been organized at the Lake Jackson Church, Tallahassee District, recently.

Community Church, Belle Glade, has 141 units in the West Palm Beach District's Sponsors of New Churches program. Each unit

represents a gift of at least \$10 for each new church begun in the District with a limit of three calls per year.

Attendance in the Sunday Evening Fellowship at St. Paul's, Tallahassee, has reached the 150 mark, with a survey of membership giving overwhelming approval to its continuance.

The Cross City Church con-



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ducted its church-wide School of Missions last month with an average attendance of 88 for the two sessions.

The Tri F Sunday School Class at Belle Glade has given a station wagon which cost \$700 to the Florida Christian Ministry to Migrants as an Advance Special. The 1956 car, in excellent condition, will be used at the Osceola Nursery in Belle Glade.

Dr. Marvin Rast, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the South Carolina Conference, was the Student Recognition Day speaker at First Church, Monticello.

A church library to be known as the Pauline Smith Memorial Library, is one of the projects being sponsored by the W.S.C.S. of Wesley Memorial Church, Lakeland.

The four churches in Tallahassee met last month with District Superintendent Shuler Peele to study the need for another Methodist Church in that city in the near future.

Seven adult classes of the Community (Daytona Beach) Church School now meet together each fourth Sunday for a 15-minute missions program sponsored jointly by the commissions on Missions and Education.

The "Wednesday Afternoon Gang," a group of retired men which meets at Trinity Church, Lakeland, each week to address, fold and mail the mid-week Trinity News and at the same time to swap a few good stories, has lost its second member by death within a year. Otto Winkler, who though not a member of Trinity had been a loyal member of the group for a considerable period, passed away early in January. The pastor, the Rev. Elton G. Powell, conducted the funeral service in accordance with the expressed wish of Otto.

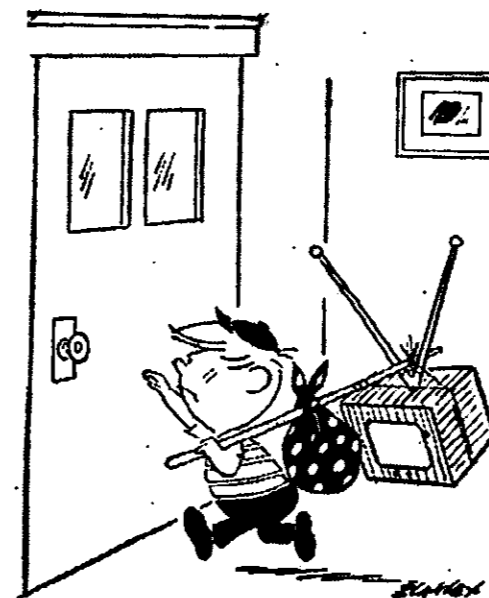
Members of the Apalachicola W.S.C.S. recently presented a play, "God's Gifts to the World."

Intermediates of Community Church, Daytona Beach, spent an evening during Christmas week visiting a nursing home and the homes of shut-ins to present programs of carols and Christmas devotions. Their counselors are Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Northrup.

The Commission on Missions of First Church, Monticello, has adopted as an Advance Special the aiding of a Filipino man in getting an education for the ministry.

Children's Television

What is a child's favorite pastime nowadays? Baseball, reading,



Used by courtesy of CHRISTIAN HERALD magazine. Tom Blakley, artist.

drawing, hula-hooping . . . or watching TV? Experts say that children spend 20-30 hours a week in front of the television set, so obviously TV is a close companion. In fact, a companion so close that it can greatly influence a child.

The Methodist Television Ministry in cooperation with the children's workers of the Methodist Board of Education is seeking to make TV a better companion for children through a new Children's TV Series. This series will be a contribution of the Methodist Television Ministry to Protestant children's programming. The films will interpret the Christian faith to children, in terms of their experiences and understanding.

Scripts are being written now. Production will begin as soon as enough funds designated for Children's TV are received. (World Service Special credit will be given.)

Each of the programs will be a dramatization easily understood by children from 6 to 12 years old. Subjects will be situations and problems which a child encounters.

The Board of Education has endorsed the Children's TV Series as a project which Vacation Church Schools may support. Folders, leaflets, and offering envelopes are available for us in the schools. They may be ordered from the Central Promotional Office, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

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Purely Personal

Dr. J. Manning Potts, editor of "The Upper Room," preached for Dr. Edward J. Rees and the people of St. Cloud during the week of January 18.

The Rev. Ralph Fuller, a former pastor at Oakland Park, passed away December 14 at Lockport, N. Y.

Tallahassee District parsonages report two more P.K.'s in recent weeks. **Karen Juanita Blair** weighed in with the Rev. and Mrs. **Gulmar Blair** of the Fort White Circuit at 9 lb. 4½ oz. on December 21. A few weeks earlier **Mary Stefan Barber** came to bless the lives of the Rev. and Mrs. **Robert R. Barber**. Barber is the pastor of the Tallahassee District's "baby" church, Forest Hills, in Quincy.

The Rev. Wilfred Aldridge, pastor at DeBary, reports good results at a preaching mission in Conneaut, Ohio, despite zero temperatures and four-foot drifts of snow. This effective minister, who has now been in the ministry for 56 years, plans a four-month world tour beginning in June.

A reception was held at Christ Church, St. Petersburg, for **Dr. and Mrs. William R. Leslie** on January 4. Dr. Leslie, for 37 years pastor of St. Mark's Church, Brookline, Mass., has become a member of the staff of Christ Church and, among other things, will do pastoral calling especially on New Englanders.

Dr. George A. Fallon of Lakewood, Ohio, will lead a Spiritual Emphasis Week at Trinity, Tallahassee, next month.

More than 200 men gathered for dinner and to hear the **Hon. Millard F. Caldwell**, former governor of Florida, address the annual reunion of the Oxford Class of the Bevmer Memorial Church, Winter Haven, January 15.

The Rev. Harold I. Thomas of First Church, Chattahoochee, reports that his son **Rollen**, who has been seriously ill with nephritis for several months, has been gaining strength slowly but continually.

Dr. T. Z. Koo, who represented China in the United Nations before the Communists took over his country, was guest speaker at First Church, Dade City, on January 18.

Conference Lay Leader **R. Howard Berr** was guest speaker at Snyder Memorial, Jacksonville, on

January 11, while attending the mid-winter meeting of the Conference Board of Lay Activities in that city.

We tardily report the birth of a daughter, **Laura**, to the Rev. and Mrs. **Eugene Folsom** of Anthony on Nov. 7, 1958.

The Rev. and Mrs. Robert Weaver of Trinity, St. Petersburg, announce the arrival of **Carol Lynne**, their fourth child, on December 26, 1958.

The Rev. J. L. Hunter, pastor at Sardis, reported at District Conference that he was observing the 50th anniversary of his being licensed to preach by the Tallahassee District. He was a lad of 19 when first licensed.

Dr. A. Dudley Ward, General Secretary of the Board of Social and Economic Relations, and **Dr. Harry Denman** of the General Board of Evangelism were the speakers at a District Laymen's Rally held at First Church, West Palm Beach, on January 23. Dr. Ward also preached at First Church on the morning of January 25.

The Rev. W. J. Bennett, pastor at Mayo, has been a patient at the Veterans' Hospital at Lake City since shortly after the beginning of the conference year. **The Rev. W. O. McMullan**, beloved retired member of the conference, who now lives in Mayo, has been serving as pastor of the church without salary so that Bro. Bennett might continue to be supported by the church.

The Rev. Harold Miller, pastor of First Church, Dade City, is the new president of the Dade City Ministerial Association.

When **James Dixon** of Community Church, Daytona Beach, moved up from the county school board to the board of county commissioners in January, **Governor Collins** appointed retiring Circuit Judge **Horace Riegle** to fill the school board vacancy. Dixon is a member of the Men's Bible Class of which Riegle is teacher.

Miss Bessie Howell, who has just returned to Japan after a furlough year at home, writes that she should be addressed at Fukuoka Girls School, Fukuoka, Japan.

The Rev. Whitney Dough, associate pastor at First Church, preached and the Rev. **Robert Soka**, pastor at Grace Church, and **Dwight Humphries**, layman, all of West Palm Beach, played the accordion and guitar in a series of

evangelistic services held in a suburban church in Kingston, Jamaica, last month.

Dr. Pierce Harris of Atlanta conducted a Preaching Mission at Centenary, Quincy, last month.

The Rev. John Bass, pastor at Lakeside, Lake Worth, preached at Belle Glade on January 18.

The Apalachicola W.S.C.S. has given three Life Memberships since last June. Those so honored are **Mrs. H. A. Drennen**, **Mrs. William Sawyer**, and **Mrs. Clinton Bankster**, all of Apalachicola.

The Rev. William Blair, pastor of St. Paul's, Tallahassee, presented a book to **Miss Carol Rudd** shortly before Christmas as the 500th person he had welcomed into the membership of the church since assuming its pastorate in 1955.

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BUILDINGS and IMPROVEMENTS

Hearing aids have been installed in the sanctuary of First Church, Dade City, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Dunsmoor.

The Woman's Society in Apalachicola has bought a new electric stove for the church kitchen and an automatic washer and a new refrigerator for the parsonage.

The Rev. Robert M. Bailey, pastor, reports that Sarasota District Superintendent **Harry H. Waller** dedicated the Lee Memorial Fellowship Hall at the Lee Memorial Church, Bonita Springs, on January 11.

The Rev. James Farr writes that a new gas heating system has been installed at the Lake Jackson Church, Tallahassee District, new folding tables have been purchased, the interior of the church has been painted and grounds have been landscaped.

Folding tables and chairs costing over \$1,000 have been installed in the dining room of Community, Daytona Beach, making it possible to clear the room for various social and recreational activities. They were paid for by donations received by the Rev. S. Paris Bell from individuals, church school classes, and the W.S.C.S.

The church at Sopchoppy will observe its Centennial Anniversary this year. **The Rev. Luther Stokes** and his people are working to have the new church building and educational annex completed in time for the celebration on May 1.

The Rev. E. B. Luttrell reports that the churches of the Columbia Circuit have spent \$2,807 on improvements during the first half of this Conference year.

The new chancel furniture which has been reported in these columns as it was acquired was dedicated by the Rev. **Claude Stanfield** at Fort Meade on January 11.

Aided by the Rev. **Charles Welch** of the Methodist Board of Missions, the Rev. **Fred Stinson** has led the people of St. Paul's, Eau Gallie, in pledging more than \$65,000 toward a \$100,000 goal, the funds to be used to complete the payments on the present sanctuary and to do other greatly needed building.

The choir of Southside, Tallahassee, has secured sufficient cash

and pledges to purchase a church model Hammond organ. **M. Woodrow Davis** led the drive. Installation was completed on January 3. The necessary carpentry connected with the installation was done by the church's "do-it-yourself" team supervised by **W. L. Peebles**, **Frank Schwall**, and **Dalton Arnett**. **D. G. Dieffenwerth** is the pastor.

The Wesley Philathea Class of First Church, New Smyrna Beach, has presented the church with a pair of wrought iron candelabra honoring the Rev. **K. Hollister**, teacher of the class for more than 10 years.

The Jasper Methodist Church and parsonage have just received a complete paint job.

Trinity, Tallahassee, has completed paving its parking lots and is now preparing for a financial campaign to provide a chapel and sanctuary.

The W.S.C.S. of St. Paul's, Eau Gallie, is purchasing kitchen equipment in memory of the late Mrs. **Gladys Bennett**, wife of the Rev. **G. E. Bennett**, a former minister.

The church at Crawfordville is building an educational annex under the leadership of the Rev. **Luther Stokes**.

The Tustenuggee Church of the Fort White Circuit, the Rev. **Gulmar Blair**, pastor, has recently moved into a lovely new Sunday School unit. Aided in part by the other churches of the Tallahassee District through District Church Extension, the men of Tustenuggee made the most of every cent by furnishing the labor on the building.

Christ Church Gets Large Bequest

The St. Petersburg Times for January 5, 1959, carried the following story:

A bequest of \$171,370 from the estate of the late Mrs. **Sarah Forbes**, of Detroit, has been left to the St. Petersburg Christ Methodist Church, Dr. **A. J. Wood**, chairman of the church's board of trustees, announced yesterday.

The sum will be used to erect the last building of the Christ Methodist Church plant—a two-story structure consisting of a chapel and Sunday school classrooms, Dr. **Wood** stated.

The addition will be built along 1st Ave. N. next to the Dusenbury Hotel and will be connected with the Sanctuary by a cloistered passageway.

Mrs. **Forbes**, and her late hus-

band, **Robert Stewart Forbes**, owner of the former Michigan Drug Co., lived in St. Petersburg for five years at the time of World War I. While here they became members of Christ Methodist, then known as the First Avenue Methodist Church.

The Forbes returned to Detroit and Mr. Forbes died in 1928. Mrs. Forbes continued to live in Detroit but maintained strong ties with the St. Petersburg church. She died Dec. 23, 1956, at 95.

Another large portion of Mrs. Forbes' estate, estimated at \$400,000, was willed to Detroit's Nardin Park Methodist Church.

Dr. Wood, who visited Mrs. Forbes in Detroit several times, said she was "keenly interested" in the completion of the church's new buildings. The bequest, Dr. **Wood** said, will enable the church to move ahead with its plans.

Plans already drawn up for the addition will be "slightly revised" and soon submitted for bids, the board chairman explained.

Dr. Gross Recovering

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 26—The Rev. **Dr. John O. Gross**, Nashville, general secretary of the Methodist Board of Education's Division of Educational Institutions, is recovering satisfactorily following a recent illness, members of the family reported here today.

Dr. Gross was advised by his physician to take a period of rest following the annual meetings of the General Conference Commission on Christian Higher Education and the Board of Education, in Kansas City, Mo., January 8-14. He is executive director of the commission, which is heading The Methodist Church' quadrennial nation-wide emphasis upon higher education voted by the 1956 General Conference.

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4130 Oxford Avenue
Jacksonville 10, Florida

BISHOP JOHN W. BRANSCOMB will be greatly missed by the women of the Woman's Society of Florida and Cuba, for he was truly our friend and a power for the cause of missions. He was a frequent visitor and guest of the Florida Conference Woman's Society, having brought to us the noontime meditations, which gave to us an inspiration for the task ahead. Early in September of the past year our Conference Secretary of Promotion, Mrs. Virgil Morgan, asked the Bishop and a number of District Superintendents and Ministers for an evaluation of the Woman's Society in the local church. The following is a statement from Bishop Branscomb—Sept. 5, 1958: "The Methodist Church developed from the experience that John Wesley had when his heart was strangely warmed. He said, 'The world is my parish.' The women of the Methodist Church have literally incarnated the spirit of this Wesley motto. The Woman's Society of Christian Service of Methodism is the greatest organization of women in the world. Any church which has a Society of this great organization is in touch with a movement that is determined to take the world for Christ. It is my conviction that a local church with a Woman's Society is not only a local church but is part of a church with world horizons. As a Bishop in The Methodist Church, I believe that no one of our local churches should be without a Woman's Society. It would be a wonderful accomplishment for the Florida Conference to make the record of having 100 per cent of our churches with organized Woman's Societies. This is a challenge I lift up before the eyes of our women. Some people say, 'My parish is my world.' The people called Methodist, however, will never be satisfied with anything less than a slogan that says, 'The world is my parish.'" Signed, John Branscomb, Resident Bishop, Jacksonville Area.

MRS. CHARLES M. HENDERSON, Recording Secretary and Chairman of Public Relations for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Woman's Society of the Methodist Church, has sent to us the following information.—"The annual meeting of the SE Jurisdiction

Woman's Societies will be held February 16-17 in Atlanta, Ga., with Mrs. David J. Cathcart, President, presiding, at the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church. Some 200 delegates and guests will attend. Delegates from Florida are:—Mrs. H. V. Weems, Mrs. C. C. Lovejoy, Mrs. J. Withers Blake, Mrs. David R. Thurman, Mrs. Virgil Morgan, Mrs. Robert E. Lassiter. Alternates:—Mrs. Allen Watson, Mrs. Paul Stewart. Following the Jurisdiction meeting the SE Jurisdiction's quadrennial convocation and mid-quadrannium promotional conference will be held February 17-19 at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church and First Methodist Church, Atlanta. Delegates will remain for the convocation and promotional conference. Principal speaker for the SE Jurisdiction Woman's Society, 19th annual meeting will be Mrs. Clifford A. Bender of New York City and associate Sec. of the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Woman's Division. Mr. Robert Shrider will speak on the morning of Feb. 17th. He is a home missionary and executive director of Bethlehem Community Center in Atlanta. Besides the elected delegates from the 16 conferences in the SE Jurisdiction and Jurisdiction officers, the guests will be members of the Methodist Board of Missions who reside within the Jurisdiction, bishops and their wives, deaconesses and missionaries. A meeting of the SE Jurisdiction Deaconess Assn. will be held prior to the Annual meeting of the Woman's Society, Feb. 16. Miss Rosamond Johnson, Atlanta, presiding. The president of the Methodist Woman's Division, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Lewisburg, Tenn., will be a speaker on Wednesday, Feb. 18, for the SE Convocation.

MRS. VIRGIL MORGAN—Fla. Conf. Sec. of Promotion sends us a schedule of the Annual District Meetings, the names of the Itinerating Fla. Conference Officers and guests. The officers are Mrs. H. V. Weems, Mrs. David Thurman, Mrs. Virgil Morgan and our guest, Mrs. A. E. de Fuster of Santa Clara, Cuba, president of the Cuba Conference Woman's Society. Places and Churches are as follows—March 4th:—Tampa, Palma Ceia Church, March 9th:—

Madison, Madison Church, March 10th:—Jacksonville, Southside Church, March 11th:—Gainesville, First Church, March 12th:—Orlando, Goss Memorial Church, March 13th—Lakeland, First Church, March 16th—West Palm Beach, Calvary Church, March 17—Miami, New Hileah Church, March 18th—Ft. Myers, First Church, March 19th—Clearwater, First Church. Mrs. Morgan tells us the Florida Conference Woman's Society led the entire Division with new members for the first report period with 1533 new members, Southern California was second. The North Georgia Guild held first place with Fla. second with a gain of 226 new members. This Frances says is a real challenge and a real responsibility to us and for us! Have we really worked at bringing these into full fellowship, or did they come because they like us, love Christ and need must serve Him? Will Societies greatly increase their pledge when adding these new members? Watch for this!

MRS. THOS. C. KERN of St. Petersburg reports the Executive Committee of the District Woman's Society will meet Feb. 12th



Miss Dorothea Froelich

in Christ Church, St. Petersburg. Mrs. Robt. Hill, Mrs. Robt. Adair and Mrs. Paul Shaw will be hostesses for the day. It will be the last meeting for a while for Miss Dorothea Froelich, District Sec. of Missionary Education and Service for she has volunteered and been accepted by the Woman's Division to teach upper elementary grades in Colegro Maria

Alvarado, better known to our friends in the United States as Lima High School, Lima Peru. She will report for duty March 1st. Miss Froelich believes in putting theory into practice and her service will release a teacher to return home for a year's furlough. Before coming to Florida six years ago Miss Froelich was an Elementary School Principal in Michigan. She received both her Bachelor and Master's degree from Teachers College at Columbia University. She is a member of the Anona Church, Largo, Fla. Her many friends feel very definitely Florida's loss will be Peru's gain and wish her much happiness and success in this new field.

EDITH K. ZICKLER of the Bellview Church, GAINESVILLE DISTRICT reports many activities in their church prior to Christmas. The Woman's Society cooperating in every instance. Mrs. R. E. Rutland and Mrs. T. H. Haden assisted with the program for the Week of Prayer and Self-Denial. The Florida Methodist Children's Home at Enterprise was the recipient of many useful gifts, canned goods and much sugar for Christmas.

ELIZABETH DONALDSON of GAINESVILLE First Church writes—The Woman's Society is cooperating with the Commission on Missions in a church wide study of "The Concerns of a Continent" to be concluded in four sessions. Dr. E. R. Bartley spoke about Alaska; Mrs. J. H. Fogel and Mrs. Aubrey Reece—Hawaii; Mrs. D. R. Mansolo told of Mexico and the islands of the Caribbean. The fourth session was an appraisal of Christian opportunities and a Christian's Challenge.

MRS. JOHN WILSON, also of Gainesville First Church presented a program "The March of Missions through the World Federation of Methodist Women" in a clever dialogue and letter readings by Mrs. Luke Wilson and Mrs. J. N. Layne. Mrs. Donald Rothwell, Miss Bertha Bloodworth and Mrs. Sam Lankford gave messages from the women of Uruguay, The Belgian Congo and Tonga. The Theme of the World Federation of Methodist Women is—"To know Christ and make Him known." A social hour was enjoyed by those present who were greeted by the President, Mrs. George Stearns, Mrs. J. H. McCranie and members of Circle 1 were hostesses.

MRS. BRUCE N. MOELLER of the TAMPA DISTRICT sends the fine picture on these pages of Mrs. Raymond White, Tampa District President, who entertained in her



Mrs. Raymond White, Mrs. Thomas Groome and Mrs. Virgil G. Morgan

home Mrs. Virgil Morgan, Conference Sec. of Prom. of Sarasota and Mrs. T. E. Groome of Miami, Dist. Sec. of Promotion. The three had met to make plans for the work of the ten District Presidents and Secretaries of Promotion for the presentation of their work at the Annual meeting of the Fla. Conference Woman's Society in Jacksonville, April 21-23 in Riverside Park Methodist Church.

The TAMPA DISTRICT Annual Meeting of the Woman's Society will convene in the Palma Ceia Methodist Church, Wednesday March 4th (please note change of date). The prayer and literature rooms as well as the registration desk will be ready at 9:30 A.M. with the meeting time 10 A.M. A 25c sandwich lunch will be served and there will be a nursery.

MRS. CARL REESE of the ORLANDO DISTRICT reports the completion of Goss Memorial Church as a dream come true for the entire congregation, that began in February 1931 and completed when the beautiful new sanctuary was dedicated on Dec. 14, 1958. The Woman's Society and the Wesleyan Service Guild of this fine church contributed much to this undertaking.

MRS. HOWARD ANDERSON, President of the Orlando District was a recent guest of the First Church Woman's Society and the Wesleyan Service Guild in a dinner meeting. While Mrs. Anderson was in Orlando plans were completed for the District meeting in Goss Memorial Church, March 12th. The United Church Women of Orlando will observe the World

Day of Prayer, February 13th with a communion service in the morning at Reeves Memorial Church and in the afternoon the program will be presented in Orlando Presbyterian Church with Dr. Edward Fendergrass, pastor of First Methodist Church Orlando as the speaker.

MRS. WAYNE THOMPSON of the JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT reports the Woman's Auxiliary of Brewster Methodist Hospital sponsored a tea Sunday afternoon Jan. 11th for the members of the Woman's Societies in the Jacksonville Area. Tours of the hospital were conducted for the guests by members of the Auxiliary. Mrs. Saliye B. Mathis, President of the Auxiliary was chairman for the afternoon. Guests were greeted by Mrs. Ralph Perkins, President of the Jacksonville District Woman's Society and Mrs. B. B. Blount, Dist. Sec. of Supply Work. The Administrator, Mr. Jack Whittington expressed his appreciation for the fine work of the women in the Auxiliary and the Societies for the hospital.

MR. ROBERT NORDHAM of Waldwick, New Jersey, recently

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joined the staff of Brewster Methodist Hospital as Assistant Administrator. Mr. Nordham served his residency at Duke University Medical Center in the School of Medicine Program in Hospital Administration. He was graduated from Duke University with a B.A. degree in Economics. During the past ten years he has worked in many hospital departments which make him well equipped for hospital operation and procedures. In addition to his graduate study at Duke, he has spent extensive time with the Duke Endowment in Charlotte, N. C. He has attended many Institutes and Conferences on the work of hospitals and is a member of the American Hospital Assn.

MR. STEPHEN E. DORN has also joined the staff of the hospital as Supervisor of collections. He comes to Brewster Hospital from St. Louis, Mo. where he has completed an administrative residency with the Division of the City of St. Louis. He is a graduate of Drake University, Des

Moines, Iowa, with a B.A. degree in Psychology. In June of 1958 he was awarded a Master's degree in Hospital Administration by St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

MRS. S. LLOYD FRISBIE of the LAKELAND DISTRICT sends us information regarding The Executive Committee for their District when they entertained the District Executive Committee of the Wesleyan Service Guild with a supper meeting, Jan. 16th in the College Heights Methodist Church, Lakeland with the president Mrs. Earle Rabb of Winter Haven, presiding. Speakers for the evening were Mrs. Allen Watson, of Wildwood and Conf. Sec. of Supply Work. She spoke of her attendance at the Seminar on the United Nations in November at Washington, D. C. and New York City. Rev. Raymond A. Alley, Lakeland D. S. was also a speaker using the theme "What is that in your hand?" Mrs. Rabb asked each person present to speak briefly as to the "Pleasures and pains of her office."

Bible Crusade Revival

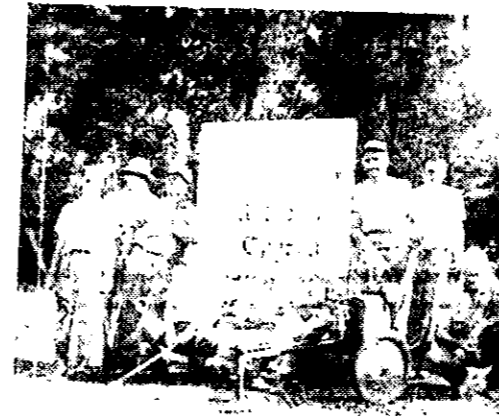
The Rev. T. Newton Wise of the American Bible Society led the Rev. Martin R. Davis and the people of Moore Haven in a Bible Crusade Revival last month.

A feature of the meeting was the presentation of copies of the Holy Scripture to various groups and persons including the city commission, the Chamber of Commerce, the county clerk, the sheriff, the Odd Fellows and the Masons. An Illustrated New Testament was given to the school library.

Another feature was special music furnished by the School Band, the School Chorus and a male quartet from the State Road Camp. Pocket Testaments were given each member of these organizations and a copy of the Holy Bible was given for the reading room of the State Road Camp.

New Church for Quincy

Organized July 27, 1958, with a charter membership of 62 and



now boasting 80 members, the Rev. Robert R. Barber, pastor, reports that the new Forest Hills Church in Quincy is looking forward to the day when they will be in their own building. A site has been secured and here is a typical work crew which meets every Thursday afternoon to clear the land.

Guild month was observed at Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, by Wesleyan Service Guild holding a combined meeting with the Woman's Society. Speakers from both groups brought an informative program. The husbands were invited guests.



Pictured here is the new \$127,000 sanctuary of the Goss Memorial Church, Orlando, the opening of which was reported in the last issue.

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**BISHOP BRANSCOMB
DIES AT FIFTY-THREE**

METHODIST BISHOP John Branscomb of the Jacksonville, Fla., episcopal area, died in his sleep Jan. 16 at the Orange Memorial Hospital in Orlando, Fla., following a heart attack. He was fifty-three.

Funeral services were held Jan. 17 in the First Methodist Church of Orlando, where the bishop was pastor from 1944 to 1952, and burial followed the next day in his home town of Union Springs, Ala.

Survivors include his wife, the former Elizabeth Keller; a son, John Rufus, and a daughter, Mrs. Milton Davis, Jr., both of Atlanta, Ga., and two grandchildren.

Bishop Branscomb became ill Jan. 5 while attending a Florida Conference evangelistic rally in Ocala. He dismissed it as a digestive upset, but a

physical examination next day revealed that he had suffered a heart attack. He was hospitalized immediately and was thought to be making a good recovery when he suffered a fatal attack ten days later.

Friends said the bishop was physically exhausted when he returned home December 3 from a six-week visitation to Methodist work in South America, but that he plunged immediately into a series of district conferences.

Bishop Branscomb was widely known for his vigorous preaching and his interest in the church's missionary program.

He spent his entire ministry in Florida, starting in 1928 as pastor of the Boca Grande church. Later pastorates included churches in St. Petersburg, Arcadia, Tampa and Orlando.

In 1952 he was elected a bishop by the Methodist Church's Southeastern

Jurisdiction and assigned to the Jacksonville Area, comprising the Florida and Cuba annual conferences.

Bishop Branscomb was a graduate of Emory University, receiving the A.B. and B.D. degrees in 1926 and 1928, respectively. He did graduate work at Garrett Biblical Institute, and held honorary doctorates from Emory, Florida Southern College and Bethune-Cookman College.

Bishop Branscomb was chairman of the Methodist College of Bishops, Southeastern Jurisdiction; vice president of the Advance Committee, a member of the Methodist Board of Missions and the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations; vice president of the Lake Junaluska, N. C., Methodist Assembly, and a trustee of several Methodist colleges. Administration of the Jacksonville Area will be added to the duties of Bishop



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PHONE 42-1621, STATION 413

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BISHOP JOHN BRANSCOMB
225 East Duval Street
Jacksonville, Florida

PERSONAL: Born in Union Springs, Ala., May 11, 1905.
Parents: John Sanford and Ida (Dismukes) Branscomb.
Married: Elizabeth Keller, November 28, 1928.
Children: Betty Joan and John Rufus.

EDUCATION: A.B. (1926), B.D. (1928) Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.
D.D. (1940) Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fla.
Graduate work at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.

MINISTERIAL SERVICE: Admitted to Florida Annual Conference, June, 1928.
Ordained deacon, 1930; ordained elder, 1932.
Florida pastorates: Boca Grande, 1928-29; Gulfport-Childs Park, St. Petersburg, 1929-31; Concord Park, Orlando, 1931-33; Trinity, Arcadia, 1933-36; First Church, Tampa, 1936-44; First Church, Orlando, 1944-52. Elected Bishop of The Methodist Church June 27, 1952, Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Roanoke, Va., and assigned to Jacksonville, Fla., Episcopal Area.

GENERAL SERVICE: Delegate to Methodist General Conference of 1944, 1948, 1952.
Delegate to Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of 1940, 1944, 1948, 1952.
Delegate to Methodist Ecumenical Conferences of 1947 and 1951.
Florida Conference Missionary Secretary, 1937-52.
Executive Secretary of Florida Methodist Centennial, 1944.
Vice President Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, Methodist General Board of Missions, 1952-56.
Trustee: Lake Junaluska (N.C.) Methodist Assembly; Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga.; Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fla.; Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

ORGANIZATIONS: Sigma Alpha Epsilon; Kiwanis International.

HONORS: In 1951 Bishop Branscomb, then pastor of the First Methodist Church, Orlando, was named "the Methodist of the Year" by WORLD OUTLOOK, missionary periodical of The Methodist Church.

Note: In addition to the Florida Conference, Bishop Branscomb has episcopal supervision of the Cuba Conference. The two conferences compose the Jacksonville Area.

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Commission on Public Relations
and Methodist Information

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GENERAL SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR
150 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 11, N. Y.
OREGON 5-7236—WATKINS 9-7542

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THE GENERAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

From
WASHINGTON OFFICE
O. B. FANNING, DIRECTOR
100 MARYLAND AVE., N. E.
WASHINGTON 2, D. C.
LINCOLN 3-5038

For Your Information

BISHOP JOHN BRANSCOMB

Resident Bishop of the Jacksonville, Fla., Episcopal Area
The Methodist Church
225 E. Duval St., Jacksonville 2, Fla.

* * *

Bishop Branscomb administers the work of The Methodist Church in the Florida and Cuba Annual Conferences, comprising 572 churches with a total membership of approximately 193,000.

- PERSONAL:** Born: Union Springs, Ala., May 11, 1905
Parents: John Sanford and Ida (Dismukes) Branscomb
Married: Elizabeth Keller, Nov. 28, 1928
Children: Betty Jean and John Rufus
- EDUCATION:** A.B. (1926), B.D. (1928) Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., D.D. (1940) Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fla., graduate work at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.
Honorary: D.D. (1954) Emory University, LL.D. (1953) Florida Southern College, LL.D. (1953) Bethune-Cookman College
- MINISTERIAL SERVICE:** Admitted to Florida Annual Conference, June 1928; ordained Deacon, 1930; ordained Elder, 1932. Florida pastorates: Boca Grande, 1928-29; Gulfport-Childs Park, St. Petersburg, 1929-31; Concord Park, Orlando, 1931-33; Trinity, Arcadia, 1933-36; First Church, Tampa, 1936-44; First Church, Orlando, 1944-52. Elected Bishop of The Methodist Church June 27, 1952, Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Roanoke, Va., and assigned to Jacksonville, Fla., Episcopal Area.
- MEMBER:** General Board of Missions (vice-president of Joint Section of Cultivation and Education); The Advance Commission (vice-president); Interboard Committee on Christian Education Overseas; Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations; Southeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops (secretary).
- TRUSTEE:** Lake Junaluska Assembly (vice-president); Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla. (vice-chairman); Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fla.; Wesleyan College, Macon; Paine College, Augusta (president of Board).

Deceased Jan 16, 1959

(MORE)

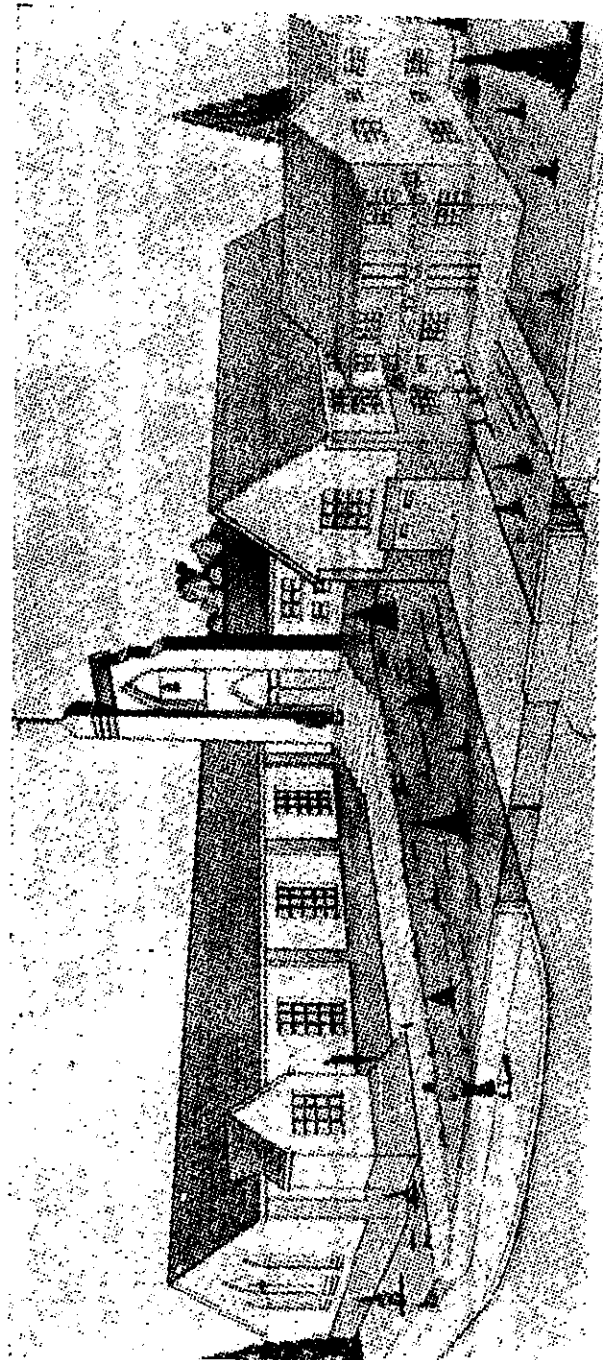
Bishop Branscomb -- 2

ORGANIZATIONS: Sigma Alpha Epsilon; Kiwanis International; Omicron Delta Kappa

HONORS: In 1951, when pastor of the First Methodist Church, Orlando, he was named "the Methodist of the Year" by WORLD OUTLOOK, missionary periodical of The Methodist Church.

FORMER SERVICES: Florida Conference Missionary Secretary, 1937-52
Executive Secretary of Florida Methodist Centennial, 1944
President, Southeastern Jurisdictional Board of Missions, 1944-52

Dec. 31, 1956



BISHOP JOHN W. BRANSCOMB CHURCH
Holguin, Cuba.



BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL

The new church in Marianao, Havana, Cuba, is named the BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL CHURCH, after the beloved bishop of that name, who was an outstanding pastor in Georgia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee, before being elevated to the episcopacy. He was bishop of the Methodist Church in Cuba from 1944-1949, and set the strategy for it for the next hundred years. He established the Agricultural and Industrial School at Preston, the Union Seminary at Maanzas, and the University Methodist Church in Habana. His was a labor of love: the blessings from which are numerous and as enduring as the stars.

The building of the BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL CHURCH is a golden dream, that is becoming a glorious reality. For forty-four years, the Leland Memorial congregation, the largest Methodist group in Cuba, was without a church home. Then the denomination's leaders and the local congregation decided that a church must be built, and that it should be named after Dr. Harrell, one of the great bishops of all times. Now the temple is completed but for the acoustical ceiling, and the BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL ANNEX AND PAR-



BISHOP JOHN W. BRANSCOMB.

THE HOME-GOING OF A BISHOP

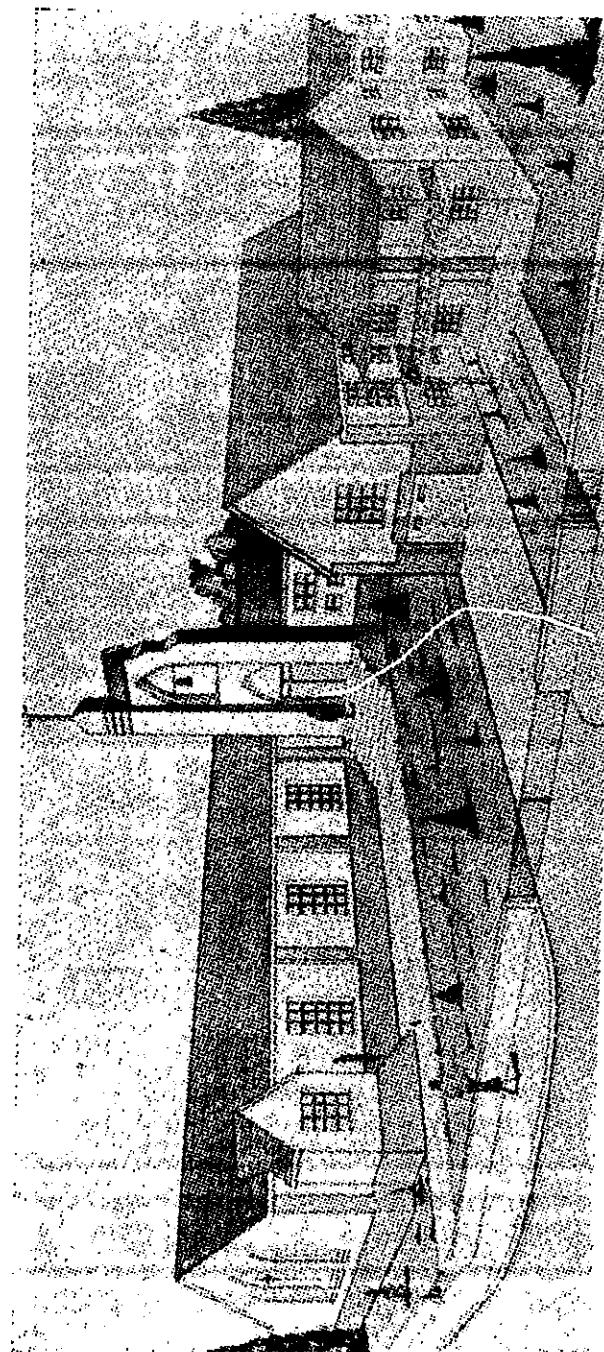
All Cuba is weeping over the home-going of our greatly beloved resident bishop, Dr. John Warren Branscomb. He knew us intimately and loved us supremely. The Methodists of Cuba returned that love with all the warmth and glow of the Latin heart.

The bishop was born at Union Springs, Alabama, May 11, 1905. His parents were devout Christians, and members of the Methodist Church. The lad was left an orphan at an early age. He worked his way through Emory University and the Candler School of Theology. Later many honorary degrees were conferred upon him. His pastorates were all in Florida, and he held them with brilliant success. He was designated THE METHODIST OF THE YEAR by World Outlook the same year that he was elected bishop. He was elevated to the Episcopacy six years ago, and assigned to Cuba and Florida. Here he has given his all. Like John the Baptist, "he was a burning and a shining light." His voice was heard exalting Christ before the multitudes throughout the United States and Cuba,

around the world, and across Latin America. He was a world figure, loved not only by great assemblies, but by countless thousands of people. He loved everybody: small, great, learned and unlearned, rich and poor, high and low, and of all races, creeds and climes. It was but natural, therefore, that everyone should love him. He was God's great, good man, tender and brotherly in the most delicate relationships between men. He was every inch a man, and every inch a bishop. He honored and dignified the office. Methodism did a marvelous thing when it gave to the world BISHOP JOHN WARREN BRANSCOMB who was BISHOP TO ALL THE WORLD! In the loss of such an incomparable leader and church builder, such a lover of life and of people, such a friend, brother, father, counselor, and evangelist, Florida and Cuba join hands as they did in his life to build the Kingdom, as he would have guided us to do. Together Florida and Cuba mourn his passing! Together they send condolences to the widow, children, grand-children, and other members of his distinguished family. In this hour of grief and pain Cuba and Florida feel more united than ever in the great love we unitedly bear to our fallen leader and to his glorious Lord. With Dr. P. M. Boyd, district superintendent of the Miami District, we say, "he was the most Christlike person we ever knew."

It was appropriate that Bishop Branscomb should have been funeralized in the First Methodist Church of Orlando, Florida, among his own dearly beloved, where he had been the pastor for many years. The services were held at eleven o'clock, January 17, 1959, with Dr. Ed. Pendergrass, the present pastor, presiding, Bishops Arthur J. Moore and Roy H. Short delivered tenderly beautiful addresses. The bishop was laid to rest the following day at Union Springs, Alabama.

"O how sweet it will be in that beautiful land,
So free from all sorrow and pain;
With songs on our lips and with harps in our hands,
To meet one another again."



BISHOP JOHN W. BRANSCOMB CHURCH
Holguin, Cuba.



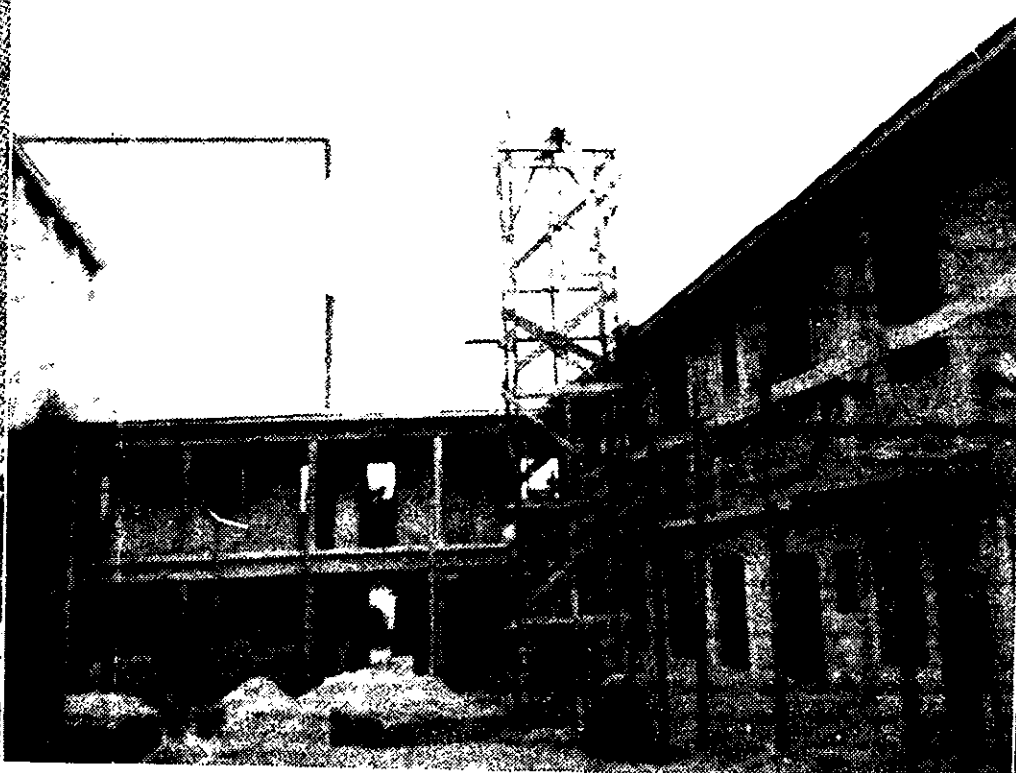
BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL

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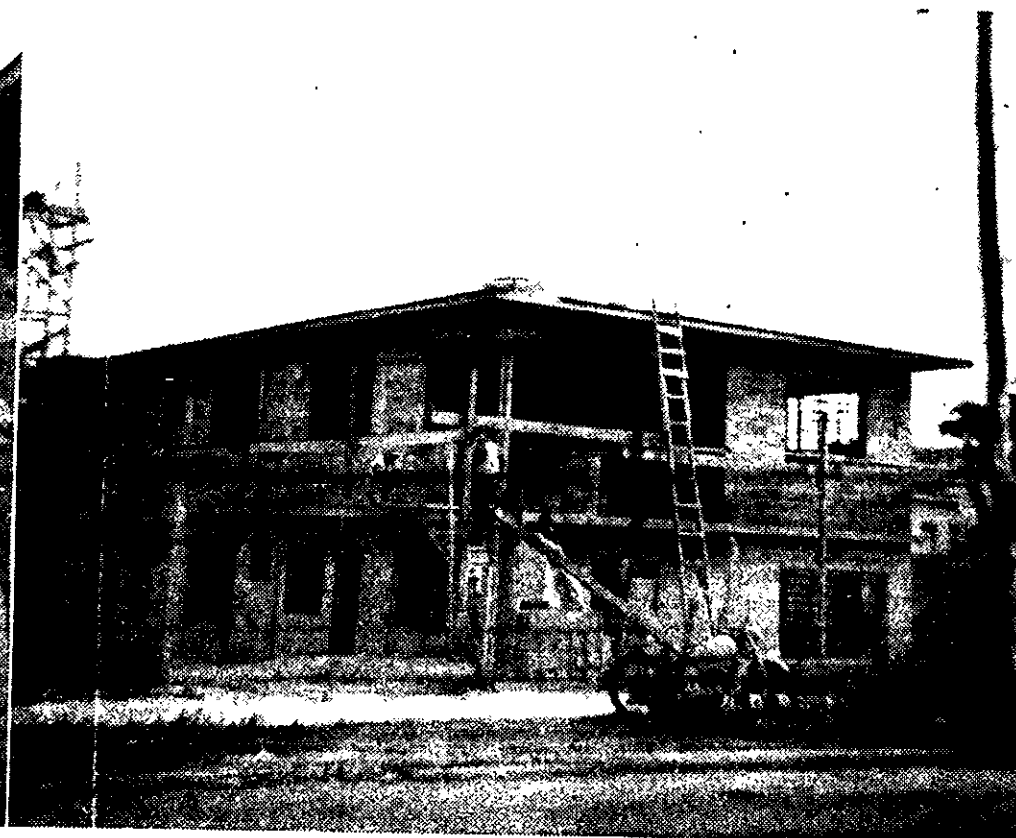
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BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL CHURCH



THE ANNEX



THE PARSONAGE

THE REPORT

The Bishop Costen J. Harrell Church (which houses the former Leland Memorial Congregation) occupies one of the most strategic locations of Me-

Church a reality will be glad to know that their contributions have amounted to approximately \$90,000.00. The local congregation has contributed in paid pledges \$44,000.00, and pledged \$6,000.00 more, making a total of \$50,000.00 for its share.

SONAGE. The time has come to finish it for the glory of God and the edification of His people.

A REPORT AND AN INVITATION

The love, prayers, and money of the four hundred and four churches, across the United States, have combined to build the Bishop Costen J. Harrell Church in Marianao, Havana, Cuba. The contributions have been made during the past six years. Until now a complete report has not been made to these wonderful friends. The present folder is such a report, and is being sent to each contributor. A copy is sent to each pastor in Western North Carolina, as a majority of the pastoral charges of that Conference, have cooperated. Other interested friends will also receive the report. It is good policy for the donors to know how their money is being spent on the mission field.

thodism. It is in Marianao, Havana, Cuba. Here cross the crowded ways of life, 50,000 people live around it. Here are located the twin institutions of Candler College for boys, and Buenavista College for girls, which have a total enrollment of 1600. They begin with the student in the kindergarten and continue with him through the grades, Cuban and American high school, and commercial school.

In October, 1957, Candler University was born, as a natural outgrowth of Candler and Buenavista schools. It has had fine success and is now in its second academic year. The future for Methodism and for all Protestantism afforded by this institution, may well be far greater than our fondest dreams.

The Bishop Costen J. Harrell Church serves the Candler and Buenavista schools and Candler University. It is THE TEMPLE of this whole Methodist center.

The four hundred and four churches that have contributed to make the Bishop Costen J. Harrell

Acoustical tile should be placed in the roof and back walls of the church, at a cost of \$4,000.00.

It is imperative to build a Sunday School Annex and a parsonage at a cost of \$40,000.00.

Summarizing: \$44,000.00 is needed for the Annex, parsonage, and acoustical tile. All of this money is provided, except \$4,000.00. When this is provided, the project will be completed. As already stated, the local congregation is engaged in raising \$6,000.00, which is their part toward finishing the project. WHAT IS NEEDED TO BE RAISED THROUGH OUR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES IS \$4,000.00.

THE INVITATION

It is our privilege to invite all those who have made contributions toward building the Bishop Costen J. Harrell Church to help us with another offering so that the BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL METHODIST CHURCH ANNEX AND PARSON

AGE may be completed. Also we extend the same cordial invitation to other friends, who might wish to share in this great dream of Christian love. We shall be most grateful for all offerings. The money may be sent through the regular channels of the Board of Missions. Full Advance Credit will be given for it.

In Jesus' love,

Carl D. Stewart.

Field Treasurer of the Methodist Board of Missions for Cuba, and superintendent of the Oriente District.

Please note that my address is:

Avenida 33 No. 5420, Marianao, Cuba.

A GREETING IN THE NEW YEAR 1959 DEAR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES:

How good it is to salute you in the New Year! We have passed through the revolution, which placed Dr. Fidel Castro in power. We trust that a new and better day has dawned for Cuba. Many of the leaders of the revolution are Protestants, and a surprisingly large number of them, even of the military officials, are Methodists.



DR. FIDEL CASTRO

All of our churches and missions are now able to resume their programs. Expansion is the order of the day, especially in the Oriente Province, where there are thousands of people in the rural areas, and small towns, who have no church opportunities. This is Methodism's big chance to win them for Christ and the Church.

You have been most generous with your offerings for our work in Cuba, which accounts for its phenomenal success. You will receive a golden crown just as surely as any missionary does, for your dollars are you ministering to this lovely people, who recognize that their hope is in Christ, the Lord.

As we face the period of national reconstruction after the war, we face new and vast opportunities for Methodism. May our Church be equal to the greatness of this hour!

Gratefully yours,

Carl D. Stewart.

In the year following the untimely death of Bishop John Branscomb memorials have arisen in several countries to honor him. This is the story of one such memorial. Mr. Almand is treasurer of the Division of World Missions.

By ASHTON A. ALMAND

The Branscomb Memorial

IN HOLGUIN, CUBA

THE missionary zeal of the Florida Conference for many years could be largely attributed to the missionary passion of one of its pastors, John W. Branscomb. After about twenty-five years as an active pastor in Florida, much of it spent as Conference Missionary Secretary, Dr. Branscomb was elected a Bishop of The Methodist Church in 1952. He was assigned to the Jacksonville Area and spent the remainder of his life providing episcopal leadership to this area which

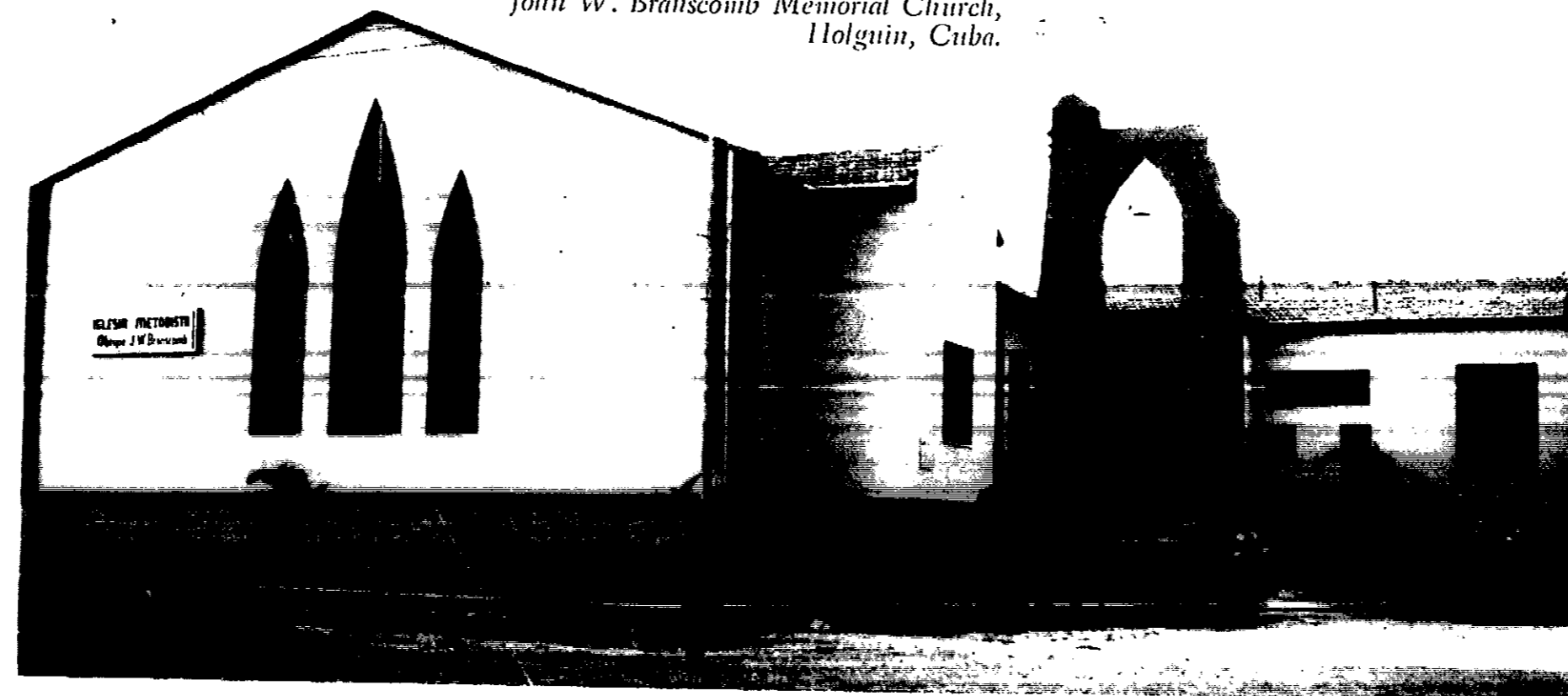
includes the Florida and Cuba Conferences.

In 1950 I accompanied Dr. Branscomb and a group of pastors to Cuba. This was Dr. Branscomb's first trip to Cuba and he never got over it. The need for Christ and His Church among the Cuban people deeply impressed him and was to become one of the deepest concerns of his ministry.

Following Bishop Branscomb's assignment in 1952 I again accom-

panied him to Cuba on his first official visit as bishop of the area. Everywhere the bishop was warmly welcomed from the very beginning, and he accepted the problems as well as the challenges of the Cuban Church as his own. His feeling of personal responsibility is reflected in an incident occurring in Holguin, Oriente. We had worshiped at night in the very inadequate building housing the Methodist church and clinic, and he was concerned over the lack of physical facilities. Next morning we walked over some wide areas of the town. One area, where it was estimated more than ten thousand people

*John W. Branscomb Memorial Church,
Holguin, Cuba.*



lived in such spiritual and financial poverty as is difficult to describe, Bishop Branscomb put his arm around my shoulder and said, "We must get these people a church some way, we must." He always felt this need as his personal responsibility.

Members of the Florida Conference expressed a desire to show their appreciation for the skillful and devoted leadership Bishop Branscomb was giving. Without his knowledge a committee met and proposed a campaign among the Florida churches to construct a church some place in Cuba in his honor. The plan was enthusiastically accepted and became a reality when on the opening night of the 1956 session of the Florida Conference, pastors, laymen and friends brought forth nearly \$43,000 and placed it on the altar to provide the financial support for the building. Bishop Branscomb was asked where he felt the need greatest for the church and, with great concern for all of Cuba, he named Holguin as the place of greatest need.

Plans were drawn, property secured, work begun, and for the next two years hearts and minds were filled with progress reports on this church honoring our bishop. Then it happened. Word flashed over the world—our bishop had died. And the church building about which he had dreamed, for which he had prayed, and which was in his honor, now became a memorial to his life of service and devotion.

On July 5, 1959, the lovely John W. Branscomb Church in Holguin was dedicated by Bishop Roy Short. As a part of the service Mrs. Branscomb presented a fine framed picture of her late husband to the church. Dr. P. M. Boyd, District Superintendent of the Miami, Florida, District and long-time friend of Bishop Branscomb, gave the dedication sermon. Others from the States taking part included Dr. M. C. Cleveland, President of the Florida Conference Board of Missions; Dr. A. A. Almand, representing the Division of World Missions; Dr. B. F. Gannaway, Orlando; Rev. R. M. Blackburn, De Land; and Rev. Roy Ben Ridley, Winter Garden. Missionary personnel included Dr. Carl A. Stewart, Havana; Rev. Victor Rankin, Camaguey; Rev.



Shown at the dedication are (left to right): Missionary Carl D. Stewart, Bishop Roy Short, Mrs. John W. Branscomb.

Gene Parks, Havana; and Rev. Robert Eaker, Holguin.

To the people of Holguin, a city of over 100,000 in the province where the political revolution has recently been experienced by so many, the John W. Branscomb Church, with its approximately 150 members, rep-

resents a living force for good and a permanent reminder of the continuing ministry of the Church in times of distress as well as joy. It continues to spread the Gospel of the Warm Heart in memory of him who spent his life portraying the warm-hearted love of Christ.

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org