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"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 32.

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## WHAT ARE THE BEST METHODS OF STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOLS?

By Prof. A. A. Adair, Sabbath School Missionary

(Paper read at the Annual Workers' Conference, held at Brainard Institute, Chester, South Carolina.)

Some one has said that any kind of a Sunday school is better than no school at all.

No mission Sunday school is ever organized with every department properly graded and with every officer and all the equipment that is necessary to make it a standard school. Hence every mission Sunday school will need strengthening and developing, if the school is to meet the needs of the community and keep pace with the Program of Religious Education that is being continually developed.

If one should organize a standard school or rather a school that would be complete in every way it would not be practicable.

1. Because it would be impossible to run it successfully without specially trained teachers or leaders which are not available in rural districts and towns where most of our missions are located.

2. It would require the continued service of the missionary to keep such an organization going, to the neglect of other fields of service, especially that of organizing other mission Sunday schools.

3. It would be placing the technique of methods and the system of grading above the spirit and motive of the mission school.

4. The financial outlay even though the literature would be granted by our department would be too heavy for an experimental enterprise.

The best method of developing our mission schools is to put in the grades and departments that can be handled by the leaders on hand, and add to these from time to time such features as the occasion demands. The best schools are those that are built around the local leaders and not around the missionary.

The missionary's visit should be one that is looked forward to with great anticipation, as he should be a source of information and inspiration. He should bring new ideas for the development of the school and hold conferences with teachers and leaders. For if the school is to be strengthened it must be done to a large extent through the officers and teachers of the school, as they are the ones who must work the plans and keep up the interest and enthusiasm when the missionary has gone elsewhere.

Therefore the next step is the development of leadership in the school. This can be done to a large extent during the winter months through institutes, conferences and Teacher-Training classes. At such meetings, especially the institutes, much emphasis should be placed upon grading and organization of classes and Young People's Societies, also the Program of Religious Education and the observance of the special days of the Church.

Whatever interest that might be awakened in the institutes could be followed up in the Workers' Conferences, where leaders may be found for certain groups and organizations effected through such leaders.

In our Teacher Training Class the course cannot be taken up in a systematic way, but special lessons can be taken up with the leaders, who may be left to work out the studies for themselves.

While many books might be recommended Oliver's "Preparation for Teachers" will be the book for our mission schools because of its simplicity and few references to other books than

the Bible, as few mission schools possess libraries.

In such classes an immense amount of good may be done by the study of the Sunday school lessons with the teachers. In this way new ideas of teaching may be gained and the hard places in the lessons for the entire quarter gone over. In some of our schools the following program has been successfully carried out:

1. Song Service—The learning of Sunday School Hymns and new songs for special occasions.

2. Lesson Study—Teacher Training.

3. Talks on Early Heroes of the Church.

4. Bible Study—Current lessons for the quarter.

A week spent with such a program is well worth while because of the interest that it creates in the mission school.

Another way to strengthen and develop the mission school is to make it a community school. The question of denomination should be kept in the background. The only question that should be asked of those willing to help are: Are you a Christian, and are you willing to work for the Master? The more different denominations you have in the school the better it will be.

Often we hear the argument that we ought to develop Presbyterian Sunday schools. If the same argument was used in reference to our parochial and high schools; that is, enroll only Presbyterian students, the schools would have to go out of business.

Do not understand me to say that the community should be kept in ignorance as to the Church that is fostering the movement. This should be made plain at the outset. But the fact that you are working in the interest of the community irrespective of denomination will naturally win for our Church the respect and cooperation of the people.

Another means of developing the community spirit for the Sunday school is through the Daily Vacation Bible Schools. Many that would be skeptical about sending their children to Sunday school would permit them to attend a Vacation Bible School. Here is where the mental, moral, physical and spiritual side of the child life is developed. The natural results will be a strengthening of the mission through the community spirit.

Another way of strengthening our schools is through the Presbyterian Convention and School of Methods. While the missionary endeavors in a small way to carry out many of the ideas advanced by these organizations, there is nothing that helps so much as to have a delegate return from these gatherings with inspiration and a new vision of service.

Another way of building up our mission Sunday schools is through family visitation by the missionary. It is in the home and around the family fireside that we get nearest to the individual. Perplexing questions may be asked and answered, helpful advice given and interest built up for our mission schools.

While all of these means may aid, much depends upon the interest and consecration of the missionary and the leaders in charge, who should carry these schools in prayer daily to the throne of grace, and who should realize that these schools are their own personal responsibility.

## INTERESTING GEORGIA LETTER

Missionary Conference at Midville.

On February 20-21, Rev. J. L. Phelps held a Missionary Conference at Rand Memorial Presbyterian church, Midville, Ga. Several representatives were present from each society of the five churches under Rev. Phelps' care. Upon invitation I attended these meetings and addressed the women four times, giving them, as best I could, the information and inspiration they needed to help them do better work in their locals.

They promised to strive earnestly to get their money in quarterly, also saying that they would send more than their quota this year, to help pay the interest on borrowed money. I think, after this meeting, more interest will be shown by the women in our churches in Burke county.

February 22nd I spent the day at Boggs Academy, looking over the modern buildings, new electric plant, water works, etc. I was very much pleased with the excellent work being done by Rev. and Mrs. Phelps and their excellent teachers.

Prof. Wigfall is a great asset to the school. He teaches the boys cabinet making, trains them in athletics, and also has organized a Glee Club which makes beautiful music. They have already made their appearance in several cities. Really, the church work and school work of our churches in Burke county, as in others, would make rapid progress if more consecrated ministers, not afraid of work, would go there and help carry on and build upon the interest Rev. Phelps has created in the hearts of the people. I hope, in the near future, to hear of more ministers at work on this field, to help take Burke and adjoining counties for Christ. It is a field of rich soil and their only need is more workers to plant and harvest the grain.

Christ Presbyterian Church, Augusta, Ga.

Just a little more than one year ago Rev. J. R. Harris came to Augusta to reorganize Christ Presbyterian church with a view to erecting a church edifice on the lot purchased when the church on Telfair Street was sold.

He left a very prosperous church and school work at Washington, Ga. It was his idea to leave this field after 27 years of service, while it was alive, and not wait, as many do, until everything was dead and no one would want it.

For a number of years Christ church has been dead and buried, only two or three being left to tell about it. Some have died, some have moved away, and others, tired of waiting for a leader, drifted into other churches. So with no building, no congregation, but with unlimited faith in God, Rev. Harris, at great expense and sacrifice, undertook to put this church on the roll again.

To shorten my story, he has had the lot cleared of the old houses, and has built a part of the church, the Sunday school department and a study for the pastor.

This is a very neat little building and will be used for all services until the main auditorium is built to the front. This will be done as soon as sufficient funds are in hand.

Services have formerly been held in McGregor Hall at Haines Institute. Miss Laney has been very kind and generous toward us in every way.

March 7th we held our services in our own building and it was a joyful time for the pastor and his people. We have a splendid Sunday school, also the writer very recently organized a Woman's Home and Foreign

Missionary Society, hoping in the near future to have some young people's organizations. We are very hopeful for the work here. We have now about 25 members and are expecting many others to join us, now that they see we really mean to have a church. Our friends must pray for the success of this work. Several ministers at the Workers' Conference promised me to send a donation when they returned home. I am expecting them to keep their promise; some have already done so.

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1112, 13th Street, Augusta.

## THE NEW MINISTER.

By Rev. N. R. Richardson  
(In Charlotte Observer.)

"I think our new minister is just the man for the place," is a phrase that any Methodist congregation will very often hear, and I sometimes wonder if we think enough about the other side of the proposition, are we going to be just the right place for our new minister? F. M. M., in The Nashville Christian Advocate.

I quote the above paragraph because it raises a pertinent and an important question, not for Methodism alone, but for any Christian church.

The congregation and community will affect the minister much more than the church membership is accustomed to think, if they think about it at all.

In a young and rapidly growing city where the people were enthused and excited over the great revival in business and the enhancing values of real estate, by reason of the completion of the town's first railroad, I heard a minister say with a burdened heart, "I did not come to M— to lose my religion, but to build up the church and save the people."

That was in my first year as a minister. The preacher's statement made a deep impression on my mind. I have thought of it with deepened solicitude as the years have passed. I am convinced that in almost all cases where the minister of the gospel, called of God, falls short of the success which should result from his ministry, the fault lies with the church.

Many a preacher has had his spirit, hope and earnest enthusiasm crushed by worldliness, coldness and indifference to spiritual values—watching the minister with a cold, critical attitude, to ascertain if he was measuring up to the standard or gauge they had fixed for their pastor; instead of assuring him with the warmth of love and confidence that they would stand by him; not in words only, but by prayer, personal efforts and hearty cooperation in all his plans as their leader, appointed of God. Too many laymen stand aloof—but not all—and by their attitude seem to say, "we have hired you and expect to pay you if you accomplish anything worth while; it's your job, not ours."

If an army should assume to act that way toward the general, their commander and leader, how many battles would be won? Just as the general must have the active cooperation of all his soldier force, so must the pastor have the consecrated and active cooperation of the entire church membership, to accomplish the aggressive, spiritual work for Christ.

Some laymen haven't the time, or will not give the necessary time, to do the work that no one else can do for them, and too frequently officials of the churches are numbered with these slackers.

Yes indeed, "a church may make, or it may break a pastor."

Surely very much depends on the leadership of the minister. Nevertheless many more meager results are chargeable to lack of

affiliation and hearty cooperation of the church membership, than may be justly charged to failure of effort on the part of the minister.

A large proportion of the ministers who change pastorates frequently, do so because the church is not "just the right place for the new minister."

## FELLOWSHIPS OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE.

Opportunity For Young Colored Men and Women to Get Training in Social Service.

In order that able young men and women who wish to make social service a life work may have opportunity to fit themselves for such work, the National Urban League provides fellowships as follows:

Fellowships at a minimum of \$70.00 per month for eight months, from about October 1st to about June 1st, being part of necessary living expenses.

Successful applicants will be assigned at the discretion of the Educational Committee to one of the following schools:

The New York School of Social Work, 105 East 22nd Street, New York City.

The Chicago University School of Social Administration, Chicago, Ill.

The Simmons College School of Social Work, 18 Somerset Street, Boston, Mass.

The Pennsylvania School for Social Service, 1302 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Carnegie School of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pa.

University of Pittsburgh.

These fellowships are open to those who have made a definite decision to engage in social work of some form approved by the Executive Board of the League. Such work includes secretaryships of betterment organizations, recreation and playground supervisors, superintendents of charitable institutions, probation officers and similar service.

Urban League "Fellows" obtain their practical experience with local family case work organizations and with local Urban League branches or affiliated organizations of the city to which they may be assigned for study and training.

Persons who make application for these fellowships will be required to pass a preliminary examination. The examination will be of a general nature and designed to test the applicant's general education and knowledge. It will be based upon entrance examinations given in the past years by the New York School of Social Work. English and composition will be carefully considered in marking examination papers.

Candidates who have kept up with current history and have studied appropriate courses in Economics, Politics, Sociology, Psychology or Biology ought to pass an examination successfully.

To be eligible a candidate must

- (1) Present a doctor's certificate of sound health.
- (2) Declare his or her intention to engage in some form of social work.
- (3) Have completed a course in a college of good standing or offer the equivalent of such a course.

In choosing successful candidates the League will take into account the applicant's (1) previous school work, (2) general personality, (3) capacity for executive duties and for leadership, (4) general intelligence on current affairs, (5) ability, knowledge of, and fondness for outdoor sports and recreation.

Applications for fellowships must be received on or before April 15th of each year.

The League reserves the right to reject any or all applicants.

Candidates who are selected should be ready to report on or before September 15th.

No payment will be made on

a fellowship unless the candidate is successful in meeting the entrance requirements of the school to which he was assigned.

Persons interested should write for application blanks to the National Urban League, 127 East 23rd Street, New York City.

## THE CLOSING MEETING OF DISTRICT NO. 2, CATAWBA PRESBYTERIAL.

The Missionary women of District No. 2 of the Catawba Presbyterial held their closing meeting for the year 1925-1926 at Westminster Presbyterian church, Concord, on Saturday morning, February 20.

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock by its supervisor, Mrs. M. J. Alexander, of Concord. Mrs. M. J. Phifer, of the Huntersville church, had charge of the opening exercises as follows: Opening hymn, "Just as I Am," Scripture reading, St. Mark 6:1-16, followed by prayer by Dr. Logan, of Concord, and then the hymn, "I Need Thee Every Hour" was joyfully sung by the audience.

Rev. H. Wilson, pastor of Westminster church, of Concord, was to have addressed us on "Peasant Pioneers," but we regret to say, on account of his having been disposed that day, he was unable to do so. As a substitute for this address a few very excellent, instructive and uplifting short talks were given us by the following persons: First, Rev. T. R. Lewis, D. D., of Scotia Women's College, spoke to us about Biblical teachings on missionary work. In this talk Dr. Lewis was at his best, for he held his audience's strict attention as he explained and pictured beautiful examples of the missionary spirit, as portrayed by the different characters found in the Bible.

Miss Cathcart, a former instructor of Scotia Women's College, held our attention a few minutes while she impressed us with the fact that "The Harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few."

Miss Chapman, also a former instructor of Scotia Women's College, spoke to us very beautifully about "Prayer and Missionary Work." She urged upon us the importance of having them go hand in hand, if we are to be successful in our missionary work. She also stressed the importance of reading literature bearing on our work, so as to broaden our minds, and help us to understand, appreciate and enjoy the work better.

Mrs. G. E. Davis, President of the Catawba Presbyterial, in her address, added very impressive remarks to Miss Chapman's speech in regards to the vital need of more study on Missionary work, so that we may become more helpful and instructive to our fellowmen.

Rev. L. B. West, of Biddleville Presbyterian church, Charlotte, favored us with a very interesting talk, complimenting the colored wing of the Presbyterian Church on the splendid work it is doing in the Missionary field.

Dr. Logan, of Concord, gave us a short and inspiring talk on "The Purpose and Benefits of the Missionary Work."

Mrs. Annie Spencer, Secretary of Overseas Work, talked briefly about a box having been sent to Mrs. Carr, of Danville, Va., and then she read a letter of acceptance of the same to the audience.

Collection was lifted by Mr. Jehu Graham and Mr. William Phifer, both of Huntersville church. The sum of \$4.00 was realized.

Short talks were made by the leaders of the Missionary Societies of the various churches as to the success of their work for the year. Nearly all of them made good reports. The various churches represented and their leaders are as follows:

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