

## The President's Paragraphs

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell



Statistics show that there has been a decline in church attendance in both Protestant and Catholic churches in the past ten years. Ministers are leaving the ministry in such numbers that in Florida an employment agency has been set up that deals solely with the reemployment of ministers. One minister in recent years gained notoriety for his article giving testimony why he quit the ministry.

Why this despondency in Christian service and why is there a drop in attendance at religious services? These are questions that need to be considered carefully. The answer many times has been that the church has a lack of relevance to human needs. For this reason many churches have changed the emphasis in their programs almost totally to social emphases. However, it is in these churches that it would appear that the greatest depletion among their ranks is taking place.

The great commission gives us the program of the church--to preach the Gospel. Everything else is secondary. Jesus, when He had fed the multitudes, healed the sick, and raised the dead, said to the

disciples that they would do "greater works" than these. He was referring to their spiritual ministry. To win souls is the task of the church.

The relevance to human needs that is talked about so much can be found in the accomplishment of this goal. Men have spiritual needs just as they have always had them. In fact the fast pace of today's world and the increase in materialistic attitudes has caused an increase in the depth of man's spiritual needs.

The Free Will Baptist denomination should dedicate its efforts to filling these needs of man. No, we cannot close our eyes to the other needs, but we can place each need in proper perspective. As citizens of a great nation, believers can work toward social betterment of man. As a Christian the emphasis must remain first and foremost on winning souls.

The ministry of your Oklahoma Bible College is to train young people for various positions in life who will maintain that emphasis. If you believe this is the proper emphasis, give your full support to this work.

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# Oklahoma Bible College

## NEWS - LETTER

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## DECLINE IN GENERAL FUND GIVING UNFURLS SOS FLAGS; MAY 4 DRIVE



FELLOWSHIP TIME during the annual Missionary Conference, March 19-21, finds OBC President Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, right, conversing with Tulsa pastor J. B. Chism, left, and Michigan pastor Raymond Riggs, a member of the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board. In the center is student Margie Odle. A good representation of visitors joined with students as seven Free Will Baptist missionaries representing both the home and foreign fields spoke in relation to the Conference theme, "multitudes in the valley of decision," Joel 3:14.

The SOS flags are flying at Oklahoma Bible College. There is concern, not for the fear of sinking as could be true of a ship which flies the international distress signal, but for the decline in General Fund giving to the College. According to a report from the office of Business Manager Dan Farmer, \$5,890.00 is still needed to meet the \$104,100.00 budget to date. Gifts at this time are not meeting the expenditures. Cooperative and designated giving for the month of March totaled \$3,300.00; yet this is only 1/3 of the amount needed to operate the College each month.

Director of Promotions Lynn Wood is seeking to offset this decline in giving with an SOS (Support Our School) campaign appealing to all Sunday School members to make a contribution to OBC through their Sunday School on May 4. In a recent letter to pastors, Mr. Wood noted that this spring drive comes at a time when the general operating expenses have never been greater. In recent months, when the emphasis has been on raising funds for the building program, the general operational income to the College has declined. Each month there is a \$3,100.00 payment to be made on the indebtedness of campus facilities. Utility expenses have

(Continued Inside)



## Ventriloquist To Perform During Junior-Senior Days

An impish, red-haired ventriloquist's dummy named Johnny Louis III will be one of the two outstanding features to be presented during the Junior-Senior Day activities April 25 and 26, an event annually sponsored by Oklahoma Bible College.

Johnny is a partner in evangelism for Joe Decker, a young Oklahoma City ventriloquist who devotes himself to the full-time ministry of "selling" Christianity through ventriloquism. Joe, who is a laymen, began studying the art by correspondence while still in junior high school. He has become so proficient in the art he has developed his own study course, "The American Ventriloquist." Johnny and Joe will perform during the Saturday afternoon session, April 26.

Launching the activities on Friday night, April 25, will be the performance of Helen Kromer's play, "Take Any Street," featuring a cast of seven students under the direction of instructor Eugene Workman. The presentation will be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Moore, 507



**CENTER OF ATTENTION--**Ventriloquist Joe Deckard and his dummy Joe Louis III receive the attention of two youngsters attending a performance of the team.

East Main, beginning at 8:00 p.m. The play is being included in the introduction to the program of the College so that prospective students will have an opportunity to see at least one of several extracurricular activities which are a part of campus life. The public is invited to view the play.

Overnight accommodations will be available at a modest cost for juniors and seniors only who wish to participate in the activities both Friday night and Saturday. Reservations should be made with the Business Office at least one week prior to the event.

Registration will begin at 7:00 p.m. Friday at the Moore Church and continue on campus at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the Administration Building.

## Fine Arts Program To Feature Music Students

An evening of music will compose the annual Oklahoma Bible College Fine Arts Night Friday, May 9, when members of the College Music Department will be presented in concert at 8:00 p.m. in the Southern Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, 7201 South Santa Fe, in Oklahoma City. The event will serve as a showcase for the OBC Choir and for students who are enrolled in private vocal or instrumental instruction.

Music instructors Carroll Thompson and Ted Wilbanks will coordinate the presentation.

## Graduation Activities Set

Graduation activities for the third class to have Associate of Arts degrees conferred upon them by Oklahoma Bible College will begin Sunday, May 25 with the traditional Baccalaureate service at 8:00 p.m. Commencement exercises will be held at 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 30.

## Students Send Delegates To Intercollegiate Meet

The OBC Student Body voted to send four representatives to the newly formed Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature. Patterned after the parent state, the University of Oklahoma based organization will give young people in Oklahoma a legitimate vehicle whereby they can express themselves on legislative matters concerning their community, state, and nation. The group has the endorsement of Oklahoma's Governor Dewey Bartlett, Senate President Pro Tem, and Speaker of the House as well as other state civic leaders.

Elected as representatives from OBC were Student Body President Doug Brown, Gerald Davis, J. W. Johnson, and Thomas Marberry. They attended the first session April 15.

## SOS Drive (Con't. from p. 1)

almost doubled since the new dorm was opened. Yet, these additional facilities were necessary in order to house the students adequately.

To whom does the College turn for additional revenue? In a school, such as OBC, where only approximately 1/3 of the operational expenses are presently being met by monies received from students for tuition, room and board, there is no one to whom the Administration may appeal but to the people of the Free Will Baptist denomination. Will they respond? Mr. Wood feels that they will. Therefore, he is encouraging pastors to work with their Sunday School superintendents and teachers in receiving an offering for this SOS (Support Our School) drive Sunday, May 4. Pastors will be receiving a packet of materials to promote this endeavor in their respective churches.

## Matching Gift Plan Can Double Giving To OBC

Would you invest \$100 if you knew that within a few days that investment would be valued at \$200? This is really a foolish question to ask, for what person would not like to have his money doubled in value? However, the thought does not seem very probable in a society such as now exists where the adage "You don't get anything free" is being proven true each day. Yet, a person who will invest \$100 through the Matching Gift Program being promoted by many corporations can double his gift to the school of his choice.

It is possible that many of the companies and corporations which employ Free Will Baptists throughout the United States would willingly match whatever gift an employee gives. For example, during the past three years an employee of Ford Motor Company has given \$334 each year toward the Building Program of our denominational college, Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Ford has doubled this amount so that his gift is equivalent to \$1000 annually. Truly, such a gift given through the Matching Gift Program does bring double benefits to the recipient.

A friend of OBC from Southeast Oklahoma recently gave a \$100 gift to "Operation Participation" together with a form for the school to endorse and return to his company. They will in return send a matching gift of \$100 to "Operation Participation."

Is such a plan of giving available at your place of employment? If not, perhaps you could be instrumental in inaugurating such a program. A list of companies already participating in the matching gift program is available at Oklahoma Bible College.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO SEE  
"TAKE ANY STREET," APRIL 25, 1969  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, MOORE