

RE Week and Freedom . . .

WE PAUSE to praise a freedom. On this, the first day of the 1951 Religious Emphasis Week, it is only appropriate that we look at the worth and status of an important aspect of our American heritage.

Freedom to worship—what does it mean? This basic freedom of our country is most often defined as the freedom to worship whatever deity we choose in whatever way we choose at whatever time we choose.

It applies to all Americans whether they profess a creed or not. It gives each of us the right to define as we will what might be called the "mysteries" of life.

No one can demand that you worship God. No one can demand that you go to church.

Outsiders might look on such a principle as a hindrance to religion, a form of discouragement of maintenance of creeds of all sorts.

They fail to take into account, though, the strength of religious ideals in the heritage of this country. Search for religious freedom is a well-established motive for colonization of this country. And one must read only seventeen words of the Declaration of American Independence to find a reference to a supreme power.

The Constitution contained no reference

to religion or creed. But the first of its amendments, a prerequisite to its acceptance, guaranteed all citizens freedom of religion.

Man's desire to worship as he pleases has been one of the guiding forces in shaping the destiny of this nation and of the world.

That is why, as we enter our own Religious Emphasis Week, we reaffirm the strength of this freedom.

Like all rights, however, this one carries its responsibilities. Two of these bear consideration now.

The right to choose your religion or lack of one runs hand in hand with the duty to do so wisely. Every assistance is put at your disposal to do so. These next few days, especially, offer you the chance either to reassure yourself of the wisdom of your choice or to find a basis on which to choose.

Another companionate duty to your basic right requires that you respect the religion of others. Here, again, the coming week allows you a basis for understanding the other man's religious point of view. Such understanding is a prerequisite to tolerance toward that point of view.

Cherish your rights and take advantage of them. But be sure to earn them, too.

Truett Was First of Many

Eight Year-Old RE Week 'Smooth Going' Says Gay

By GEORGE CHARLTON

Prominent national and state leaders had been assembled on the campus. Dr. George W. Truett, one of the most renowned religious leaders of the nation and former president of the Baptist World Alliance, was scheduled to make the principal addresses. And students had been dismissed from classes in order that they might attend the special sessions. In the Spring of '42, the A&M Campus was indeed ready for its first Religious Emphasis Week.

"And since that time, everything in regard to the affair has worked out just fine," says J. Gordon Gay, associate-secretary of the YMCA.

If these annual occasions have been successes, and many times they were outstanding ones like last year's program with Doctor Henry Crane as main speaker, one man is largely responsible for them being that way. He is Gordon Gay, the "pusher" of RE Week.

Gay picks out speakers each year for the week, handles his own correspondence with them, and arranges with the College to get them here. He finds places for them to stay, speak, and eat. In his numerous endeavors, he is assisted by the Inter-Church Council, made up of two representatives from each of the faiths around the campus, two representatives from the YMCA Cabinet, the corps chaplain, and the president of the YMCA Cabinet.

Gay organized the council in 1942. And his wife cooks all meals for the group at its numerous meetings. According to Gay, the R. E. Week of '42 was not like the same program as we know it because 9 years ago the get-togethers of students and religious leaders were "church centered," and attendance at any talk or session depended directly upon the popularity of the main speaker.

Not Always Rosy

Everything in regard to RE Week hasn't been quite so rosy, however, Gay tells of the time a

scheduled speaker was involved in an auto accident on his way to College Station.

There had been a cloudburst and ultimately a storm, the highway had been slick, and the car had slipped off the road. The somewhat bedraggled speaker finally arrived on the campus, a little late—his clothes were sopping wet. But, he spoke that night in clothes borrowed from three generous staff members.

Plane Mix-Up

Last year, M. L. Cashion, secretary of the YMCA was on his way to Houston about this time of year to pick up Dr. Henry Crane, main speaker for the week. Crane had telegraphed he would fly in that night. After Cashion had been on the road for about half an hour, Crane phoned to Gay that his plane had been grounded in Memphis and that he would have to catch the first plane for Dallas. In the meantime, Cashion was near Navasota.

Gay phoned towns between College and Houston and had the police force alerted to catch Cashion when he passed their way. Cashion was stopped, notified of the change of plans, turned around and drove on up to Dallas that afternoon.

Last year was the first time RE Week was completely campus centered. In '48, similar services and addresses were held in September. Between '43 and '46, the affair was discontinued, as were (See RE WEEK, Page 2)



Rev. Grady Hardin
Chapelwood Methodist Church
Houston



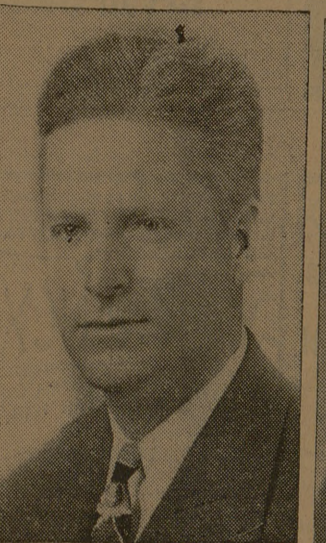
Leo J. Stillpass
Rabbi, Temple B'Nai Israel
Galveston



Ned Linegar
Regional YMCA Secretary
Dallas



Dr. W. F. Howard
Baptist Student Work
Dallas



Dr. J. J. Copeland
First Presbyterian Church
Denton



Rev. Paul Wassenich
Texas Bible Chair Director
Austin



Rev. Larry Eisenberg
Methodist Education Board
Nashville



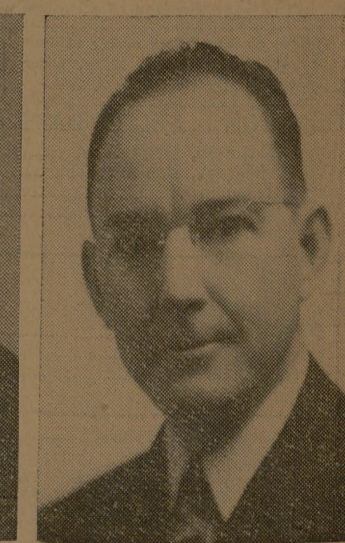
R. G. Gordon
Assistant Dean of Students
Austin



Willis M. Tate
Vice-President SMU
Dallas



Rev. S. J. Kusman
St. Mary's University
San Antonio



Burton Coffman
Central Church of Christ
Houston

Religious Emphasis Edition

The Battalion

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF A GREATER A&M COLLEGE

Number 90: Volume 51

COLLEGE STATION (Aggeland), TEXAS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1951

Price Five Cents

Principal Speaker



Dr. William M. Elliott

... began A&M's Religious Emphasis Week program this morning at 10 in Guion Hall with a talk entitled "Are You Wanting Happiness?" The pastor of the Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Dallas is principal speaker for Religious Emphasis Week. He will speak again in Guion tomorrow at 10, Wednesday and Thursday at 11, and Friday at 9. All classes will be dismissed during these hours.

'Y' Secretary Gets Aggie RE Ideas

By CURTIS EDWARDS

If you were asked what is the religious attitude of the average Aggie, or what spiritual and moral problems bother him—could you give an authentic answer?

Perhaps many of us could guess, but there is one man on this campus who could tell us and provide the material to prove it.

He is J. Gordon Gay, associate secretary of the YMCA and the man behind Religious Emphasis Week.

Gay has been studying and trying to solve "Aggie problems" since 1928 when he came to A&M. This, of course, is one of the purposes of the YMCA, and it is in connection with this study that Gay composed what he calls his

"Interest Locator" questionnaire.

He has gathered a series of questions through the years that cover most of the problems confronting A&M students. Through selection by the students, Gay can determine the specific nature of the average student's problems.

The interest locator originated long before Religious Emphasis Week, but this is the first year it has been used in deciding what subjects to stress during this week.

Results from canvassing 2,115 students show that from Gay's comprehensive list of twenty-four subjects, the four most popular are: Men and women relationships; Do Scientific facts and the Bible agree; What should a student get (See SECRETARY, Page 2)

'Happiness Must Come From Within'—Elliott

By CURTIS EDWARDS

"Many people miss happiness because they are looking for it in the wrong places. They turn to harmful indulgences only to find in the end that they had missed the way to any true and abiding joy."

With this thought, Dr. William E. Elliott, pastor of the Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Dallas, opened A&M's ninth an-

ual Religious Emphasis Week with his talk on "Are You Wanting Happiness" given this morning in Guion Hall.

Dr. Elliott will speak each morning this week in Guion according to the following schedule: Tuesday at 10 a.m., Wednesday and Thursday at 11 a.m. and Friday at 9 a.m. Classes will be dismissed for his talks.

"Happiness is a by-product," Dr. Elliott continued, "not so much a conquest as a consequence. It is the inevitable fruitage of a life rightly handled and rightly lived. One does not get happiness by straining at it, but by fulfilling the conditions of a happy life."

"Inner Life" Matter

He emphasized that "Happiness is supremely a matter of a man's inner life and is largely independent of outward circumstances. It is the fruit of self renunciation. The ego-centric person simply can not be happy."

He pointed out some things that militate against a happy life: sense of guilt, fear, and dodging the plain revealed will of God for one's self and for the world.

In his conclusion, Dr. Elliott asked the question "Can a person be happy and not be genuinely religious?", and then answered it by saying "One can be only as happy as he knows how to be. Unless a man's life is an open door to God and fully yielded to him, he does not know what real happiness is."

Week's Topics

Topics of Dr. Elliott's speeches for the coming week are as follows: Tuesday, "On Being Different"; Wednesday, "Why Not Try God?"; Thursday, "This Business of Being a Christian"; and Friday, "God Is at the Door."

Twelve other leaders brought to the campus by the YMCA and the college administration were introduced to the students by Dean of Men W. L. Penberthy before this morning's service. They will conduct forums each afternoon from 4 to 5:30 and nightly discussions at 9 p.m. in the dorm lounges.

The R.E. Week leaders were formally welcomed to the campus last night with a reception held in President M. T. Harrington's home. College dignitaries, local ministers and cadet officers and NCO's attended.

Ph.D. from Scotland

The author of three books of sermons, Dr. Elliott has a vast educational and practical background. His education is highlighted by the following degrees: B.A. from Park College, Mo., in 1925; B. D. from Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Kentucky, in 1928; Ph. D. from University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1938; D.D. (honorary), Davidson College, North Carolina, in 1937; and his L.H.D. from Park College, in 1949. (See ELLIOTT, Page 2)

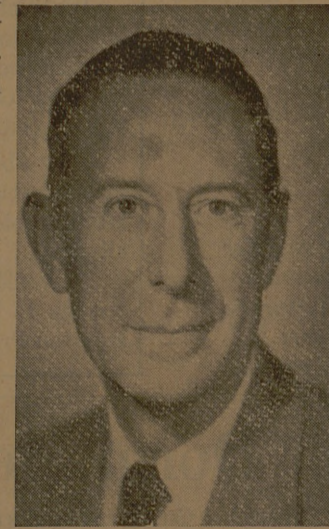
Religion Necessary For Well-Rounded Individual

I HOPE every student, faculty and staff member of the

A & M College will avail themselves of the opportunity to hear the outstanding ministers and lay-leaders who will be on our campus during the annual Religious Emphasis Week.

We need to develop and strengthen our religious thoughts as never before, and we cannot become well rounded individuals without sound religious training.

Religion is an essential part of our daily life, and we hope this week of emphasis on religion will help us all grow spiritually in order to lead richer and fuller lives."



President M. T. Harrington

Religious Philosophy Books Available at 'Y'

A generous assortment of theological and "thinking" books will be available for buying and browsing beginning today in the YMCA Lobby, according to Gordon Gay, secretary of the YMCA.

Two of the volumes, "Lift High The Banner" and "For the Living of These Days," were written by Dr. William M. Elliott, main speaker for RE Week.

Both books are written comparatively in the language of college students and both are moderately priced, says Gay. Subjects covered in the books are: men and women relations, church worship vacations, different religions, and recreation and religion.

on display in the lobby were brought to the campus by Ned Linegar, YMCA regional secretary. Orders for volumes not immediately available will be taken at the lobby desk.

Other books available will be "Alternative To Futility," "Signs of Hope," "Foundations For Reconstruction" by Elton Trueblood; "Power and Poise" by E. Stanley Jones, Methodist missionary in India; "Faith for the Future" by Dr. Charles Noble, chaplain in Syracuse, New York; "The Larger Evangelism" by John R. Mott, honorary chairman of the World Council of Churches; "Religious Beliefs of Youth" by Murray Ross, of the National YMCA staff.

Twelve Ministers to Hold RE Dorm Discussions

Twelve religious leaders of varied backgrounds have been brought to the campus for the 1951 Religious Emphasis Week which begins today.

They will conduct forums each afternoon this week from 4 to 5:30 in the dorm lounges. These forums will be on specific subjects according to the following schedule: Today—"Do Scientific Facts and the Bible Agree?"; Tuesday—"What Should a Student Get Out of Four Years of College?"; Wednesday—"What Makes a Person a Success?"; and Thursday—"Men and Women Relationships."

Nightly discussion groups will also be held by these leaders in the lounges at 9 p.m. Subjects for discussion will be left to the dis-

cretion of each individual group. The discussions will be operated on a come-and-go basis so that those students not having much time may come and leave as they please.

The men will live in the dormitories and will be available to the students at all times.

Burton Coffman, minister of the Central Church of Christ of Houston, will live in Dorm 14 this week and will be available to the students of both Dorms 14 and 17.

A former school teacher in Abilene, Coffman entered ministerial work in 1931. After serving churches in Lawton, Okla., Wichita Falls, and Sherman, Texas, he came to the Central Church of Houston

in 1938. Coffman assisted here at A&M's first R.E. Week in 1942. He has also been the main speaker at R.E. Week in Commerce, Texas and held successful revivals in eleven other states.

Rev. Joseph J. Copeland, The pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Denton, Dr. J. J. Copeland, will live in dorm 2 this week and counsel with the students of Dorm 2 and 4.

Having a B.A. and D.D. degree from Trinity University and a B.D. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Copeland is equally well qualified in experience, having served pastorates in Chicago, Ill., Frederick, Okla., and Denton. He also has been R.E. Week speak-

er or Baccalaureate speaker at Texas Tech, Texas University, Okla. A&M, Texas A&M, WTST and Oklahoma College for Women.

Rev. Larry Eisenberg, A recreation specialist, Rev. Larry Eisenberg of the Methodist Student Board of Education at Nashville, Tenn., will live in Dorm 15 and counsel with dorm 15 and 17 students.

He has taken his college work at a variety of schools including Tennessee, Wesleyan, Chattanooga University, Garrett Biblical Institute, Boston University School of Theology and Yale's Divinity School.

Eisenberg has participated in many youth conferences and has made three collections of recrea-

tional material in book form. Chaplain William M. Frost, Students of Dorm 10 will play host to Major William M. Frost, assistant Post Chaplain of Fort Bliss, Texas. He will be available to students of both Dorms 10 and 12.

Having B.A., M.A. and B.D. degrees to his credit, Chaplain Frost also has an extensive service record including the Alutian Campaign with 53rd Inf. Reg.; Deputy Chaplain of the Alaska Dept.; Office Chief of Chaplains of the A.G.F. Div.; Chaplain of AAA Command; and Deputy of Far East Command.

Robert G. Gordon, The assistant dean of student life at Texas University, Robert G.

Gordon, will be living and counseling with the students of Dorms 5 and 7.

Educated at Denison U. of Ohio and Colgate (B.D.) University, he was formerly the dean of men at the University of Redlands, Calif., and dean of freshmen at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. A veteran of four year's service in the Navy, he is also a member of the National Association of Deans and Advisors of Men.

Dr. W. F. Howard, secretary of the Baptist State Student Work, will live in Dorm 6 and counsel with students of Dorms 6 and 8. A former English professor and superintendent of schools, Dr. (See MINISTER, Page 2)