

1940 A Great Year To Preach The

Salvation Message Spans United States In Intensive Drive Made By Richey Party

By FULL GOSPEL ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER

THE YEAR 1940 was a busy one for Raymond T. Richey and his associates in gospel enterprise. The year was too short and too crowded to include all the tasks that stretched



before them in seemingly endless vista of fields white to harvest! It seems to the writer the many evangelistic campaigns conducted, and the results achieved, contradict the attitude of some that the

day of old-time revivals is past, and that the young people especially are not interested in religious exercises. Our feeling, after another busy year, is that the time of great, soul-stirring revivals is not past, but that hearts are hungry, as they have ever been, for the Bread of Life, and that the people, old and young, rich and poor, high and the low, will receive the Gospel of Christ gladly, if they are given the opportunity.

Nor is this the observation of the Richey party alone! Earnest preachers from one end of the country to the other, many of whom we were privileged to meet in the course of the year's work, are saying these are great times for revival! The people of America, more than you think, are alarmed at the rise of despotism in the world—at the threat to democracy, and at the menace to the Church. And so, many, in times like these, would turn to God. These are days of Opportunity! There are days of Revival. Aye, these are days of Responsibility. Be it said to the credit of many pastors, evangelists, teachers, and earnest laymen, that they have risen to meet that responsibility. These co-

laborers share with the editor of The Full Gospel Advocate his spirit of optimism and joy in service. 1940 indeed was a great year to be alive—and on the job!

REVIVALS ARE PRAYED DOWN

There is a reason for Richey party success. For large, attentive audiences. For great and impressive altar services. For that ever-lengthening, never-ending line of prayer, and faith, and praise, and tears—the "healing line," so familiar to Richey revival-goers the country over. There is a reason for the spirit of revival under this ministry. That reason is—"prayer." Mr. Richey gets hundreds of persons to pray in every campaign. Prayer warriors are praying "around the clock" all over the country, for him, and for his revivals. For a great spiritual awakening in America! Over and over, the evangelist, from his own knees, cries for the spirit of intercession to rest upon God's people. Altars are filled, when the people pray for others!

Evangelist Richey began his year's work in the Old Richey Tabernacle at Lakeland, Florida, and happily enough concluded it at his home and headquarters in Houston, at the annual home-coming of the members of the Richey Evangelistic Association. Here Rev. E. N. (Dad) Richey, picturesque and patriarchal, the oldest active minister in Houston, father of Evangelist Richey, sat in the midst of the councils, and inspired all with his presence and Godly testimony. "The father of the

Richey party" recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

The reports presented at the "home-coming" touched many states.

FLORIDA

Raymond T. Richey's visit to Florida last winter marked the sixteenth anniversary of the beginning of his revival ministry in the Sunshine State. It was in January, 1924, that he journeyed from Houston to Bradenton (at that time called "Bradentown"), as an amazingly successful young revivalist. His "Bradentown" meeting was a notable one, and is yet spoken of as a remarkable meeting by old-timers, who say its influence is still recognized throughout that section. In that 1924 campaign, from Bradentown Mr. Richey went to St. Petersburg, for a great meeting; and from St. Petersburg to Tampa, where, in April, 8,500 persons "hit the sawdust trail." For sixteen years "the tourists' evangelist" had been returning every winter to pitch a tent, or throw up a clapboard tabernacle, or rent an auditorium, and preach to multitudes of winter visitors lured South by mild weather. Thousands of Floridians, too, have followed his unique ministry through the years!

It was fitting that the Richey party should do its "celebrating" last winter at Bradenton. This was done in a four days' rally at Bradenton Revival Temple, of which Rev. L. Wilford Meyers is pastor. On the third night a huge cake topped by 16 lighted candles was presented by friends in the midst of the service. A show of hands indicated that nearly one-half of an audience that filled the large auditorium attended the first Richey meeting held in Bradenton 16 years before. Twenty-five persons testified they were converted in that first meeting, and 17 testified they were healed through prayer offered in that meeting.

The 1940 Lakeland meeting opened on Sunday, January 7, and continue for six days only. Incidentally, this short revival marked the thirteenth anniversary of Mr. Richey's journeyings to Lakeland. He had been going to Florida for three winters before he was

Gospel; 12 Months of Soul-Saving

he was led to the Charm City, there to erect a huge rough tabernacle right downtown, and carry on for seven weeks, with 4,200 answering his altar-call. This rough tabernacle later was torn down and moved some distance South, on Florida Avenue. It was to this permanent tabernacle that crowds went last winter for a typical Richey meeting. Many were saved; many healed—many revived! Old-time friends by the hundreds came from Bartow, Frostproof, Mulberry, Plant City, Polk City, Dade City, Haines City, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Orlando, and other points—all anxious to meet "Brother Richey" Mrs. Richey, and other members of the revival party.

On January 14, the Richey had moved on to Tampa, and launched a two weeks' revival in Tampa Gospel Tabernacle. Rev. John Minder, who was active in the first Richey meeting in Tampa 16 years before, is pastor of Tampa Gospel Tabernacle, a fine steel and concrete edifice at the corner of Jefferson Street and Amelia Avenue, downtown. Interest was high from the first, and the meeting, announced to run two weeks, ran three. As at Lakeland, many former friends of the party, came, notably from St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, and Bradenton. Large altar services marked the meeting. Healing services were large and impressive.

From Tampa, Mr. Richey went to Bradenton, opening there on February 5. Closing his short anniversary meeting with Bradenton Revival Temple packed out, the evangelist moved on to Fort Lauderdale, where with his party he extended a two weeks' meeting to run four weeks. A large tent was pitched well downtown, and attracted tourists and Floridians alike. Last winter was an "unusual" winter, in Florida, and some cold and much windy weather interfered. However, it was a notable revival, with many saved and many healed, and many strengthened in their faith. It truly was a revival of reconsecration. Many friends attended from West Palm Beach, Hollywood, Miami, Homestead, Dania, Pompano, and other points. The meeting was started February 15, and closed

March 17. Many tourists found fellowship here. Some found healing.

One Sunday morning Evangelist Richey "tossed the ball" of co-operation back to Pastor Mary E. Johnson of



Raymond T. Richey (left) and Robert J. Craig, Pastor of Glad Tidings Temple, San Francisco, are here shown as they were snapped at the Golden Gate Exposition last September. They were speaking over the public address system at the Fair Grounds at the time this picture was taken.

Hollywood. Mrs. Johnson, with her people, was active in the Fort Lauderdale revival from the opening night. She contributed talent from her church, had a ready word of helpfulness herself, publicized the meeting in her town, and above everything, prayed for the Richey meeting, and induced others to pray. And so Mr. and Mrs. Richey journeyed to Hollywood, and Mr. Richey preached there.

Evangelist Richey preached for Virginia Brandt Berg, at her Church of the Open Door, in Miami, March 18.

His next stop was at Jacksonville, for one night, March 26, at the Chamber

of Commerce Auditorium, The Richey ministry following in Jacksonville is large and sincere, and an enthusiastic audience crowded into the Auditorium for a splendid service. Enthusiastic in sponsoring the meeting, and active in arranging for it, and in supporting it, were Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Fender, and their two fine sons, Robert and David. Mr. Fender was converted in the Richey party's first Lakeland, Fla., revival, held 14 years ago this winter. He later moved to Jacksonville, where he is engaged in a manufacturing enterprise.

Pensacola came next, on April 3, for a rally with our friend and brother, H. F. Snow, and his people. There was an enthusiastic reception, and a fine spirit of praise among these friends.

The preaching pilgrimage was continued to Mobile.

ALABAMA

In Mobile the Richey party found a wide-open invitation and hearty co-operation from the pastor, Rev. Clyde Goree, and his board. The large church was filled from the start, April 3, to the 7th, and on this, the closing day of the Richey meeting—people were turned away. The church was packed even at the day services. Altar services were large. Friends came from long distances. Rev. Snow led a delegation from Pensacola. There was a great spirit of revival, and plans for building extension were received with gladness by the people. This meeting was all too short.

The Richey party moved on to Oklahoma City, in response to a pressing call to launch a revival at Capitol Hill Tabernacle.

OKLAHOMA

The call to Oklahoma City—and a persistent call it was—came from Capitol Hill Tabernacle's aggressive pastor, Rev. J. B. McDonough, and his ambitious board. Rev. McDonough and his colleagues had a vision of something done for God at a time when some men are saying that men have lost interest in religion, and nothing can be done about it. Evangelist Richey started his meeting April 14, and in three days

Revivals Prayed Down In A

the large tabernacle was overflowing. A move to transfer the revival to Shrine Auditorium, which seats 2,200 and is located right downtown, was advocated by some bold souls, rent money at \$50.00 a night, for two full weeks (\$600.00), was raised in one service, and the revival was taken to the beautiful Shrine Temple, where it was extended again and again, finally to close May 12, on a high tide of old-time evangelism. The spacious auditorium was often packed at night services. Altar-calls sometimes exceeded 200 at a single drawing in of the net by this fisher of men! The meeting attracted friends of the gospel of salvation and healing from every corner of the state, and many came from points outside Oklahoma, notably from Texas, Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana.

After Oklahoma City came a succession of short rallies—Seminole, May 14, 15, and 16; Carnegie, on the 17th, and Ponca City on the 18th. The Richey party entered Seminole on the "call" of Rev. Burl Dodd, local pastor, and other friends of "this Gospel." Seminole donated its new, ornate Municipal Auditorium, and the people came in great numbers to crowd it out. Ada, Shawnee and other points, some as far away as a hundred miles, contributed to this enthusiastic meeting of three days.

The Carnegie one-day rally attracted many of Evangelist Richey's Indian friends, some of whom were saved or healed in his meeting at Anadarko 17 years ago. The rally was held in Carnegie's beautiful out-door stadium, and was endorsed and supported by many of the town's leading citizens, including Editor B. W. Jolly, of the Herald.

The one-night rally at Ponca City, on invitation of Pastor S. J. Scott and his talented wife, was like its predecessors—filled with the spirit of rejoicing! Many were prayed for in an impressive healing service. Mrs. Scott is the daughter of our good friend, Lee Sheaffer, of Oklahoma City. A splendid pianist, Mrs. Scott had played the piano for the Richey's Shrine Auditorium meeting, and with her husband

prevailed upon Mr. Richey to give Ponca City at least one night.

MISSOURI

Evangelist Richey, Leonard F. Richey and Fred A. Richey then journeyed to Springfield, Missouri, to attend the annual commencement exercises at Central Bible Institute, and meet Stanley Howard Frodsham and other friends there at Gospel Publishing House. While there, Mr. Richey easily obtained a warm endorsement from Rev. E. S. Williams, Rev. Fred Vogler, and other church leaders, for his prayer cru-

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sade looking toward a nation-wide spiritual awakening, and revival. It was there also that Mr. Richey completed plans with Rev. David Burriss for the Arkansas statewide camp meeting to be held later in the summer.

A RETURN TO OKLAHOMA

Other members of the Richey party, including Mrs. Richey, had repaired to Tulsa for a little rest and to get ready for a Tulsa rally. This meeting was one of many that have been conducted by Mr. Richey in that fine, progressive city, and was from May 26 to May 28. It was held at Faith Tabernacle, thriving Full Gospel work, of which Rev. W. F. Garvin is pastor.

Rev. and Mrs. Garvin, long-time friends of the Richey Party, left nothing undone that would contribute to the efficiency and the pleasure of the evangelist, his wife, and the party members. Faith Tabernacle was filled nightly, sometimes to capacity, and services were largely attended. It was a fine short meeting, with many blessed—some from distant points.

ILLINOIS

Next came the annual convention of the World's Christian Fundamentals Association, at Stevens Hotel, in Chicago. It was the privilege of Evangelist Raymond T. Richey not only to attend this great national convention assembled in defense of sound doctrine, but to address it no fewer than four times, once at the personal invitation of Dr. Paul Rood, of Los Angeles, the national president. In one of his talks, Mr. Richey gave his own testimony of how the Lord had saved and healed him when he was going blind, and later had healed him of tuberculosis. In this connection Mr. Richey made his familiar altar-call, in one of the auditoriums of that great hotel. Business men from everywhere liked that old-time altar appeal. The Fundamentalist convention was concluded at a great gospel rally at Soldiers' Field, on June 2, Held under the auspices of "Let's Win America for God, Inc." More than 100 evangelistic associations sponsored this gigantic rally, the chief speaker of which was Michigan's Christian governor, 81-year-old Lauren D. Dickinson. There was a mass prayer meeting and a mass choir, each of some 3,000 persons, and a mass band of several hundred instruments brought together from all the Salvation Army bands of that section. These great meetings were a rebuke to modernist pulpites and to lukewarm and apostate churches.

TEXAS

From Chicago, Evangelist Richey went to Fort Worth to attend the twenty-fifth session of the Texas district Council, Assemblies of God, June 4 to 7. On the night of the 6th, Mr. Richey conducted an evangelistic ser-

Dozen States and In Many Cities

vice in J. Frank Norris' First Baptist church auditorium, made his accustomed altar-call, and prayed for the sick. The sessions of the 1940 Council were held in Dr. Norris' church. Mr. Richey was assisted in this stirring service by his venerable father, Rev. E. N. Richey, and others of his party. On the night of the 5th, the evangelist went to Dallas, preached in Albert Ott's Bethel Temple, and prayed for the sick there in a large altar service. En route to Fort Worth, Mr. Richey stopped off at Oklahoma City to attend a state meeting and rally of Christ's Ambassadors. He participated in a great parade of earnest young people, and then entrained for the Fort Worth Council meeting.

The Richey party, on June 10, opened what was expected to be a two days' prayer conference at Evangelistic Temple in Houston. At the end of two days the people were pleading for revival. There prevailed a deep spirit of intercessory prayer. There was a general desire, it seemed, for the conference to be extended. Within a week the meeting was beyond bounds—a revival was on! A two days' prayer-meeting became a three weeks' city-wide evangelistic campaign. A feature of this remarkable meeting was the great number of new people reached through prayer and well-planned publicity.

District Superintendent F. D. Davis came from Port Arthur especially to lend his support and encouragement to this meeting, and opened it with a soul-searching and timely sermon on, "The Terror of the Lord." His warning of God's impending and sure judgment on lukewarm and delinquent Christians brought many to the altar that first night for re-consecration.

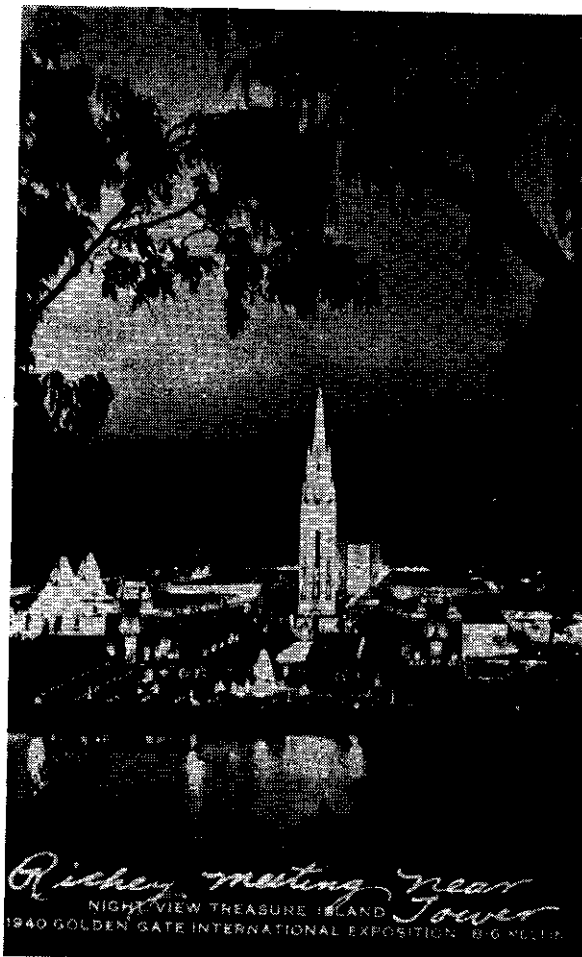
Checotah and Pawhuska, Oklahoma, came in for one-night rallies, as the Richey workers again turned Northward. As in times past, the revival party was welcomed to Checotah by Mrs. Minnie Rosendahl, and made to feel at home. There was a blessed service at Checotah Union Tabernacle.

Checotah Union Tabernacle is one of the fruits of the Richey tent revival held in Checotah more than a dozen years ago. Mrs. Rosendahl was active in that first meeting—one of its sponsors, in fact.

Two meetings were conducted at Pawhuska—the day service at the Church, the night service at the band-

ARKANSAS

A state-wide camp meeting, under the auspices of the Assemblies of God, was launched in a huge tent at Monticello, Ark., July 18, to run 10 days. This meeting was arranged by Rev. David Burris of Russellville, state superintendent, who was ably assisted by Rev. T. J. Gotcher, Little Rock,



shell in the city park. Pastor R. A. Work had published the coming of the Richey party thoroughly, and a real landslide for the Gospel resulted. The night meeting was like a great political rally, with people packing the park and adjacent streets. It was wonderful. It was a pleasure to meet Rev. Work and other friends in Pawhuska,

assistant superintendent Rev. Robert C. Sellers, Hot Springs, district secretary-treasurer, and Rev. H. E. Simms, host pastor. Raymond T. Richey was the principal night speaker throughout the ten days' meeting, had great success under God in his altar-calls, and prayed for the sick, with marvelous results. People attended from every nook and

Throngs Hear "Word" at 2 World's Fairs

corner of the state, and many came from other states.

The night of July 29, the day following the close of the Monticello meeting, Mr. Richey and party held a rally at the Assembly of God church at Pine Bluff, of which Rev. Carl Barnes is pastor. Ground was turned that night for a new \$10,000 church. Rev. and Mrs. Barnes were much in the Monticello meeting, Mr. Barnes rendering fine service, both in directing the music and in preaching.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Richey itinerary next led to Aberdeen, S. Dakota, where, at the beautiful Civic Theatre, a revival, opened on August 4, continued for two weeks. The meeting was sponsored by the Aberdeen Gospel Tabernacle, of which Rev. P. T. Emmett is pastor. The pastor and his entire congregation were wholeheartedly behind the meeting, and God blessed in the salvation of souls and the healing of bodies. Berdeen's mayor, the Hon. Ira Krueger, welcomed the Richey party to his fair city.

NEW YORK CITY AND THE WORLD'S FAIR

The New York World's Fair was opened to the Richey ministry, in 1940, as it was (miraculously) in 1939. Evangelist Richey, at Assembly Hall on the night of August 30, delivered an address, "A Nation at Prayer," in which he said:

"A nation really at prayer is truly repentant, humble! Real prayer is more than proclamation, or pledge. Real prayer involves consecration. It means a people sincerely desiring to honor God in their lives."

Again he said: "This is no time for idlers." And he urged Christians to be "on their toes."

The Richey party visited several of the large exhibits, including the U, S. Steel building, the Health exhibit, and the big petroleum show, and in these various exhibits they were able to witness to the Truth of Salvation and Healing, through Jesus Christ. On Sunday afternoon September 1, Raymond T. Richey and Fred A. Richey spoke at Glad Tidings Tabernacle

325-329 West 33rd Street, their talks being carried over WINS. Robert A. Brown is pastor. On Sunday night, Raymond T. Richey spoke to a large crowd of men and women at Columbus Circle, New York City, famous rendezvous of soap-box orators, "the New York version of London's Hyde Park." Monday, the 2nd, the Richey party met a fine company of Christian workers summoned by Mr. Richey into conference at the Y. M. C. A. building on the World's Fair grounds. These Workers mostly came from Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York City, and upper New York State.

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NORTH CAROLINA

A few days rest at Camp Tappuah, in the Blue Ridge mountains, above Asheville, gave both Rev. and Mrs. Richey opportunity to preach at the Camp tabernacle. Their hearers there were made up mostly of young people, students at Hampden DuBose Academy, at Orlando, Fla. Among them was their daughter, Rae Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Richey were happy again to meet Dr. and Mrs. P. W. DuBose, who operate the school and camp for children of absent

missionaries, and, in a few instances, for children of evangelists and certain other religious workers whose callings take them away from home.

CALIFORNIA AND THE GOLDEN GATE EXPOSITION

Spanning the continent with the gospel message, Evangelist Richey appeared in Hollywood on September 15, having stopped off at Houston a few days for important conferences and for a one-night rally at Evangelistic Temple, September 12. At Hollywood he participated in a great service at the celebrated Bowl, sponsored by the Gospel Broadcasters' Association of California, in which his old-time friend and collaborator, Phil Kerr is a conspicuous figure. A crowd of more than 16,000 took part in this memorable September 15 service. Homer Rodeheaver led the singing, and was master of ceremonies.

The ensuing week was divided between the San Francisco World's Fair and Glad Tidings Temple, a thriving gospel work in the heart of the West Coast metropolis and of which Rev. R. J. Craig is pastor. Richey revival services were held at the Tabernacle Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Evangelist Richey staged a continuous service at the Court of the Sun, at the Exposition, on Thursday. The Lord blessed greatly in the World's Fair meetings. The Director of Programs ordered all the loud speakers in the grounds turned on for the services, so that multiplied thousands heard the Gospel preached to them.

OREGON

Portland came next in this country-wide itinerary, and on September 22, Mr. and Mrs. Richey, with Mr. and Mrs. Phil Kerr, opened a city-wide campaign at Four-Square Church, at Thirteenth, and Ankeny, Rev. Harold W. Jefferies, pastor. Rev. and Mrs. Richey had conducted a fine meeting there six years before, and they were delighted to see old friends. This was another great revival, and although announced for two weeks, ran three. Services were held in the spacious church auditorium, which seats about 1,500. It was crowded from

Faithful Pastors Show Co - Operation

night to night, and day meetings were largely attended. Services were broadcast.

It was Mr. Richey's happy privilege to attend the Oregon District Convention of the Assemblies of God, at Gospel Tabernacle, of which Rev. C. W. Ahalt is pastor. The evangelist here met his old friend, Rev. Fred Vogler, of Springfield, Mo. Mr. Richey spoke on "The Value of Home Missions," and took up an offering for the District Home Missions Fund.

NORTH DAKOTA

Enroute East, Rev. Richey stopped at Bismark, N. Dakota, to attend the North Dakota district council, Assemblies of God. Mr. Richey discussed again the burning question of "Home Missions." It was a very great pleasure to Evangelist Richey to meet the pastors and workers from every section of the state. The evangelist took up an offering here for North Dakota District Home Missions.

BACK TO ILLINOIS

The Richey party members found themselves in Chicago, this time to attend the National Prayer and Prophecy Conference, October 13 to 20, inclusive. In this great meeting at Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, marked by thrilling messages and attended by many outstanding ministers and laymen, Mr. Richey was privileged to speak on prayer and organize a "prayer chain."

Following the conference, Evangelist Richey remained at Chicago Gospel Tabernacle for a week's revival, October 21 to 26, preaching nightly and praying for the sick. It was a week of sweet fellowship with his old friends, Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Erickson and Mr. and Mrs. Merl Dunlop. Rev. Erickson is pastor, and Mr. Dunlop, assistant pastor and musical director.

AGAIN IN OKLAHOMA

The Shawnee, (Okla.) revival appeared next in order. Opening on November 13, in the beautiful Municipal Auditorium, the meeting almost from the first took on the aspect of a statewide revival. Announced to run 12 days, it was extended a full week, and

was brought to a close Dec. 1, against the wish of many, with hundreds bowing at the altar, in token of surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ; with glorious healing services, and with the Auditorium filled. The Auditorium seats about 2,300. Many friends attended from Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Tecumseh, Davenport, Enid, Seminole, and other points.

Then followed a series of short rallies: At Ada, at large Convention Hall, December 3 to 8, inclusive; Checotah, again at Union Tabernacle, December 9; Oklahoma City, at Faith Tabernacle, December 10, and at Capitol Hill Tabernacle, the 11th and 12th; then Enid, Friday, the 13th, and Tulsa at Faith Tabernacle, Sunday and Monday, December 15 and 16; Miami, on the 17th.

It was gratifying to be with Pastor H. T. Owens, at Faith Tabernacle, in Oklahoma City, and to meet again in revival effort, our friend, Rev. J. B. McDonough, at Capitol Hill Tabernacle. It was good to be with that old war-horse, Dr. P. C. Nelson, at Enid, once more. Dr. Nelson is the faithful

President of Southwestern Bible School there.

It is a pleasure here to acknowledge the co-operation and the many friendly gestures of Rev. J. C. Dodd, Rev. O. C. Beuford and Rev. Arthur Smith, at Shawnee, and of Rev. Floyd Poag, pastor at Ada.

District Superintendent George W. Hardcastle was helpful in all Oklahoma meetings in 1940. He was frequently in our services, driving a long way sometimes to get there.

For the second time since last May, Evangelist and Mrs. Richey, and associate workers, enjoyed the hospitality and the fine friendship of Rev. and Mrs. Garvin, in Tulsa. Faith Tabernacle, once more was the rallying-place of many that have supported the Richey ministry faithfully with their prayers and with their means in hallowed years gone by!

From Miami the trek led to Houston for the few days left of 1940, and to the annual "homecoming" meeting and watch-night service at Evangelistic Temple. It was the end of a long, long trail, and, we trust, a fruitful one!

WILL YOU....

Help make our New Year job a much lighter task. We are carrying a heavy load—let's all pull this load together! Ask the Lord to show you how much to help. Then answer as quickly as He directs.

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