

What Is A Methodist?

What Our Religions Are

What is a Methodist? The Methodist Church is a unique blend of New Testament information and the influence of John Wesley.

Wesley himself was fond of saying: "A Methodist is one who has the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him, one who loves the Lord his God with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength."

Bible Thought Holy How do Methodists regard the Bible? They regard it as the "Holy

Scriptures." Methodists look upon the Bible as a library of inspired books containing the progressive revelation of God.

They recognize the various types of literature in the Bible—law, poetry, prophecy, allegory, gospels, epistles. Realizing that the Scriptures have been translated from their original tongues, the Methodists make allowances for differences in interpretation. They believe in the "open Bible" and encourage the individual to read it for himself, leaving him free to make his own interpretation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Methodists believe that the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation, so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought necessary to salvation. (From the Methodist Articles of Religion.)

History Traced The Methodist Church was born in the Church of England through the work of John Wesley.

Education at Oxford and early in the Anglican priesthood, the young Wesley sought in vain for religious satisfaction by the strict observance of religious rules and the ordinances of the church.

The turning point in his life came at a prayer meeting in London on May 24, 1738. There he learned what Saint Paul had discovered—that it is not by rules and our own efforts at self-perfection that man may enter into life and peace, but only by faith in God's mercy.

When Wesley went forth to preach his new, heart-warming experience, the people who had been unreached by the church flocked to hear him. Multitudes came asking Wesley to teach and direct them. He gathered these people into societies "in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they might be kept from falling, and be enabled to work out their own salvation."

He appointed leaders, assigned them in various fields of labor, and supervised their work. The movement spread rapidly over England, then to Ireland and America.

Separation Not Intended Wesley's intention was not to form a new sect but only to organize societies within the Church of England. The preach-

ers were not ordained, and the members were supposed to receive the sacraments of the Anglican Church.

But the Bishop of London, to whose diocese Wesley belonged, would not ordain ministers to serve the Methodist societies. Nor would he consecrate their meeting places. If Wesley's work was to expand, he had to take the irregular steps of ordination and consecration.

Furthermore, Wesley was confronted with the care of his followers in America, where the Anglican clergy had nearly all returned to England as Tories

Christ the Son "look man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin."

The great majority of Methodists continue to hold this belief. Some would distinguish the biological aspects of the Virgin Birth from its theological implications. Some believe that the deity of Christ does not rest on the uniqueness of his physical birth but on the inexpressible quality and power of his life and work.

Hence, some Methodists do not feel it necessary to believe that Jesus Christ was born without a human father in order to assert that he is the Only Begotten Son of the Heavenly Father. The Methodist Church does not disown this latter group as long as they believe in the Deity of Christ.

Do Methodists pray to saints? No, they believe God is directly accessible to each of his children. Since God is Love, no intermediary is needed to intercede for his children. Methodists, like other Protestants, believe in the "individual priesthood of all believers."

Heaven — Hell? Methodists believe in divine judgment after death. Goodness will be rewarded and evil punished.

The concepts of heaven and hell vary widely, according to the educational and religious background of the believers. Some conceive of the golden streets in heaven and fiery furnaces in hell.

But the majority of Methodists are emancipated from the prehistoric view of a physical heaven "up there" and a physical hell "down there." They trust the promise of Christ: "I go to prepare a place for you, in the realm of mind and spirit where the redeemed keep company with God and His Risen Son, Jesus Christ. Hell is the state where such fellowship is absent."

Purgatory Rejected Do Methodists believe in purgatory? No, Methodists find no scriptural warrant for the Roman Catholic belief in purgatory. They do not presume to peer behind the veil of death or departmentalize the process of divine judgment. Many Methodists believe that God's punishments are redemptive rather than punitive. They trust the justice and love of God to care for the departed.

Methodists hold only two sacraments as ordained of God: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is not only a sign of profession but also of regeneration, or a new birth. The Supper of the Lord is the sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death and a sign of the love which Christians ought to have among themselves.

This does not mean that the Methodists have a weakened conception of other rites, such as marriage and confirmation. These are held in high reverence, but Methodists still limit the word "sacrament" to the two ordinances which Christ himself performed.

Infant Baptisms Do Methodists baptize infants? Yes, we believe "all men are heirs of life eternal and subjects of the saving grace of the Holy Spirit." Christ himself said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God."

While an infant is not aware of the meaning of the sacrament, the parents are—and are thereby committed to the Christian nurture of the child. The church assumes responsibility for her baptized children and awaits the time when they will be mature enough to appreciate and assume for themselves the vows made at baptism.

Do Methodists accept Roman Catholic baptism as valid? Yes, Methodists believe that the sacrament of baptism is a sign of God's grace and man's regeneration. Methodists and Roman Catholics believe in the same thing—God's grace.

Do Methodists believe in the "real presence" of Christ in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper? Yes, but not in the sense that Roman Catholics regard the "real presence." In the Mass, Roman Catholics are taught that the bread becomes the Body of Christ and the wine becomes the Blood of Christ, so that Christ is present in body and soul.

Christians accept Christ's own words that "God is a spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Hence, they



135TH CONFERENCE TO CONVENE — The annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be on April 4, 5 and 6 in Salt Lake City in the historic Mormon Tabernacle. Pictured above in front is president of the church, David O. McKay, who will preside over the conference with his counselors assisting him, Hugh B. Brown in back left, and N. Eldon Tanner. The first day of the conference will be televised.

In Our Churches

PAGE—3 HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon Friday, April 2, 1963



ADELPHIAN CONCERT CHOIR TO APPEAR — The world famous Adelpian Concert Choir of the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, will sing in Klamath Falls on Saturday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m., under the sponsorship of the Methodist Church of the First Methodist Church. The public is invited to attend. Pictured above is the choir in concert dress photographed prior to a recent concert.

believe that the body of Christ, the Supper, is given, taken, and eaten in the sacrament only in a "heavenly" and spiritual manner. And faith is the means where—concluding part of "What Is A by the body of Christ is Methodist," by Ralph W. Sockman received and eaten in the man.

First Church of Christ, Scientist A Branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Mass. Services: Sunday Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Evening Testimony Meeting 8:00 O'clock Lesson-Sermon Subject April 4, 1965 "UNREALITY"

Golden Text: Luke 18:27. The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Nursery facilities available during Church Services.

People Read SPOT ADS — you are now.

LDS Annual General Conference Expected To Attract Thousands

SALT LAKE CITY — The LDS (State President Ron Phair and

ence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be conducted in Salt Lake City on April 4, 5 and 6 in the historic Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square.

Thousands of thousands are expected to gather at the Tabernacle for the six general sessions of the conference with an over-flow crowd expected for the opening day session when the 275 voices of the Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle Choir will sing. The Sunday morning session of the conference, at which the choir will be singing, will be telecast in Klamath Falls by KOTV, beginning at 10 a.m. and lasting to 11:30 a.m.

Presiding over the three-day gathering will be the 91-year-old president, David O. McKay, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He will be assisted by his counselors in the First Presidency, Hugh B. Brown and N. Eldon Tanner.

An impressive lineup of speakers is scheduled and will include the 33 general authorities of the church, who direct the far-flung activities of Mormonism from its base in Salt Lake City. The speakers will include men of wide experience in government, business, education and religious leadership.

Approximately 20 leaders of the Klamath Falls of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be attending the conference including the

The Tabernacle Choir was a singularly honored early this year when President Lyndon B. Johnson invited it to perform at his inaugural ceremonies in Washington.

Among the great ensemble's other laurels in recent years

States-to-Europe telecast. Telstar, a "Gummy" award from the recording industry for its version of "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and service awards for its many civic contributions.

Guest speaker for the series will be Lloyd B. Hersham, missionary to the Columbia River District in Oregon and Washington.

EDUCATION SPEAKER — Dr. Harold D. Fasnacht, president of La Verne College, La Verne, Calif., will address the members of the Church of the Brethren on educational church relations on Monday, April 5, following a congregational potluck dinner.

CHURCH DIRECTORY For church listings in the Klamath Basin, see Page 7 for the Church Directory, a regular feature each Friday.

METHODIST MERGER The first real union of major Protestant bodies (the three largest groups of Methodists) came about only 25 years ago.

Missionary Series Set

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Klamath Falls branch, located at Ninth and Plum, will host a missionary series beginning Sunday, April 4, and continuing through Sunday, April 18, with special sermon topics at the 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. services each Sunday and cottage meetings throughout the week.

Guest speaker for the series will be Lloyd B. Hersham, missionary to the Columbia River District in Oregon and Washington.

Sacrament Scheduled Most Rev. Francis P. Leipzig, bishop of the Baker Diocese, will administer the sacrament of confirmation on Sunday, April 4, at 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church to approximately 180 persons.

Of the 180, 90 are academy students, six are seventh and eighth graders, 60 are from the Confirmation in Christian Doctrine program and 35 are adults. Bishop Leipzig performed the sacrament of confirmation to people of the St. Augustine parishes last Sunday.

Migrant Camp Baptist Missionary Slated As Local Guest Speaker

Sunday evening, April 4, the Migrant Camp Baptist Church will have Rev. Frank Melbourne, missionary among the migrant workers in California, as the guest speaker.

The Melbourne served originally in Honduras and Panama until ill health forced him to return to the U.S. Here they

have served among the Mexican braceros (the seasonal migrant workers).

Melbourne was born in England, and, upon being left an orphan, was sent to Canada where he completed his education. Following this, the Mel-

bourne were married and went to Spain for five years until in 1939 the doors of religious liberty were closed. This prompted them to go to Central America where they remained until their reassignment in California in 1955.



REV. AND MRS. FRANK MELBOURNE

Lenten SERVICES

KLAMATH LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. Malcolm Unsell "Abundant Life Series" continued, Wednesday, April 7, at 8 p.m., topic "Suffering," and Thursday, April 15, at 8 p.m., topic "Communion."

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH Rev. Norbert Dey "Prayers for Christian Virtues" meditation series continues with "A Prayer For Pardon" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7, and "A Prayer of Thanksgiving" at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 15.

FRIENDLY HELPFULNESS To Every Creed and Pursue WARD'S Klamath Funeral Home

Marquette Ward and Sons 925 High Ph. TU 2-4404

REVIVAL MEETING APRIL 2 thru 9 7:30 P.M.

Evan Denotra Brown of Portland

COME HEAR THIS MIGHTY EVANGELIST

★ SIGNS ★ WONDERS ★ MIRACLES ★ ★ ★

PRAYING FOR THE SICK NIGHTLY

MIRACLE TEMPLE

3124 Delaware Pastors, Rev. and Sister Ben Peters

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOU 10:10 A.M. SUNDAY KFLW 1450 Kc

Quitting Business HARRY HAFTER FURNITURE CO. CLOSES OUT! SALE STARTS SUNDAY NOON See Sale Ad SUNDAY Herald-News Save On Home Furnishings