

Dedicated
To

The Salemite

Bishop
Rondthaler

Volume XI

Winston-Salem, N. C., Saturday, February 7, 1931.

Number 17.

Beloved Bishop Rondthaler Called To Final Rest

Bishop Edward Rondthaler, 88, beloved leader of Moravians of the Southern province, and one of the South's best known churchmen, was laid to rest in Moravian Graveyard Monday afternoon. The placing of the body in its final abode was preceded by simple, but deeply impressive services at his late home and at the Home Moravian Church.

Hundreds of friends crowded the church and overflowed into the Rondthaler Memorial Sunday School building and Memorial Hall, in each of which amplifiers had been placed. Uncounted others in homes also listened to the service as it was broadcast through Station WSJS.

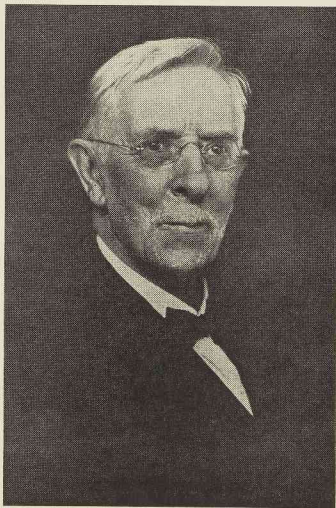
The funeral plans were carried out in accordance with the expressed wishes of the venerable minister. A brief service was held at the home, consisting of the praying of the church litany, led by Bishop Edward Grosland, of Lititz, Pa., bishop of the Northern province of the Moravian Church.

Then the body was removed to Home Church, which had been the scene of the bishop's worship for more than a half century. The service was opened with chorale which starts with "Rise my Soul, stretch thy wing, thy better portion trace." Also used in the service was the hymn, "Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice," and the closing hymn was "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand."

Participating in the Scripture reading was Bishop J. Taylor Hamilton, of Bethlehem, Pa., and Rev. James E. Hall, of this city. Prayers were offered by Rev. F. W. Grabs, of Bethania.

The memoir of Bishop Rondthaler was read by Dr. J. Kenneth Prohl, pastor of Home Moravian Church. He traced the life of the beloved bishop, with particular reference to his activities in the church and to his long period of service in the upbuilding of God's Kingdom on earth.

Dr. Pfohl pointed out that the bishop came from a long line of Moravian ministers and missionaries recognized for their loyalty and devotion to Christ and the



Bishop Edward Rondthaler

church and their zeal for the extension of the Kingdom. He referred to the oft-repeated testimony of Bishop Rondthaler that his greatest gain, during his course of preparation for life, was a deep personal experience of the saving grace of God through Christ into which he was led through the study of Romans x, 9, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

The memoir told in details of Bishop Rondthaler's call to Salem and of his long and glorious record in the Southern province. It was his privilege to see the work of the

Moravian Church successfully develop and expand and joy to see the Southern province emerge from the lowest place in point of members and activity among the provinces of the unity to second position.

Dr. Pfohl also referred to the bishop's interest and activities in Salem Academy and College, with which he maintained an active connection, as head of the Biblical literature department, to the very end of his life.

Bishop Rondthaler also was an editor and writer, and many articles that will live after him were prepared by his pen. His memora-

Life of Bishop One Of Great Service And Tireless Energy

Bishop Edward Rondthaler was born at Schoenock, Pa., July 24, 1842, the son of Edward and Sarah Louise Rondthaler. He was educated at Nazareth Hall, the Moravian preparatory school for boys at Nazareth, Pa., and the Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, Pa. He continued his studies at the University of Erlangen, Germany, returning to this country in 1864.

The year 1864-65 was spent as a teacher in Nazareth Hall and he was then ordained a deacon of the church and appointed to the pastorate of the Brooklyn congregation. In entering the ministry, he was following in the footsteps of his father and grandfathers, who had been distinguished ministers before him. He was married, in 1867, to Miss Mary E. Jacobson, of Bethlehem, Pa., a daughter of Bishop John Christian Jacobson.

After six years in Brooklyn, during which time he rebuilt the church and parsonage, which had been destroyed by fire, he accepted a call to the First Moravian Church, Philadelphia, and served there until 1877.

It was in that year that an urgent appeal came up from the Southern province. The war had left the country impoverished and the people discouraged. Like other denominations in the South, the Moravian folk had found it hard to carry on against the terrible conditions that existed for nearly twenty years after the sectional struggle. The need for young men in the South was apparent and in this Edward Rondthaler recognized a definite opening for discharge of duty.

In spite of the threat which he recognized to his rather frail physical make-up, the young minister accepted the call to the new field and came to North Carolina, arriving in Salem, with Mrs. Rondthaler and their two children, October 19, 1877. He went at once to his work as pastor of Home Church, succeeding Rev. Albert L. Oerter.

A summary of Bishop Rondthaler's life since he came to North

(Continued on Page Three)

(Continued on Page Three)