

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF MEN IN THE CHURCH

(Report on Men's Work Made to the Afro-American Presbyterian Council in Session in Detroit, Mich.)

By Rev. Wm. Lloyd Imes, D. D.

My Fellow Workers:—

Our Committee has struck first, we think, at the hardest of all matters to evaluate—the spiritual life with all that it means. It falls to my lot as chairman of Men's Work for our Council this year to try the task of describing our successes and failures, our hopes and our misgivings, in the realm of men, and their facing the Christian gospel in active life.

First, I have had the unusual privilege of talking with a great many pastors of our churches, especially with our brethren who fellowship with this Council, on this question. Almost without exception, these pastors have felt that while there is no room for boasting, yet there is every reason for hope, regarding the spiritual life of the men in the Church. Pastors are getting Christian service out of men today, where a decade ago they had well nigh despaired of it. Bible classes, Brotherhoods, Men's Clubs, and the like are the external evidence, but there is also an internal evidence, and that is to be found in the confidential, heart-to-heart exchanges of pastors who know their men at close range and feel that as men we have a laity now ready to challenge the best that is in us as their spiritual leaders, while we and they together as Christian brethren view the immense stretches of unconquered territory before us in spiritual things.

Why do our pastors feel, on the whole, hopeful of the men? I think, first, that their hope is justified because the predominant appeal of Church manhood is for a religion of reality over against mere ritual. Men are keen judges of fact as opposed to fancy. Perhaps it begins in childhood when the boy asserts boldly that he no longer believes in Santa Claus, while his sister of quite as many years or older than he, still clings touchingly to fairyland and legendary lore. Men may sin by being too cold and calculating but their method has its use quite as well as the poetic type of thinking, and our men have certainly brought with them into religion this gift of clear-headedness, and an uncompromising desire for reality.

Again, our pastors have noted a real growth in Bible knowledge and information among the men of the Church. The Bible Class movement among some of our Eastern churches recently culminated in a stirring interdenominational convention of Presbyterians with Methodists and Baptists and other denominations at the historic city of Philadelphia. This is but one of the indications—and we suppose such experiences may easily be duplicated out here by our mid-Western brethren—that the onward march of Bible study, equipping even our humblest and least privileged brothers for living the Christian message as well as telling it, will completely win the men of the Church. The general statistics are encouraging when we learn that among those churches reporting to our Men's Work Department, two out of every three churches of our denomination have definite Men's Bible Classes, and that ratio is probably fairly certain for all the Churches.

Not alone in Bible Study, which heads the list in popularity, but in other phases of service we find better activity than we might have expected.

In Evangelism 1 out of 6.  
In Boys' Work 1 out of 4.  
Every Member Canvass 1 out of 3.  
Brotherhood Work 1 out of 5.  
It may be argued that these statistical facts are so relative

and conditional that they do not furnish such ground for optimism, as we suggest. But, for all that, they do show the trend of our men's life in the Church, and the lines of their work which are being steadily promoted. It is evident, too, that the present strength of men's work lies basically in Bible study through Men's Bible Classes. This is our greatest hope, and foretokens a stronger Church for the future.

Again, the pastors with whom I have recently talked feel that the men of their churches are slowly but surely coming to the conviction that there are certain things which are obligatory upon them as men. This is natural, and should have always been emphasized. We are all familiar with the division of work in a well ordered home, in which man has duties which he can better perform, and likewise woman has duties for which she is better fitted than man. So in the Church it seems peculiarly fitting that men should take leadership of boys' groups and help them in their scouting, athletics, clubs, woodcraft, etc. In these activities men find congenial ground and certainly the results described by pastors to me, and those I have myself observed in my church work, are an inspiration and a prophecy. One thing seems clear in this phase of Men's Work, namely: the fact that unless we can get men to take such leadership of growing boys wholeheartedly and devotedly, we need not expect the growth of boys into manly character, with the added beauty of the spirit of Christ indwelling.

Most of our churches face the terrible lack of men to teach junior and intermediate boys in the church school classes, but even with that lack there are men to volunteer for the work with boys outside the immediate sphere of religious education. There is no opposition to the various programs of athletics, club work, etc., now to be found on every hand. There is, however, a deeper note needed, and without which all the boys' club work in the world can never train up a new generation after the likeness of Christ.

Finally, we must admit that men do not do all they might in winning other men to Christian discipleship; this part of spiritual work which is so necessary to robust Christian life ought to claim much more of our study, effort and consecration than it ordinarily receives. There is a feeling among pastors now that merely enlisting the men of the Church at Lenten or other evangelistic seasonal meetings can not fully suffice. The steady training for year-round personal work, and regular service must somehow replace the old seasonal idea. We shall probably always use the seasonal services; that form is well established, and has its practical as well as logical justification. But men must become workers of steady-going and constant power to win others to their Lord. Here we reach one of the fountain sources of growth in grace and knowledge.

These things your committee would suggest for the spiritual life of our men in the church:—  
Emphasis upon the Bible study through Men's Classes.

Training of more men teachers for boys' classes in church schools.

Urging men leaders of boys clubs to magnify the Christian life and purpose by word and example.

Recruiting men by constant personal discipleship; counting not only the seasonal meetings but the entire Christian year as our field of opportunity to win other men to Christ.

## EAST TENNESSEE SYNOD.

Meeting according to appointment with the Bethesda Presbyterian church at Johnson City, Tenn., on Wednesday evening, October 20, 1926, the Synod of East Tennessee listened to the retiring Moderator's sermon delivered by Rev. Jesse B. Barber, of Chattanooga, Tenn. Rich in diction, clear in thought and logical in arrangement the sermon was typical of the messenger and worthy of the occasion. It made a great impression. The text was Phil. 3:14, "I press toward the mark."

Following the sermon Synod was constituted according to form. Rev. J. H. Byers, D. D., pastor-host, and Elder A. B. Reid of the Shiloh church, were elected Moderator and Temporary Clerk respectively. Dr. Baker was appointed Vice-Moderator.

Addresses of welcome were delivered by Hon. W. B. Ellison, Mayor of the city, Prof. C. E. Rogers, superintendent of the schools, and Rev. R. M. Jones, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion church, who represented the ministry. All of the addresses were very happily delivered.

The welcomes extended were not only assuring but made the Synod feel that it was a good thing to meet under such unusual conditions and such refreshing environments. A most fitting and praiseworthy response was delivered on behalf of the Synod by Dr. C. J. Baker.

The reports of the Standing Committees were creditable. With hardly an exception they showed painstaking preparation. Phases of National Missions were presented by Revs. Wm. Sample, Vanhorne Murray, W. H. Franklin, D. D., C. E. Tucker, D. D., and Miss Maud A. Kinburn, the efficient Dean of Barber College. These were ably supplemented by the addresses of Dr. J. M. Gaston, Secretary and Treasurer of the Division of Missions for Colored People, and Mr. A. G. Lamont, the Board's architect, who was accorded the privilege of the floor.

Rev. J. H. Byers, D. D., read the report on Christian Education. Pending the adoption of the report Dr. George P. Horst, the Board's representative, delivered an address that was eloquent in its presentation. Synod was captivated by the matter as well as the manner in which the subject was presented.

Ministerial Relief and Sustentation was taken care of by Rev. B. C. Hood of Big Stone Gap, Va., and Dr. W. A. Provine, the latter speaking for the Board. Considerable interest was manifested by the brethren in the discussion of this subject.

The report on Foreign Missions was a very representative document. It evidenced the thoroughness that is characteristic of the chairman, Dr. W. C. Hargrave. In connection with this report Synod went on record as appreciating the appointment of Dr. A. B. McCoy to represent the Board and our group at the conference in Belgium. It also took becoming notice of the reported "open door" to Africa for representatives of our group in the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

Dr. S. A. Downer, chairman of the Committee on Program and Field Activities, made the report for the committee. In the report special emphasis was placed on Stewardship. Synod was urged to take its accepted quota more seriously, to use every legitimate means to raise its full share of the budget, to select a benevolence committee in each church, and to forward money raised for this particular purpose to the Central Receiving Agency each quarter. Dr. James G. Bailey, Editor of the Presbyterian Magazine, followed the report with a strong and earnest plea for a broader view of the aims of the committee. He stressed evangelism.

## Popular Meetings

Two popular meetings were held. One was under the direction of the Synod. The other was under the auspices of the Synodical Woman's Missionary Society. Both were inspiring. At the former addresses were delivered by Drs. Horst, Gaston and Provine. Miss Kinniburgh spoke for "Barber" and the cause of Christian Education. Synod's quartet, composed of Mr. A. B. Reid, Revs. J. J. Foster, J. B. Barber and S. A. Downer, helped with the music for the evening. At the latter meeting the missionary ladies did things in their characteristic fashion. The interest was high and the financial response was liberal. The collection was something over fifty dollars. Mrs. Ethel Means Downer is the new President of the Synodical.

During the sessions the following were accorded seats as corresponding members: Drs. J. M. Gaston, George P. Horst, W. A. Provine, J. G. Bailey, A. J. Coy, Revs. J. J. Foster, R. M. Jones and S. A. Downer.

At the final roll call the following were absent without excuse: Revs. George E. Cooper, M. J. Jones, R. Mayers, S. T. D., and Chas. A. Edgington, Ph. D.

Appropriate resolutions of thanks and appreciation were adopted. The resolutions were profuse in their praise of the hospitality of the members and friends of the church who entertained the Synod so royally. In many respects the entertainment was the best the Synod has enjoyed in quite a while.

The next meeting of the Synod will be held at the Shiloh Presbyterian church at Knoxville, Tenn.

S. A. DOWNER,  
Stated Clerk.

## COULTER MEMORIAL ACADEMY NEWS.

By Miss Maggie L. Brewer

Recently Coulter Academy has been honored as she is seldom honored. Several of the most distinguished people of the Presbyterian Church have visited us.

On the afternoon of October 15th the faculty and students of Coulter had the pleasure of listening to a most wonderful address delivered by Dr. J. G. Bailey, of New York, who is the Editor of the Presbyterian Magazine. Dr. Bailey especially emphasized kindness. He also laid great stress on making the best of all opportunities. He visualized his speech in a very forceful manner. Dr. Bailey's speech was immensely enjoyed and his thoughts will long remain in the memory of those who heard him.

Dr. C. J. Baker, of Atlanta, Ga., also spoke to us October 15th. We are always glad to have Dr. Baker with us. He always brings great inspiration.

Rev. John M. Gaston, D. D., Secretary of the Division of Missions for Colored People of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., visited us recently, and also Mrs. Gaston and Mr. and Mrs. Lamont.

We were glad to have Dr. C. J. Baker stop over with us on his way from the Atlantic Synod. He preached a noble sermon here last Sunday morning. His text was found in Jeremiah 32: 11-12. Dr. Baker's sermon was full of striking pictures. The entire congregation was much uplifted by Dr. Baker's message.

The faculty and students are striving to raise money for a band. Many efforts have been put forth for this purpose. A few weeks ago the people of Cheraw enjoyed a wonderful program given by the musical talent of the city. This program was under the auspices of Miss W. N. Gillespie and Dr. J. V. Hanna.

Recently the school gave a very successful fair for the pur-

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## AT BARBER COLLEGE

By Joetta Stinson

Barber is proud of the new shades in the Chapel. They add much to the attractiveness of the room.

Last Saturday everybody was busy preparing for Hallowe'en, and at the same time expecting visitors: Dr. and Mrs. Gaston and two friends. At 7:30 the party was in full swing. Eerie lights, witches, goblins and black cats prevailed. The dining room was transformed into a perfect hallowe'en bower. Apples and doughnuts hung down from the ceiling to be bitten and snatched down.

In came Hallowe'en people in masks and quaint gowns. The most admired costumes were two worn by the teachers representing the Martha Washington type. However, many and pretty were the costumes worn. During the festivity the guests came down amid cheers and yells. They were soon real Hallowe'en folks.

Ida Scott Cooper told a real "boogey" story with the lights off and the fantastic gleam of candles.

All participated in a grand march, singing the Barber Booster and receiving at the end cider and doughnuts which were eaten, hole and all. Then all retired to their rooms to awake on the Sabbath in an entirely different atmosphere. The Seniors conducted the party.

Miss Harbison was here for a few hours' visit Monday evening and spoke in the dining room about some of her mission work. Barber hopes that she will come again and stay longer.

Dr. and Mrs. Gaston and Mr. and Mrs. Lamont were present Tuesday in Chapel exercises. Mr. Lamont made a very interesting talk on architecture, which is his profession. Mr. Lamont is architect for the Board of National Missions, and has designed a number of buildings on our field, the first of which was the administration building at Haines Institute. Through his talk the Barber girls caught a new vision of the vital meaning or the art of building.

Much happiness came to all who heard Dr. Gaston tell that he and Mr. Lamont were viewing Barber with the idea of selecting spots for three new buildings. These buildings will be: science hall, administration building and music hall. Dr. Gaston plans that the administration building shall be started in the near future.

Barber girls and faculty were sorry to bid the guests goodbye but still remembered to repeat the custom of waving and singing to them, "God be with you till we meet again." Barber was proud of these guests and hopes that they will soon be back again.

The library has just received a generous supply of books from friends, including many books of fiction. One of the finest additions is a beautifully bound and illustrated Nature Library.

A generous audience greeted the Sunday vesper concert which was the first of the year. The program was as follows:

1. "By the Waters of Babylon"—Neidlinger—Chorus.
  2. Violin Solo—Selected—Miss Esther Shaw.
  3. "Oh, Lord, Most Holy"—Marchetti.
  4. Selections by Quartet.
  5. "Lead, Kindly Light"—Schnecker—Pauline Donnell and Chorus.
  6. Piano Solo—Selected—Miss Young.
  7. "Search Me, O God"—Emerson—Choir.
  8. "Deep River"—Burleigh—Chorus.
  9. Spiritual.
  10. Recessional and Benediction.
- Monday afternoon the faculty with their guests went up into

the woods to explore and have lunch. An exhilarating afternoon was reported.

Monday night Barber observed Open House, inviting and receiving the public. Visitors congratulated girls and teachers on the cleanliness and beauty found in the home. The first College cooking class served refreshing glasses of fruit punch and wafers.

Self-government is one of the most recent steps of progress that Barber has made. The executive board consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, class Presidents and Presidents of campus organizations.

The adoption of the code and constitution, drawn up by the executive board, was unanimous. The following day Roosevelt Lee, President, said, "The order in the building has been perfect since yesterday."

Thelma Miller, Vice-President, and therefore head proctor, has her hands full, but with the co-operation of the student body she is working very definitely toward her aim and ideals for order.

Dr. Gaston was very favorably impressed with this new phase of student life at Barber. It is the hope of every "Barber Booster" that Student Government will continue to be a success and that minds and hearts will grow broader each day through learning better and better the high law of governing self.

Self-government cannot fail if Barber girls live up to their code: "The ideal Barber College Young Woman is thoughtful of her obligation to help establish and maintain high spiritual, social, and moral standards. To this end:

"1. She is loyal to herself; careful in all obligations and in her every statement.

"2. She is loyal to others; in being so, she makes it her duty to see that right things prevail.

"3. She is scrupulously honest in all her domestic duties, in scholarship and in examination.

"4. She conducts herself in such a way that she can be honestly willing to have every girl in school and in the community adopt her standards. She displays at all times a beautiful and gracious spirit."

Anniston, Ala.

## DR. J. E. JACKSON'S SERVICE IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Rev. J. E. Jackson, D. D., Synodical Evangelist of Atlantic Synod, conducted revival meetings in the Southwest during the months of September and October, giving each church one week of his services.

Beginning with some of our churches in parts of Oklahoma, he reached Little Rock, Ark., on the 4th of October and remained until the 11th. During that time he conducted a series of meetings in Allison's Chapel to the edification and inspiration of all who heard him. He is well adapted to the evangelistic work. We wish he could have remained with us longer than one week. From Little Rock Dr. Jackson went to Pine Bluff and from Pine Bluff to Cotton Plant. At each of these places he rendered good service in the short length of time.

The Canadian Synod needs an evangelist who can give his entire time to the work of evangelism and who can stay longer than a week on a field.

G. E. CAESAR,  
Little Rock, Ark.

## PRESBYTERIAL DISTRICT MEETING.

There will be a Catawba Presbyterian District meeting at Ben Salam Presbyterian church, Saturday, November 20th, at 10 A. M. A full attendance is urged from all local societies.

MRS. CHAS. H. SHUTE,  
Leader.  
MRS. G. E. DAVIS,  
President.