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OUR WORK IN DECEMBER.

EAST CARTERET FIELD.

Rev. N. L. Gaskins, Davis.

Dear Bro. Moore: The month has passed off with no perceivable results. Appointments have all been met with good attendance.

The brethren at Marshallberg are moving on rapidly with their house of worship. This shows what a few can do when they are disposed to work together.

Sister Sarah Nelson, of Marshallberg, has been granted a letter to unite with the church at Morehead City. A letter also has been granted to Sister Sarah Fulcher, of Smyrna, to unite with the church at Marshallberg.

I desire to express my appreciation for the valuable Christmas gifts received from my friends of Davis and Marshallberg. With the writer it is no guess work: he knows that he is trying to serve the best people in the State.

THE ONSLOW FIELD.

Rev. C. B. Paul, Swansboro.

Dear Bro. Moore: It has been two months since I last wrote to THE MESSENGER; and yet when I glance back over the work I see but little to write about. The fact is I have been so closely confined to the school room that I have had but little time for church work. I have closed my school now and hope to get the work in good shape during the coming spring.

Short crops have hindered us somewhat along financial lines, but the brethren are learning to make sacrifices for the cause, and when this shall become a part of our religion the cause as well as our own affairs will be more prosperous.

Our work at each appointment is moving along fairly well, but at Swansboro our cause has sustained a severe loss in the death of Sister M. A. Russell. When Baptists, in this section, were few, and Baptist principles not at all popular, Sister Russell cast her lot with a little band of struggling Baptists at Piney Grove three miles from her home. This she did because as she once told me, her Bible led her there. What a severe rebuke her action is to some of our milk-and-water Christians who for convenience or popularity will sacrifice principles for which the bravest and best of God's creatures have suffered and died. At Piney Grove she was faithful to every department of our work and when about five years ago it was decided to organize a church at Swansboro, she with fourteen others, got letters and organized themselves into Swansboro Baptist church. Fifteen members and only one male member among them. What can these few poor women do? How long before they will become discouraged and quit? Had they not better disorganize and identify themselves with one or the other of the churches already at work? The town is small and cannot support so many churches. The difference between Baptist and others is slight (?) and can easily be sacrificed for convenience. A great deal of prejudice and hard feelings will be aroused should the Baptists begin work here. These and many other such speculations were made about this handful of sisters who dared to take God at His word; yet between hope and fear the little band toiled on until God saw fit to

answer their prayers and reward their labors and when Sister Russell laid her armor by and went home she left her church numbering over one hundred members, Sunday School about as many, Woman's Missionary Society and Aid Society all working in harmony and doing well. All that, to say nothing of the rapid progress our little town has made during these few years. Yes, we shall miss her from every department of our work; but only a few more years and we all hope to meet her where parting will be no more.

Now that my school is off my hands I hope to be able to do some truly missionary work. Near each of my churches there is a mission point that I shall try to work in connection with my regular appointments.

MOREHEAD CITY.

Rev. A. W. Setzer, Morehead City.

The pastor spent the holiday season at his old home in Catawba county. It was a pleasure to come again in contact with the scenes of boyhood and greet friends and relatives. But there is the inevitable feeling of sadness as I view the effect of Time. Much that once was is no more and that which remains bears many marks of Time's unrelenting hand.

Our town and church have suffered a loss in the removal of Bro. Cade and family to Waynesville. Though having lived among us less than a year, he had made a place for himself and family that will not be very readily filled. Our best wishes extend to them in their new home among the mountains.

Bro. Cade occupied my pulpit at the evening service on the third Sunday and preached a most excellent Gospel sermon.

We were favored with a visit from Bro. T. Neil Johnson on the fourth Sunday. He came in the interest of Bible study. At the evening service a class of twenty-four was formed which will take up a daily study of the life of Christ as recorded in the Gospel of Mark. Bro. Johnson endeared himself to us all in the little while he was with us and we will always gladly welcome him to our town.

We have been called upon to mourn with Bro. and Sister Sam Willis the death of their 5-year-old boy, whose body was laid away in Bay View cemetery on the 14th of December. May the God of Peace grant them sufficient grace in this time of severe trial.

The fall term of Atlantic Institute closed December 18th. The enrollment reached 73. Those fostering this work should feel much gratified over the beginning of this new enterprise. The spring term will begin January 6th, 1902. The prospects are good for more students than were enrolled during the fall. I must not fail to mention in this connection the importance of beginning and completing our school building. We must rally about this giant enterprise in its infant clothes and see that the possibility of failure is eliminated. Let the motto of the Baptists of the Atlantic Association be: *We can; we must; we will* build an institution for the education of our boys and girls!

How many churches in our territory want twenty-five copies of The Messenger to one address? Three dollars now or within ninety days will bring them every month for a year. Write at once.

NEW BERN—FIRST CHURCH.

Rev. Hight C. Moore, New Bern.

During the absence of the pastor at the convention our pulpit was supplied very acceptably by Prof. J. Paul Spence. His sermons were both thoughtful and forceful and they will be long remembered for the good impressions made.

The death of Bro. J. H. Vinson on the 11th of December cast the mantle of gloom over our church. For several weeks he had suffered intensely, but bravely he battled against disease. At last his strength was gone, and so submissively, triumphantly he passed forth into the larger life of the spirit-world. Industrious and successful in business, loyal and affectionate in his home, an upright citizen and a consistent Christian, he is greatly missed from the circle of his relatives and friends. His wife and his sons have the profound sympathies of all their acquaintance. "He is not dead, but sleepeth."

Now that the church annex is about completed, it is serving most acceptably for Bro. Holland's class of boys on Sunday afternoons and for our regular Thursday evening prayer meetings during the winter. It is a distinct addition to the value and efficiency of our church property.

The new bell arrived in time to summon the congregation to the last services of the old year. It was put in place during the holidays. The total cost of the bell from the foundry to the church tower will closely approach \$500. It weighs 1,522 pounds and gives forth a sound at once full and round, pure and penetrating. The membership is pleased with the purchase and many others have expressed similar delight. As it has been secured for the glory of God, may its every tone ring true to its high mission!

Letters of dismission were granted to Mrs. W. R. and Miss Lula Warters, now resident in Washington City. We commend them to Pastor Swen and the Second Baptist church, wishing them much joy and usefulness in the national capital.

On the last Sunday of the year we were delighted to add the names of three young men to our church register. Bro. Garrett L. Vinson presented a letter from one of our churches in Mansfield, Ohio, and was cordially welcomed to our fellowship. Also Dr. H. R. Parker and Bro. Paul McDaniel were gladly received on a letter from Piney Grove church in Jones county. In such accessions we rejoice; "may their tribe increase!"

BEAUFORT.

Rev. J. N. Tolar, Beaufort.

Our second year here closed the fourth Sunday in November. We have now entered one month upon our third year. We had thought of giving up the work, but external and internal inducements caused us to abandon temporarily this idea. Whether this course was wise we have not yet learned. We trust, however, that it was and that the work this year will be blessed of God.

We are trying to infuse new life—more real life—in the different departments. The Aid and Missionary Societies hold their own very well. They are looking upward this year. They both very much need the co-operation of all the sisters.

Our committees: *Finance*, M. L. Davis, Jennings Mason, T. E. Parker, R. Felton. *Spiritual*, M. L. Davis, J. W. Noe, T. E. Parkins, E. C. Whitehurst. They are preparing to do efficient work this year. They will endeavor to enforce two convictions: (1) A member able and unwilling to bear his part of the church expenses, should be excluded; (2) a member able and yet will not attend church has no right to membership, but is a positive hindrance, and must get out. These two principles, if enforced, will build up any church. I verily believe that a lack of it (enforcement) has hindered us. We had just as well be plain. There is too much show in many places already. I want to say right here, at the beginning of the year, to our church, that I am helpless and hopeless without their co-operation. We have converted the Thursday evening service into a Bible study cause. We began this year with a systematic study of the Old Bible. This will require twenty-six weeks. Following this will be a similar outline of the New Testament for twenty-six weeks. The first outline is printed and placed in the hands of every member. We try to get the following three fold pledge—read the scripture assigned for each week, attend the class, and bring Bibles. We place 90 per cent of our hope for this year right here. If twenty members of the church will carefully follow this study they will be greatly helped and the church given new life. How much more if all would take a part! I ought to say here that we urge all to take a part in this study, irrespective of church relationship. So far I believe the study is engaged in by a very good number indeed.

Summing up: The future is bright and I believe this year holds in store good things for us. God help us to find them for his glory. We have written plainly, lovingly, and we trust, faithfully.

I know nothing of Woodville or North River. I shall try to run out to North River as often as convenient, irrespective of appropriations.

If you are not already a subscriber to The Messenger, you are most cordially invited to become one. Enclose a quarter to-day to the editor of The Messenger, New Bern, N. C.

—An editorial on the Baptist State Convention would now be out of date, but we must be allowed a local line at least. It was a great meeting. The gates of Winston-Salem were thrown wide open and an abundant hospitality was dispensed. It was our good fortune to be the guest of our friend and kinsman, Captain D. P. Mast. The work of the Convention was above the usual, particularly in its provision for the indebtedness of the Baptist Female University. Several of the addresses were of a very high order. Forward steps were taken in several directions. The minutes of the Convention have been printed and can be had for the asking from Rev. Livingston Johnson, Raleigh, N. C. The next session will be held in Durham next December.

This paper aspires to be a well-doer rather than a money-maker. But to keep alive and do its best work, its finances must not be overlooked. Moral: Subscribe!

NOTES FROM THE NEUSE.

Rev. C. W. Blanchard, Kinston.

Dear MESSENGER: It is with congratulations that I come to you with my first greetings. I have enjoyed your monthly visits throughout your career. I now give you the "tip-of-the-morning" as the representative of the destitution of Eastern North Carolina. I bequeath to you my own and the good will of *The Exponent*, and commend you to a hearty use and support from all the former readers of that paper.

Your life and character arises from a pure and fruitful soil, and with the compliments of the season I may add my earnest wish that the riches of your future store in fruit and prosperity to the cause you have espoused may be of Moore abundantly. I shall look for your visits with a peculiar interest for your own and the work's sake which you are to do. Do your best, there is much labor before you.

The Kinston Baptist church closed a year of reasonable prosperity. We look forward with greater hope for the year to come. A good payment has been made on our church debt and the old building has been sold and moved away. This week is Missionary Revival week with our sisters. The pastor has the honor of meeting with them every night through the week to talk on some outline phase of the work and to join them in praying for a greater missionary spirit at home and abroad.

The holidays were spent at Cary with my family. Of course was a refreshing season.

A convention is called of the representatives of the Neuse Association, to be held with Kinston Baptist church January 21st, at 7 p. m. The purpose is to try to get enlarged subscriptions to State Missions, so that we can fill our now vacant fields. Our associational work is greatly suffering for want of means to prosecute it. This we feel will be overcome when we meet in convention.

The Neuse Colportage Association has been organized. It has a good solid foundation and will have a good stock of books on hand for our colporter, Mr. W. M. Bagley, and all our missionaries, within another week. We invite co-operation from all the pastors and churches in Eastern North Carolina. This will be a strong agency of work. Address J. J. Rogers, Kinston, N. C., Secretary and Treasurer.

News just reaches us that the Spring enrollment at Winterville High School is climbing close to 200. What a benediction this institution is already proving to the Baptists of the east! It is unsurpassed in equipment and teachers by any secondary school in North Carolina. Terms are most reasonable.

Salutations to all the brethren.

—Here is a fact and it might as well be published: Unless some of our churches now receiving help from the State Board do more for the support of their pastors, our work will be seriously crippled soon. For a whole circuit of churches to pay a pastor who has positively no other source of income so little that he has to go in debt for his board and clothes is embarrassing, to say the least. Liberality there must be, and not all on the side of the minister either.