

WOULD REVIVE THE FAMILY AS UNIT

Church Heads Seek to Stimulate Common Interest and Offset Too Much Individualism.

Saving the American family from "over-emphasized individualism" is announced as a leading purpose of the New World Movement of Northern Baptists.

"There is too much talk of helping one's own life and too little of the 'good'," said Dr. H. A. Heath of the General Board of Promotion of the Northern Baptist Convention. "It is an unusual family that has any vital common interest."

To unify the family in its church life at least 10,000 Baptist churches throughout the country are being reorganized on the basis of what is known as the Family Group Plan. Every local church in the denomination in the Northern states will be divided into family groups, with no more than ten families in a group; a leader will be appointed and the various group leaders, with the pastor, will form a church cabinet to run local and denominational business.

"Family Sunday" will be observed at least once each three months in all the Baptist churches in the country. Everything about the services, songs, text and sermon, will be chosen from the point of view of interesting the family. Members of the family will be asked to sit together, and in thousands of rows of seats in the United States father will hear the son and the son will hear the father.

Christian leaders say that family prayers are held at the present time in not more than one out of every ten families of church members. The Baptist campaign will make an effort to revive the custom in all the homes of that denomination.

The various members of each family group in the church will be expected to entertain each other in their homes. Since these divisions will be made without reference to social status, perhaps on an alphabetical basis or in some other equally impartial way, this will mean a real test of Christian democracy. The leaders believe that the members of the various congregations will come through this acid test triumphantly.

"Brotherhood ought to be an actual working principle in our churches and not an idle word," Dr. Heath said. "If it is not an actual working principle this is the time for us to find it out. If there is Christian snobbishness it should be corrected. But, as a matter

of fact, the Family Group Plan is being met with favor wherever it is being tried out in our churches and families write in that they welcome this opportunity to mingle with those of varying viewpoints."

Family week-end meetings will also be introduced into many local Baptist churches, at which the various members of the family will come to school for readings, devotionals, music, games and what else. These meetings will be personally supervised by the church members and the church can safely be assured that the church will have a more united and more vital life than ever before.

Dr. Heath said that the church members will be encouraged to visit with the church members in their homes and to have a more intimate acquaintance with them. He said that the church members will be encouraged to have a more intimate acquaintance with them. He said that the church members will be encouraged to have a more intimate acquaintance with them.

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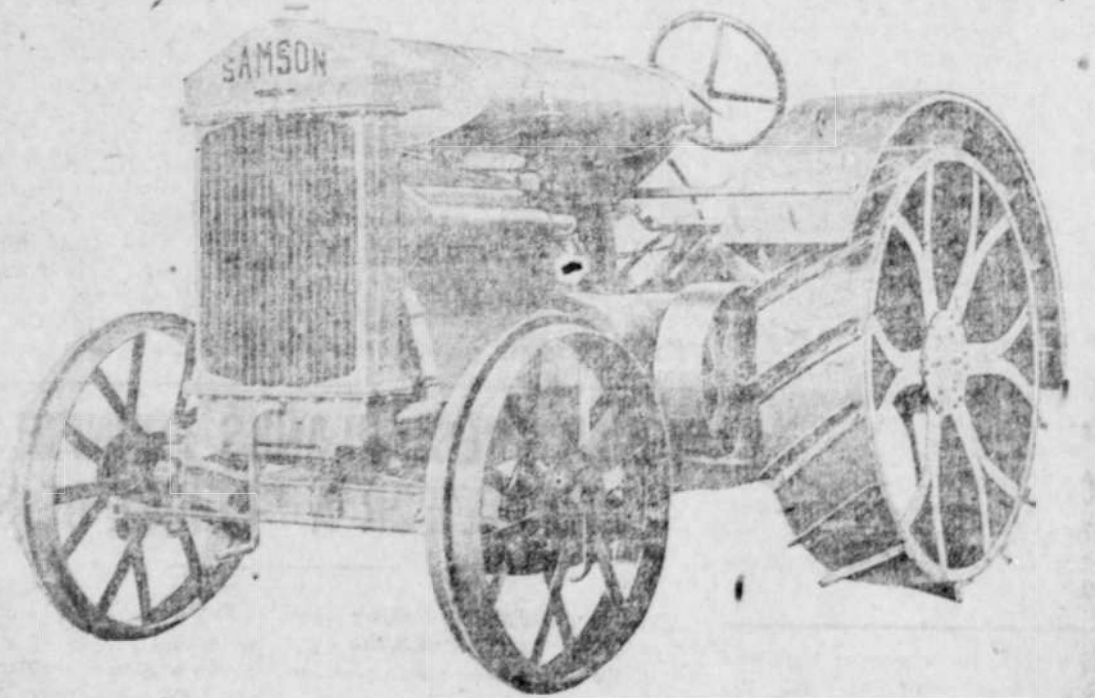
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20c	40c	1.60	80c
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30c	60c	2.40	1.20
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