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OUR HOME MISSION FIELDS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

This is a question that is being asked with reference to the membership reports from the Churches this year. The Methodist Episcopal Church in its work in the United States has experienced a falling off in membership of something more than 8,000. The mission fields, particularly in India, have done better, so that the denomination as a whole will show a gain. Our own church has not yet made its report, but the indications are that there will be a very small gain in our membership. In our own conference the net gain in membership was only 463. In the Western North Carolina Conference the net gain was 1,281, making a total for our Church in the State of 1,744. That is a distressingly small percentage on a total membership of 205,000.

We do not take statistics too seriously, for strange results are very frequently found in them; but it is well for the Church to take stock of itself and see if it is delivering itself as it should upon the great work of saving souls.

If the Church fails here, it is a dead failure. Every success that it may obtain is valuable only as it contributes to success at this point. Our vast financial ventures, our Church building and paying of pastors, our Sunday-schools and Epworth Leagues, and all the rest, amount to nothing if the fact still confronts us in face of the fact that men and women are not being saved. The remedy for this is more prayer and a deeper consecration.—Raleigh Christian Advocate.

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

A question which all Protestant Churches of the nation must face is the fixing of responsibility for the religious education of high school and college students in tax-supported institutions. At a recent joint session of the Council of Church Boards of Education and the Association of Church Workers in Universities this entire field of religious work was fully and freely discussed. The resolutions there proposed and adopted recognize most clearly the responsibility of the Churches for training a Christian citizenship and leadership, and they set forth a definite program of cooperation of all Christian agencies at work at each center.

In presenting these resolutions Dr. Richard C. Hughes, of the Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church says: "The Churches have apparently taken it for granted that the responsibility for the moral and religious life of the pupils belongs to the school. Church people acting as citizens will tax themselves freely to build a modern high school, with library, laboratories, and separate rooms for all classes, and then erect a costly church with a large auditorium for the preaching service without a single classroom for the high-school youth of the congregation. Churches in university centers where there are from one to eight thousand students seem satisfied if they provide one or two meagerly furnished classrooms.

If the Church is to retain and increase her influence during these coming years, she must go into the business of religious education as seriously as the community has gone into that of secular education. If she cannot do this within her own building, she must make other provisions or join with a community school of religion."

The tax-supported school very properly expects the Churches to take the lead in religious education, and during the past ten years a beginning has been made. But unless each denomination goes into this business much more seriously in the next ten years than it has in the past, all arguments against community schools of religion will lose their force. What will be the future policy of the Churches may be a more open question than we now think.—Nashville Christian Advocate.

THE NORTH CAROLINA CLUB

Speaking before the regular fortnightly meeting of the North Carolina Club here last night on Municipal Finance, Dr. D. D. Carroll, a member of the economics

department of the university, declared that "the average town in North Carolina appropriates its funds and incurs obligations without a comprehensive and detailed survey of needs and an estimation of costs reduced to clear and unmistakable units."

Following Dr. Carroll, William M. York of High Point, and Daniel L. Grant, of Sneads Ferry, students, engaged in an interesting debate on the question of "Separation of State and Local Sources of Revenue."

Dr. Carroll in the course of his discussion pointed out an admirable plan for popularizing city finance. The average citizen is too busy, he showed, to attempt to determine where his taxes go and what he must get with them. The budget must be simplified thru charts, diagrams, bulletin boards, reports, newspapers, and so on.—R. W. Madry.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH IN 1916

Elsewhere in this issue appears a table ranking the counties of North Carolina according to the ratios of non-church membership among people ten years of age and over. It is figured out of the advance sheets of the Federal Census of Religious Bodies in the United States in 1916 and the Census estimates of population in the same year, by Rev. A. W. Crawford, the home mission secretary of the Synod of North Carolina, and Miss Ernestine Noa, in the department of rural economics and sociology, University of North Carolina.

The figures cover (1) both races, (2) people of responsible age, ten years old and older—around 72 percent of the total population in North Carolina, and (3) the people of this age group outside of our 50 different religious organizations in 1916.

A similar table for 1906 was worked out by Rev. Walter Patten, pastor of the Chapel Hill Methodist Church, and given to the public in the University News Letter, Volume I, No. 28.

The figures of these two tables are comparable, and when put side by side they show (1) which counties have been moving ahead briskly in church membership during these ten years. They are 75 in number. (2) Which counties have been marking time. They are three, Perquimans, Mecklenburg, and Jackson; and (3) which counties have been losing ground. They are twelve, as follows: Vance 1 point, Warren, Pamlico, Sampson, Beaufort, and Burke 2 points each, Cleveland and Hertford 3 points each, Greene 5, Hyde 6, Duplin 7, and Yancey 8 points.

Reminders and Cautions

Two extremes are to be avoided in statistical studies:

1. Pinning faith blindly to figures. The data used in these tables were gathered by the Census Bureau in Washington from the authorities in charge of the individual churches, and the tables have been again and again checked by the published minutes of the various church bodies. The calculations in the headquarters of the North Carolina Club at the University were made by Messrs. Patten and Crawford, and repeatedly verified by office assistants.

Nevertheless there is always the possibility of error, and we call attention to some of these possibilities in the accompanying table. Thus, the Census reports that church members in Bertie are 313 more than the total population ten years old and over. This county made the best showing in 1906, but the 1916 showing looks too wonderful to be true, yet so reads the report. Nearly two-thirds of church membership in Bertie is colored, and perhaps the figures turned in by the negro churches are excessive. And it looks equally impossible for Guilford to fall from 43 to 40 percent in church membership when rated against general population, and to rise one point when church members are rated against the population ten years old and over. However, Guilford leads the state in population increases, and the new-comers are largely mill villagers with maximum birthrates and large families. There seems to be no other explanation. Or for Caswell county to move up 26 points in

A NEW UNIVERSITY

And now, fired with the living spirit of those master men we knew and loved so well, we dedicate ourselves to the completion of their unfinished tasks. Theirs to plan; ours to build. And let the structure fling to the heavens the loftiest of spires, lest any should say: "They have lost the flame; they are toiling in the dark." For out of the tumult of this hour there is shortly to emerge a new University, finer than any yet dreamed of amongst us, and radiant and glowing with the fire of freedom.—The N. C. University Magazine.

church membership and Yancey down 8 points in a single decade. It indicates a sort of Pentecostal revival in Caswell and a sad decline in Yancey where nearly exactly half the population of responsible age is outside the church.

But right or wrong, these figures are the very best obtainable, and it behooves the good people of every county to take stock of their church assets and neither to suffer the devil's paralysis of undisturbed complacency on the one hand, nor on the other to accept a sorry showing without girding up their loins for mightier efforts.

2. The other extreme is dismissing statistics with a snort of skepticism. Really sensible people know that statistics at best offer nothing more than a basis for approximate guessing, but that without carefully gathered data they are guessing in the dark—a thing that foolish people have always been satisfied to do, but wise people never.

The Facts in 1916

In 1916 there were 649,237 people in North Carolina, ten years old and older, who were not on the rolls of any church of any name, sect, or sort. They were 38 percent of this age group; which means that at least one person in every three the state over belongs to the big church of all-out-doors.

In exactly half the counties of the state two-fifths or more of all the people of responsible ages are outside the churches; in 15 of these counties the non-church members are more than half of this age group; in two these counties—Jackson and Wilson—they are more than three-fifths, and in Edgecombe nearly seven in every ten people are outside the church.

These ratios are amazing, but the totals are even more amazing. The people of responsible ages who are outside the church in some of our leading counties are as follows:

Beaufort.....	11,526
Buncombe.....	15,572
Durham.....	11,060
Edgecombe.....	17,551
Forsyth.....	11,252
Gaston.....	12,938
Guilford.....	22,447
Halifax.....	11,680
Haywood.....	10,262
Johnston.....	18,900
Mecklenburg.....	16,278
Nash.....	14,291
Pitt.....	15,520
Rockingham.....	15,465
Surry.....	11,177
Union.....	10,632
Wake.....	14,991
Wayne.....	11,263
Wilkes.....	10,615
Wilson.....	14,884

These ratios and totals afford something like an adequate conception of our home mission task. With more than half of our people outside the church in sixteen counties and more than a third of them outside in fifty-three counties, it seems clear that the Church of the Living God is dwelling still a stranger in a land that is not yet her own. How can she have the heathen for an inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession unless she can conquer the homeland?

Our home mission enterprises have limped along lamely because for the most part our church folks have not known the hard facts. No great while ago we heard this report at presbytery; "No accessions by profession of faith; no available material; nearly everybody in the community belongs to some church." For long years we have all heard such reports. The

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THE TEACHERS' BUDGET

Did you ever hear of the budget system? The recent legislature provided for a county budget system for schools in this state. The several items are interesting. Business houses have long realized the value of budgets and the items to be included as expenditures in different businesses are interesting. Has Mr. Businessman ever tried to make out the expense budget for the public school teachers? Let us suggest the items and let him fill in the amounts.

The Items

Item 1. Food, clothing, housing, laundry. Item 2. Medical, dental, surgical care. Item 3. Insurance. Item 4. Church and charity. Item 5. Investments, (W. S. S. and Liberty Bonds). Item 6. Self-improvements; (a) Books, magazines, newspapers, (b) entertainment, (c) travel, (d) dues, fees in professional organizations, (e) summer school

expense. Item 7. Incidental expenses and purchases.

Try to Do It

Now take your pencil and divide the salary paid to each of the teachers in your school among these several items and see how much you can give to each item. Are you proud of the showing? Would you feel that you were getting a good living if these amounts were your annual income? Would you pay more or less to a man you hired to train your mule colt?

A Minus Quantity

It is no joke when a school teacher will reply as did one to whom the bank cashier apologized for paying her check with soiled bills—"There's no danger, no microbe could live on my salary." 'Tis true 'tis pity, and pity 'tis, 'tis true.

Public school teachers are makers of democracy in a very real sense and the laborer is worthy of his hire.

fact is, nearly a third of the people of responsible ages in our good brother's county are outside the various churches—more than 16,000 in all. We must rebuild the walls of Zion as Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. First of all we have got to know our job down to the last detail, and then we must build after Nehemiah's fashion—every man over against his own house.

Gains and Losses

However, the churches have been making gains these ten years. In 1906, forty-four percent of our people of responsible ages were not on the roll of any church whatsoever; in 1916, the ratio fell to 38 percent. Here was a ten-year gain

of six points. All told 75 counties made gains ranging from one point each in seven counties to 26 points in Caswell. In 25 counties the gains fell below the state average of six points, while in 43 counties the gains were very considerable. The gains were 15 points or more in 12 counties and 20 points or more in 7 counties, as follows: in Tyrrell, Iredell, and Alleghany 20 points each, in Richmond 22 points, in Ashe and Forsyth 23 points each, and in Caswell 26 points.

If there is any general interest in it or demand for it we shall publish in an early issue of the News Letter a graduated list ranking the counties of the state in the order of ten-year gains and losses in church membership.

NON-CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA--1916

REV. A. W. CRAWFORD, Greensboro, and MISS ERNESTINE NOA, University of North Carolina.

Counties ranked according to percent of people ten years old and over who were not church members in 1916; with totals of non-church members of responsible ages.

Based on the 1916 Census of Religious Bodies and the Census Bureau estimates of Population in 1916.

State average 38 percent. Total non-church members, ten years old and over, 649,237.

Rank	Counties	Percent	Number	Rank	Counties	Percent	Number
1.	Bertie.....	0.....	—313	46.	Durham.....	38.....	11,060
2.	Gates.....	3.....	192	46.	Macon.....	38.....	3,392
3.	Northampton.....	12.....	1,947	46.	Montgomery.....	38.....	4,201
4.	Hertford.....	13.....	1,550	49.	Halifax.....	39.....	11,680
4.	Tyrrell.....	13.....	505	50.	Columbus.....	40.....	9,332
6.	Chowan.....	15.....	1,314	50.	Union.....	40.....	10,632
7.	Camden.....	17.....	700	52.	Alamance.....	41.....	8,987
8.	Richmond.....	22.....	3,564	52.	Carteret.....	41.....	4,424
9.	Pasquotank.....	24.....	3,280	52.	Greene.....	41.....	4,083
9.	Rowan.....	24.....	7,154	52.	Wayne.....	41.....	11,263
11.	Alexander.....	25.....	2,170	52.	Wilkes.....	41.....	10,615
11.	Caswell.....	25.....	2,650	57.	Duplin.....	42.....	8,253
13.	Bladen.....	26.....	3,460	57.	Gaston.....	42.....	12,938
13.	Dare.....	26.....	908	57.	Guilford.....	42.....	22,447
13.	Iredell.....	26.....	7,045	57.	Hyde.....	42.....	2,687
13.	Lincoln.....	26.....	3,415	57.	Polk.....	42.....	2,442
13.	Washington.....	26.....	2,125	57.	Randolph.....	42.....	9,232
18.	Forsyth.....	28.....	11,252	57.	Sampson.....	42.....	9,821
18.	Granville.....	28.....	5,639	57.	Yadkin.....	42.....	4,948
18.	Vance.....	28.....	4,329	65.	Ashe.....	43.....	5,956
21.	Catawba.....	29.....	6,649	65.	Clay.....	43.....	1,222
21.	Franklin.....	29.....	5,068	67.	Brunswick.....	44.....	4,890
21.	Pender.....	29.....	3,504	67.	Harnett.....	44.....	8,313
24.	New Hanover.....	30.....	7,708	69.	Cherokee.....	45.....	4,990
24.	Perquimans.....	30.....	2,498	69.	Lenoir.....	45.....	8,245
24.	Wake.....	30.....	14,992	71.	McDowell.....	47.....	4,799
27.	Cabarrus.....	31.....	6,477	72.	Beaufort.....	48.....	11,526
27.	Currituck.....	31.....	1,900	72.	Surry.....	48.....	11,177
27.	Transylvania.....	31.....	1,709	74.	Yancey.....	49.....	4,400
27.	Warren.....	31.....	4,769	75.	Burke.....	51.....	8,732
31.	Cleveland.....	32.....	7,328	75.	Nash.....	51.....	14,291
31.	Craven.....	32.....	6,154	77.	Alleghany.....	53.....	2,954
31.	Mecklenburg.....	32.....	16,278	77.	Graham.....	53.....	1,922
34.	Buncombe.....	33.....	12,572	77.	Madison.....	53.....	7,741
34.	Henderson.....	33.....	4,165	77.	Onslow.....	53.....	5,901
34.	Rutherford.....	33.....	7,262	81.	Pitt.....	54.....	15,520
34.	Scotland.....	33.....	4,081	82.	Johnston.....	56.....	18,900
38.	Anson.....	34.....	6,882	82.	Martin.....	56.....	7,752
38.	Davie.....	34.....	3,494	82.	Rockingham.....	56.....	15,465
40.	Jones.....	35.....	2,302	85.	Swayn.....	58.....	4,872
40.	Orange.....	35.....	3,866	86.	Haywood.....	59.....	10,262
40.	Person.....	35.....	4,436	87.	Stokes.....	62.....	9,091
43.	Davidson.....	36.....	8,704	88.	Jackson.....	64.....	6,277
44.	Pamlico.....	37.....	3,008	89.	Wilson.....	66.....	14,884
44.	Stanly.....	37.....	6,028	90.	Edgecombe.....	69.....	17,551

The following 10 counties are omitted for lack of authoritative population figures: Avery, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Caldwell, Chatham, Cumberland, Mitchell, Robeson, and Watauga.