

The
**PRESBYTERIAN
SURVEY**

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

MAY, 1924



The Famous Alamo, one of the show places of San Antonio, Texas



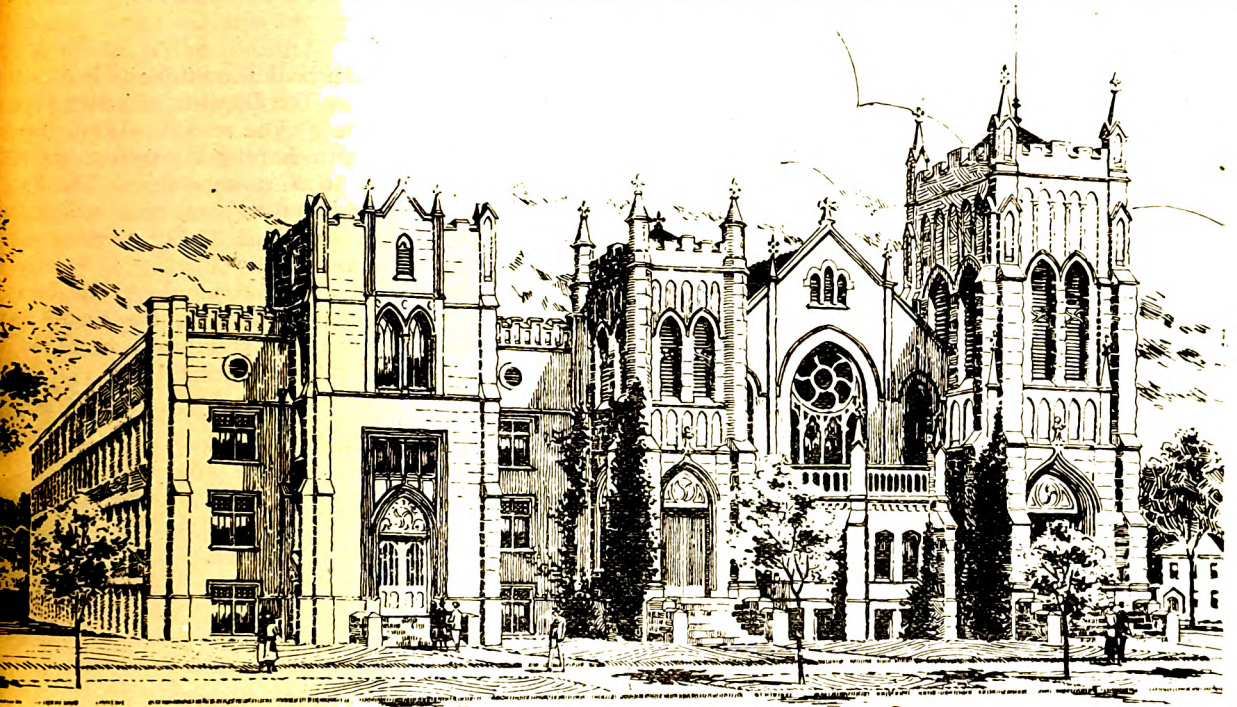
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First Church, San Antonio, Texas, where the General Assembly will convene on May 15.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOTES

R. E. MAGILL

The annual meeting of our General Assembly will convene on May 15, 1924, in the First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas. The Assembly has not met in Texas since 1904 and the session this year promises to be one of unusual interest. San Antonio is one of the most beautiful cities of the Lone Star State and a place that abounds in historic interest.

The Alamo with its rich associations with the early days of the Southwest will be a point of great interest to all visitors.

The First Church which is to be the host of the Assembly is one of the oldest and yet one of the most prosperous of our organizations in Texas.

Dr. P. B. Hill, the pastor, and his live membership are making careful preparations to give the Assembly a royal welcome.

A number of Ad Interim Committees are to make reports which will afford opportunity for "Much Palaver" and we trust wise conclusions will be reached.

A number of amendments to the Book of Church Order will be submitted which if adopted will clarify this very much muddled document. The suggestion to churches as to a method by which they may become

legally incorporated bodies is not to be incorporated as an amendment to the Book of Church order and it is hoped no time will be wasted in discussing academic matters.

A report on a Bureau of Vacancy and Supply will be submitted and it is greatly to be desired that a plan may be worked out which will assure every church a pastor and every pastor a church. At present we have over 400 churches without pastoral oversight and about 100 ministers who do not seem to have regular work.

The committee to study conditions in our border Synods will have an interesting report and it is to be hoped that plans will be suggested which will avoid duplication of effort in this day when sixty-five per cent of America's population is still out of the evangelical churches.

The report on the problems of the country church will discuss a vital matter and should arouse us to the fact that our small town and city churches cannot grow unless we adopt intelligent and aggressive plans to reach the people in the open country. At present fifty to seventy-five per cent of the country churches are of the Baptist and Methodist persuasion with probably

HOME MISSIONS

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ASSEMBLY'S MISSION SCHOOLS

HOMER McMILLAN



When we speak of Mission Schools, at once we think of the mountains, for it is there that the greatest number of these schools are found. But the Assembly's Home Mission Committee is responsible for other backward and dependent classes, and schools are conducted not only for the mountain people, but for the Indians, the Negroes and the Mexicans.

It is not the purpose of the Church Schools to educate the masses, or to compete in any way with the schools of the state and county. They are maintained only in the communities where the state schools are inadequate

as in the mountains, to supplement the work done by them; or to train Christian teachers and leaders for service among their own people, as the schools for the Indians, the Negroes, and the Mexicans.

While the ordinary grades are taught in all the schools maintained by the church, their primary purpose is missionary and evangelistic. The majority of the pupils come from homes devoid of Christian training. Through the influence of Christian teachers, with instruction in the Bible and the Catechisms, these boys and girls are brought to know Christ as Saviour, are taught the great facts of the Christian faith, and their duty to their fellowmen. They carry back to their homes the lessons they have learned, and in this way the school becomes a powerful agency in the uplift of the community.

Stillman Institute, with departments for boys and girls, is doing a far-reaching work for the Negro people. The Presbyterian Church does not have a large colored membership, but its influence is far wider than its numbers. For more than two-score years this Christian school has been sending trained Negro ministers into our own and into the work of other denominations, and has been training young men as teachers, and for other useful vocations. Recently a school for girls has been added, and Negro girls are being sent out as teachers and nurses and home-makers, carrying to their own people a gospel of honesty and cleanliness. It is certain that the work at Stillman is the most profitable investment our church is making for the evangelization and the uplift of the Negro race.

At Oklahoma Presbyterian College and at Goodland School a similar work is being done for the Indians.

Many of the pupils attending these institutions come from homes that are not Christian, and from the remote country districts with scant knowledge of home-making or sanitation. These girls are taught how to live, as well as to read and to write. It is very rare that a student finishes the course at either of these schools without becoming an active Christian and prepared for efficient service.

The Texas-Mexican Industrial Institute, at Kingsville, Texas, has done a remarkable work for these needy and deserving people. This school began its career twelve years ago. Its first building was a mule stable. Today about 100 Mexican boys are being cared for in the various buildings, and the school is one of the best of its kind in this country. The young men being trained here are the future leaders of the race in Texas and in Mexico. There is a public school waiting for every boy that is ready to teach. It is the expectation of those in charge of this institution that in a short time there will be many Mexican boys for the Spanish Department of Austin Theological Seminary to study for mission service at home and in the foreign field.

The latest undertaking of our church is a Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls. This school was made possible by the interest and help of the Auxiliaries, and the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Green, and other citizens of Taft, Texas. This school will be opened in October, 1924. The students will come from homes of ignorance and poverty. It is a distressing fact that many Presbyterian girls cannot read or write. They are naturally bright and intelligent, but have never had a chance. This school will give many an opportunity for an education, which otherwise would not have been possible.

The evangelistic work of our church for the Mexican has been wonderfully blessed since its beginning, more than thirty years ago, but the educational work has lagged behind. It would be impossible to measure the influence of these schools upon the life of the Mexican people. From them will go a stream of young Mexican men and women to be Christian leaders and teachers in their churches and communities, and the whole church will be richer and better because of them.



The Mission Schools of the Presbyterian Church are in the unprivileged classes, those who live on the margins and frontiers, where life is hard and the opportunities few. The schools may be poor in physical equipment. The teachers may receive little in material things. But they have a reward that is priceless and measureless in the lives that are redeemed, and fitted for places of leadership and responsibility.

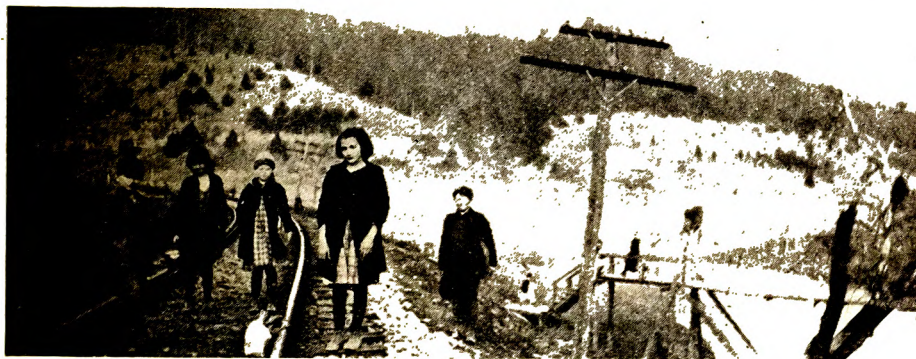
Who can estimate the value of a life, or who can measure the possibilities wrapped up in a boy or girl? Often from the most unpromising surroundings come those who render the largest service to the world. Some minister, or teacher, awakened the mind and kindled the heart of a pupil the desire to serve his fellow-men, and difficulties became stepping-stones in the way to a useful career.

The pastor of an important church tells how, as a boy, he served as janitor at a mission school, building stoves and sweeping floors that he might get an education. Later, through the kindly interest of the mission

pastor he went to college, and then to the Theological Seminary. He awakened the ambitions of his own brothers and sisters for an education. Today he is pastor of a great city church, giving the people a vision of their responsibility for the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world.

William H. Shepherd was a bare-foot boy on a village street with no greater outlook on life than thousands of other Negro boys. He was assisted by a Christian woman to attend Stillman Institute. Here, under the influence of Christian teachers, he was led to Christ, and his mind turned to Africa. In that dark continent he rendered a notable service as an explorer and missionary of our Church, and was honored by being made a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society of London. Dr. Shepherd is one of the great ministers and leaders of his race.

It is not always to the great or to the rich that opportunity comes. Oftentimes it is to the humblest that the largest visions of usefulness appear.



On the way to school.

Would you walk for miles to go
To school, because you loved it so?
I can tell of girls who do,
Boys unknown to me and you;
Glad and ready thus to grasp
Opportunity at last.

Assembly's Home Mission Annuity Bonds

Those having funds from which they need the income, but which they desire to bequeath to Home Missions at their death, can receive an Annuity for life from the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HOME MISSIONS, the amount of the Annuity being determined by the age of the Annuitant and the sum invested.

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