

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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UNIVERSAL WEEK OF PRAYER

TOPICS FOR UNIVERSAL AND UNITED PRAYER
Sunday, January 2nd. to Saturday, January 8th, 1927

To the Churches of Christ in America:

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America joins with the World's Evangelical Alliance in inviting all churches and followers of Christ to unite in a "Universal Week of Prayer" at the opening of the New Year. The devotional program here presented will not only be circulated through all English speaking lands, but will be translated for use in fifty countries. He whose right it is to rule desires us to be one in prayer: "that the world may know." All things are possible when Christians agree and not before. Never was the need more urgent.

Our age is full of unrest. In spite of all efforts towards peace and goodwill the spirit of lawlessness, of international suspicion, and of actual warfare, seems to be increasing. We need not linger over dark details that are only too familiar. Rather would we remember with unspeakable gratitude that the Lord who orders the ages (Heb. 1:2) is on the throne. All authority in Heaven and on earth is in His hands. He is aware of the present portents. Through the changing years He Himself remains unchanged; and He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think in meeting the needs of His people and the heart-hunger of all mankind. "Jesus Christ is the same to-day" (Heb. 13:8). As we gather in His name let us remember, concerning prayer, three outstanding facts for our encouragement: I. It is God's will; II. Christ has set us the example; III. Christ promises His presence.

During the Week of Prayer from Sunday, January 2nd to Saturday, January 8th, let us all unite with our brethren in many lands to demonstrate afresh the release of God's power as we pray with one accord in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faithfully and fraternally yours,
WILLIAM HORACE DAY,
Chairman,
CHARLES GOODELL,
Executive Secretary,
Commission on Evangelism and Life Service.

Sunday, January 2nd, 1927—
Texts Suggested for Sermons and Addresses.

"I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. . . I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High" (Psalm lxxvii, 5, 10).

"A glorious throne, set on high from the beginning, is the place of our sanctuary" (Jeremiah xvii, 12).

"The fear of the Lord is thy treasure" (Isaiah xxxiii, 6).

"Be of good cheer" (Matthew ix, 2, xiv, 27, Acts xxiii, 11).

"Behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it" (Revelation iii, 8).

Monday, January 3rd, 1927—
Thanksgiving and Humiliation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm xc, 2, 6).

Thanksgiving: For the goodness and mercy of the past year; for the long sufferings of God toward us.

That now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.

That despite our past failures and unfaithfulness God still sets before us an open door for service.

Confession: Our unbelief, our half-hearted service. Our secret sins, our sins remembered, and forgotten. Our love of ease, our neglect of prayer, and the Word of God. Prayer and Re-dedication: "Wilt thou not revive us again

that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?" (Psalm lxxxv, 6.)

Scripture readings: Psalm xc, Psalm ciii, Acts 1-8, Gal. v, 16-26.

Tuesday, January 4th, 1927—
The Universal Church—The Church of God, which He Hath Purchased with His Own Blood" (Acts xx, 28.)

Thanksgiving: For Christ's love to His Church, and for the gracious purposes for which He called it into being.

For the quickened desire after unity among the members of His Body.

For the increase of Brotherhood, and for an awakened social conscience among believers.

Confession: Our need of greater holiness, that Christ may be magnified in our bodies.

Our lack of love for souls. Our unreadiness to serve and to bear witness. Our unworthy timidity and pride.

Prayer: For all ministers, preachers, church workers and members. For all who are discouraged and joyless in their work. For lapsed members that they may be restored. For a fresh renewal of the Holy Ghost. "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation."

Scripture Readings: Psalm cxxxiii, John iii, 25-36, 2 Cor. x, 14-21, Eph. ii, 13-22, Rev. i, 10-20.

Wednesday, January 5th, 1927—
Nations and Governments—"He Made of One Every Nation that they Should Seek God."

Let us in a few moments of silence seek very definitely to realize the presence of the Lord Jesus, who makes us one in Him with our brethren of every nation.

Let us give thanks: For all efforts to promote better understanding and more kindly relationships between nations.

For a quickened sense of international brotherhood.

For that measure of success which the League of Nations has met with in promoting peace and goodwill.

Let us pray: For peace in our time, national, international, and industrial.

That the nations may be delivered from materialism and defective moral standards by their recognition of Christ and His teaching.

That rulers and governments may submit themselves to the guidance of God as they seek to discharge their great tasks and responsibilities.

That the present spirit of lawlessness may be restrained and replaced by the heavenly wisdom which is pure and peaceable.

That the evils of impurity, intemperance, and gambling may be overcome through the preaching of the Gospel.

That especially in lands long provided with the knowledge of Christ the Lord's Day may be rightly regarded and observed.

Scripture Readings: Deut. vi, 1-15, Psalm lxxxvii, I Tim. ii, 1-6, Rev. 9-17.

Thursday, January 6th, 1927
Missions—"All the world Every Creature" (Mark 16:15).

Thanksgiving: That there are no frontiers in the Redeemer's Kingdom, no "home" and no "foreign" fields; for "the field is the world."

That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to save it, and calls upon His Church to bear witness to Jesus and His great salvation.

For the response to that call made by the Church during the past year.

For all devoted missionary service and for the blessing with which God has sealed it.

Prayer: That the Gospel may be fully preached to the ends of the earth.

That the Lord of the harvest will send forth more laborers into the ripened fields.

That the Church may ever keep in mind that her first duty is to evangelize the world.

That native converts may be faithful to their unevangelized neighbors.

For the work of all Bible Societies.

For missionaries in special difficulty at this time of unrest in China and elsewhere.

Scripture Readings: Psalm cxv, Isaiah ix, Matt. vii, 5-13, Acts x, 34-48, Rev. xxi, 1-4, and Rev. xxi, 22 to xxii, 5.

Friday, January 7th, 1927—
Our Young People—"The Promise is Unto You and to Your Children" (Acts ii, 39.)

Thanksgiving: For the faithful work of Sunday school teachers, Bible Class leaders, and Christian workers in all young people's organizations.

For all young lives which have been yielded to the Saviour during this past year.

For the work of all agencies that promote the habit of daily Bible reading among the young.

Prayer: For parents, that they may realize their opportunities and responsibilities in training their children for God.

For all who influence the young people of our land, teachers, professors and writers.

For a blessing upon our homes and for an increase in the habit of family worship.

For all Christian work and witness in schools, colleges and universities.

Scripture Readings: Psalm cxix, 1-16, Matt. xix, 13-22, John iv, 46-54, 2 Tim. iii, 10-17.

Saturday, January 8th, 1927—
The Home Base.

Let us give thanks: For the ever-growing realization that Jesus Christ is the moral judge of the world, and that nothing is right which He would disapprove.

For the response of men and the leadership of the Church in all appeals for help for human need.

For the work of the Church in all its agencies to establish Christianity as the supreme power in the life of the nations.

Let us Confess: Our want of brotherly love and of inter-racial and industrial goodwill; our prejudice against other races and our negligence in seeking to win them to Christ.

Let us Pray: That the Church at home may be so pure in faith, so rich in benevolence, so faithful in duty; that none of her enterprises at home or abroad may suffer for want of men or support.

That all races may realize that the solution of the race problem is in Christ; that Christians may be delivered from the love of rapidly growing wealth into a love like that of Jesus.

That the Bible, the Lord's Day, and the Sacraments, the gracious wealth of Christian worship, may be loved and preserved.

Scripture Readings: Rom. x, Psa. xciv, I Cor. xvi, 1-9; 2 Cor. ix.

CHURCH STREET CHURCH, SALISBURY.

By Mrs. Julia Hipps

Sunday morning, December 19, our pastor, Rev. J. M. Morton, preached to us from the text, "And when they had seen it they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds." Subject, "They Told It."

The Sunday school will have their Christmas exercise Friday night, December 24th.

Mrs. Julia Hipps spent Sunday in Raleigh. While there she visited the State School for the Dumb and Blind.

As the holidays are drawing near we wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A PLEA FOR A HIGHER CHURCH LIFE.

Washington, Dec.—Calling for less dependence on laws and more reliance on the training of the individual in moral character, Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, in the current Bulletin of the Federal Council of Churches, of which he is the President, urges a revival of prayer and united study of the Bible as a means of renewal of life and power of the churches.

The article which bears the title "The Returning Emphasis On The Inner Life," is as follows:

"It is not to be regretted that in England the Free Churchmen have changed their outlook about regeneration through politics," says the article. "It will do the churches no harm, either in Great Britain or America, to have their faith in legislation somewhat chastened."

"We are being taught in this republic that blind dependence upon even the most excellent laws gets us nowhere and that the Church must steadily maintain her aggressive evangelization and training of children and adults in the Christian religion if they are to become law-abiding citizens."

"Millions of men and women in Great Britain today are asking themselves how they can get things done which imperatively need doing, with the combination of emotional fervor and practical sense. One can foresee an upcoming movement which shall uplift the life of Great Britain."

"Once such a movement has begun, based upon prayer, renewed study of the Bible and under the direction of the Spirit of God, I predict that it will mean a renewal of life and power for all the churches of that country."

"Nor is there any reason to doubt that it will spread to our shores, exactly as the Moody and Sankey revival, beginning in the United States, blazed a way of holiness around the world. Speaking as President of the Federal Council, I covet the glorious honor of seeing this revival in the United States of America, but let it arise where it may, so that God Himself originates it, it will be in the first instance a renewal of personal devotion, personal consciousness of the indwelling of Christ, and personal hope and joy derived from His presence in the heart."

"At a time when, to quote the Bishop of Winchester, 'Super-national religion is widely questioned, when Christian ethics are flouted, and when the supreme issue is whether Christianity can sufficiently influence the behavior or society as to insure the survival of civilization,' should not all who love the honor of God and the Kingdom of His Son, lay aside theological and other differences and unite to proclaim the saving Gospel of that Kingdom?"

"But the proclamation will have to be splendidly equipped and well led. It must assert in intelligent ways the major truths of the New Testament Faith; there must be no dealing with iniquity; no compromise with wrong; no economy of truth; no flattering of error."

"Hence those who align themselves for this crusade must be prepared to take risks. They will have to combat the indifference which paralyzes countless churches and makes them subservient to the dictates of worldly-minded multitudes. They will have to refuse to lower Christ's claims upon the whole life of mankind by a single iota."

"They must first deal with the individual if they would bring about that social reconstruction in justice, peace, and security for which the nations are asking today. It may well be that the decline of interest in politics is the forerunner of a fresh hold upon the everlasting verities which are changeless in the midst of constant change."

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHING A VOLUNTARY OCCUPATION FOR SERVICE.

By Mrs. M. T. Hines

The Sunday school is a school for religious instruction meeting on Sunday. There were schools for religious instruction in connection with the Jewish synagogues and also among the early Christians. Luther established such schools in Germany and Knox in Scotland. But the credit of founding the modern Sunday school belongs to Robert Raikes who in 1780, when living in Gloucester, England, gathered the children from the streets on Sunday and hired teachers for them at 25 cents a day. These schools opened at 8 A. M. and lasted until the children went to church and after the 2nd service began again holding until 5:30 P. M.

The children were taught their letters, reading and the Church Catechism. The instruction now is usually given by voluntary and unpaid teachers and should be by those who have had time, energy and interest enough to prepare themselves carefully for each Sunday's instruction. Deep religious interest is essential to any Sunday school teacher's success. Therefore, it should be considered a voluntary occupation. Occupation began with Adam and Eve and has come down to us through service. Genesis 3:23 says: "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden to till the ground whence he was taken." Advancing a step further Gen. 4:2 says, "And Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain a tiller of the ground" which marks the beginning of the leading industry of the South, agriculture.

There are several kinds of occupation, such as public school teaching, preaching, practice of law and several others, but none is more important than the occupation of voluntary Sunday school teaching. Now, if our Sunday school keeps pace with the standard of modern times, it must be carried on by those who are deeply interested in training the little minds and in directing the older minds in the right way. It is true that education, especially in these years of superior civilization, is imperative, but unless there is a reasonable knowledge of the Bible the education is incomplete. The Sunday school is the place to gain that knowledge. It is there where we are taught that all honest labor is honorable and a large number of our exalted people have passed through some chance for service. For the lamented Woodrow Wilson, who was once a pedagogue serving as President of Princeton, later became Governor of New Jersey. As a result of proficient service rendered in each capacity he succeeded in ingratiating himself into the confidence of the American people and they as an appreciation of him and his real worth to the world bestowed upon him the highest gift that was in their power to give.

We have another example of efficient service in the Rev. Dr. Mordecai Johnson, who, having once been a teacher in Morehouse College, Atlanta, was so proficient in his work that he was recently elected to the Presidency of Howard University, Washington, D. C., the first Negro that has ever held that honored position.

We have as a lawyer Attorney McGill, who, through his efficient service, has been appointed Assistant States Attorney for Cook County in which Chicago, the second largest city in the United States, is the County seat. And there are many others that time will not allow one to mention.

It is the purpose of these illustrations to show what it means to receive an education

and to practice it in a serviceable manner.

The Presbyterian Church in order to encourage efficient service has set aside one week out of the 52 weeks in the year for the purpose of giving instruction to the Sunday school teacher. This predicts a bright future for the Sunday school. Therefore it is safe to declare unto you that voluntary Sunday school teaching is a tide in the affairs of any individual and if taken at the flood it is bound to lead to great reward of service.

Paltaka, Fla.

URBAN LEAGUE REPORTS ON INDUSTRY FOR NOVEMBER

Bulletin No. 9 of the Industrial Relations Department of the National Urban League summarizes employment conditions throughout the country as follows:

A number of cities—among them Canton, Cleveland, St. Louis, Columbus and Chicago—report a slowing down in industry which is to be expected this time of year. In St. Louis where they have been laying men off in the foundries and mills, employers say this condition cannot obtain for more than sixty days. Colored molders have received work as laborers in mills in Columbus, Ohio, until business speeds up. More Negroes are being used in the building trades in Columbus and in Austin, Texas, more Negro porters and helpers are being hired because they are cheaper labor.

Migration—There is a movement of workers into Chicago and Hot Springs, Ark. The movement to the latter city is due in part to the importation of men by the railroads.

Organized labor—In New York City colored strikers and strike breakers are still taking a very active part in the Paper Box Workers' Strike, which is now in its tenth week and colored members of the Motion Picture Operators' Union are still picketing a Harlem Theatre which is giving employment to non-union operators.

Favorable Conditions Reported Jackson, Mich.—New Hotel Hayes opened recently is hiring colored bell boys and waiters under a colored head waiter.

Cleveland, O.—Colored girls have been placed as elevator operators in a large department store which formerly used men. The men were transferred to other jobs.

Albany, Ga.—The payroll in the new Skywater Development is said to be \$20,000. Negroes are doing practically all the work—skilled and unskilled.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The union man in charge of a small fur factory had consistently refused to accept colored apprentices. Recently he left and the owner refused to accept another union man unless he agreed to train colored apprentices. The Brooklyn Urban League has placed two colored boys with this firm.

San Antonio, Tex.—A colored manager has been employed for a million dollar theatre in the Negro section.

New York City—Four stenographers have been placed in a white office and openings made in other fields as a result of a campaign being made in Harlem by a Joint Committee, sponsored by the New York Urban League, to induce white enterprises to hire colored workers for positions which they are trained to fill.

A MISSIONS' STORY

Bessie had a new dime to invest in an ice cream soda.

"Why don't you give your dime to missions?" said the minister, who was calling.

"I thought about that," said Bessie, "but I think I'll buy the ice cream soda and let the drug-gist give it to missions."