# THE STAR ★ OF ZION.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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## ALLEGHENY DISTRICT.

**Zion Pastors, And Other People Worthy Of Mention.**

BY REV. G. W. LEWIS, P. E.

We have just passed through one of the most trying financial struggles in the history of this Conference; but since the inauguratian of Major McKinley things are beginning to brighten up, and the churches have done well from a spiritual standpoint. The following pastors and their people are worthy of mention:

Rev. G. W. Kincaid, of John Wesley, Pittsburg, Pa., has, within the last three months, raised $1,079.48 and added 200 members to the church. He is the right man in Pittsburg. With him and his congregation it is only a matter of time when the great mortgage debt will be a thing of the past.

Uniontown, Pa.—Rev. B. F. Combash, B. D., is a progressive pastor, and is doing his work well. He, too, had a successful revival, adding some 20 to the church and paying $300 on a debt.

Johnstown, Pa.—Rev. M. J. Snow is the captain of Zion's host in this progressive church, and has done a grand work. He has added 47 members to the church and raised nearly $500 during the quarter. He has a Building Association organized in the church of the best people of the city. They expect to erect a new church within the next 12 months.

Bedford, Pa.—Rev. J. T. Moore is the honest, faithful pastor in charge of the army of Zion at this beautiful Summer resort and is grandly succeeding along all lines. He has had a grand revival and added some 20 or 30 members to the church.

Homewood, Pa.—Rev. N. J. Watson is the pastor in charge. This is one of the finest little churches in this district. He is one of our best preachers and a straight-forward Christian; but for some reason he has not been able to succeed as we had hoped he would. We are pleased, however, to note the fact that the church is in better condition than it was three months ago, and there is a better feeling in the church than there has been for some time. There is now a disposition on the part of the pastor and people to try to pay the mortgage debt, which is $1,300.

Mt. Washington, Pittsburg, Pa.—Rev. A. J. Workman is the pastor and is doing a good work. He is now serving his fifth year on this charge. During the last five years he has bought a church and parsonage worth $3,000 and has the debt now reduced to $1,200. The church is in good condition.

West End, Pittsburg, Pa.—Rev. W. P. Hopkins is the pastor in charge, and is succeeding well. He has turned things around in a general way for the good of Zion in this place. When he was appointed to this charge he found the people out of doors; but he has succeeded in getting in possession of their church again, and now hopes to be able to pay the debt and save the church for Zion. He has had a successful revival. He is a born leader and therefore must succeed along all lines of Christian work.

Mt Pleasant, Pa., is situated in the heart of the coke regions, and on the account of the hard times among the coke and coal miners at that place our church has suffered considerably for last year. Rev. W. A. Forman, the pastor in charge, is building the work up as rapidly as could be expected. On account of illness of pastor, and other things over which he had no control, they have not been able to paint and re-paper the church and parsonage, which is greatly needed. Rev. Forman is a successful preacher and we hope for better results as his health improves and the condition of the people grows better.

Scottdale and Myersdale missions—Rev. R. Brown is the successful pastor in charge, and is doing a good work. He has had a successful revival and has added about 20 members to the church. He hopes to give Zion at Scottdale a new church during the Summer. He is the right man in the right place.

Blairsville and Apollo, Pa.—Rev. L. G. Mitchell is the successful pastor and has had a great revival on this work, adding about 20 members to the church at Apollo, and increased the congregation at Blairsville. He is always a success.

Hollidaysburg and Altoona. This work is located at the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops and promises to become a first-class work. Rev. L. N. Guinn is the pastor and with the assistance of his able and faithful wife is succeeding nicely. Rev. Guinn was stricken down with La Grippe right in the midst of his revival and therefore had not the success he would have otherwise had.

Huntingdon and Lewistown form a very poor work. Deacon Williams is the pastor and he is succeeding well. He has had a very successful revival and has built up the work in a general way.

Jeanette mission is a new work organized by Rev. A. Garter about a year ago. He is trying to plant Zion's flag here and he has already secured a church in which to worship for the present. Rev. J. E. Little, of Pittsburg, was down recently to assist in the opening of the church.

*Pittsburg, Pa.*

## AN EARNEST APPEAL.

Dear Sir and Brother: Whereas we are in great distress, I make this earnest appeal to you and your dear congregation who love Zion, to aid us in trying to build a Zion Church in Winnsboro, S. C.

I was assigned by Bishop I. C. Clinton, D. D., to this mission point December, 1895. On our arrival I found our Zion worshippers holding services in a very small, insignificant building (by no means a credit to this proud Zion Methodist body more than a century old) supposed to be their own; but on investigation last Fall it was found that no titles could be found and that the land belonged to one Mrs. Rachael Gibson, the sister of Rev. S. L. Jones, formerly of Zion but now a Congregationalist.

After he, Rev. S. L. Jones, left Zion it is believed that he prevailed with his sister to let him have the church for his denomination, thereby doing Zion all the harm he could. Since then we have had an up-hill journey, very steep at that, having to rent or leave. We have since then kept up rent and raised $53 toward the erection of an edifice that will give prestige and credit to our beloved Zion. This loss caused a good many of Zion members to become despondent and careless, thereby causing the church to lag and the pastor to suffer.

We therefore appeal to you in the name of God and Zion to aid us in our struggle. I am enduring the hardships and privations, as a soldier, to make it pleasant for some of you pastors to follow me, be at ease and get your support. All I ask of you is to earnestly make the appeal and raise us a few dollars or what you can for the furtherance of this well-begun work, and let us build a monument to Zion in this proud town whose church spires point heavenward and say Zion shall not succeed. Shall we haul in our flag, tuck our head and say that Zion is too poor? God forbid! Whatever may be sent will be thankfully received, receipted for and acknowledged before the public. Please do what you can on or before the second Sunday in July, 1897. Send all contributions to my address. No lover of Zion will refuse to hear the cry.

Yours for God and Zion,
Rev. D. C. Baum,
Box 20, Winnsboro, S. C.

N. B. Please write me a card as what amount I may expect of you, so I may know how to make arrangements.

To ministers of the Palmetto Conference, please read resolutions (in reference to this point) in conference minutes, pages 43 and 44, and act at once. Your time is past. Please don't delay longer.

## OBSERVATIONS.

BY WILLIAM MCBURLEIGH PROVINDER.

It is June! the smiling, dancing, sunny month of June; into whose lap, pleasant, departing May dropped innumerable sweet-breathed flowers. It is not very likely that very many persons regret the coming of the happy Summer-time. Certainly not that vast number of men and women—boys and girls—young men and maidens—instructors and instructed, who have for nine months arduously worked with books in crowded school rooms. I am of the opinion that they at least are very glad. With them the "now" is vacation. They leave for a time blackboards and desks, etc. They will rest—rest from their labors? And is there anything more pleasing than resting from exacting labors?

But while these many are gladly, sweetly, joyously resting, vaster numbers will be, of necessity toiling and toiling; and many of these without proper pay. I had almost said hopelessly. They are the strong pillars on which stands our social structure. They are sturdy and patient and reliable. A high Christian consideration is due them all.

I was reading a while since of a number of "Farmers' Conferences," held by notable schools for Negroes, in some sister states. I am delighted to know that they were all prolific of good results. Educated farmers! Even the words are beautiful in print; and the speaking of them is musical. Farmers highly intelligent, wide-awake, capable of managing well their own affairs—farmers reading agricultural journals, studying and understanding the soils and lands, rotation of crops, etc., farmers reading and writing and thinking and voting intelligently; such farmers as these are prosperous producers of wealth and happiness, and are the strength and grandeur of permanent governments.

Let the blessed work of making such farmers go steadily and lastingly onward. And perhaps for us at least, the deadly crowding into towns and cities will cease, and our frightful death-rate no longer alarm us.

If the numerous reports, written and verbal, are true, the great number of schools in the land have had most successful sessions and closings. That is most encouraging. Everything that the schools and educational agencies can do to make men and women better and wiser, is necessary. The brighter and better the citizenry, the sweeter and more happy will be homes, grander and more blessed the church, and stronger and more progressive the state.

The late commencements of the State Normal school here, and Livingstone College were among the most notable in their histories. The two institutions are doing very excellent work, and are preparing to accomplish very much more. They are of inestimable good to this community; and I say nothing of what they have done and are still doing for the states through the persons whom they have graduated.

*Salisbury, N. C.*

## NOT RIGHT.

The South Mississippi conference has held six annual sessions and fails each year to get out minutes. What is the hindrance? We raise about $60 from the public, more than enough to print minutes, but the presiding elder, for a good name, and one or two men, come together and pay to the secretaries and compiler from one to fifteen dollars and then one of them jumps up and moves that each pastor raise in 30 days $1.00 and give it to his presiding elder for minutes. The presiding elder gets about one-half of his pastors to pay the one dollar; the other half do nothing; and this ends the minute question. Some of the pastors would say something, but the presiding elder promises if they kick against anything he does, he will fix them when he goes in the bishop's cabinet. Says he will send them back home to mash clods.

My friends, there is too much underground work done. I asked a member the other day for 10 cents to pay on publishing minutes and he said that he was tired giving every year and then not see any minutes. He refused. Look from Memphis to New Orleans and right down the Mississippi river: you can't find a Zion church. Why? Because the P. E. will not go to a place for less than $10. I am the only man in the Mississippi bottoms. I have 26 members, and my second year here I collected on general funds $12.50; received on salary, $117.25; paid P. E. $41; raised $79.80 on building; donations, $7.25; paid pastor, $13; total $2701 80. We hope the bishop will visit here. There are thousands of our people who have never seen a bishop.

Rev. Hugh Hamner, M. D.

[If what you say about the presiding elder is true, he ought to cease his threats. No man should be a presiding elder who threatens to get even with his men when he comes to assist the bishop to make out the appointments.—EDITOR.]

## THE TAMPA DISTRICT.

**Spots From the Land of Flowers—Success of the Work.**

BY REV. J. N. CLINTON, A. B., P. E.

The South Florida Annual Conference, set off from the Florida Conference during the administration of Bishop Lomax, has begun her seventh year under Bishop C. R. Harris, D. D. Although this conference is classed as entirely a missionary Conference, yet she far excels the mother conference in raising Connectional claims and building churches.

Bishop Lomax, the pioneer Bishop of South Florida, still lives in the hearts and memory of our people and is talked of much as the working Bishop of Zion. But the indefatigable Bishop Harris, who would, if possible, have a college built and operated in every conference in Zion, and who can think out and lay more plans for industrial education in one day than can be executed in a century, breaks the record of all predecessors in Florida. He has visited more churches in the State in two weeks than all other Bishops in as many years.

In the vicinity of Phosphate Mines, near Wade, Florida, the name and face of Bishop Harris are familiar to the hard toilers and laboring men who love to worship in Zion. On the little Alafia and at Ft. Meade and Homeland as well as along the banks of the beautiful Alachua Lake, the dear Bishop and the mission preacher could be seen wending their way to some little backwoods chapel where never the foot of a Bishop had trod; while women and children looked and wondered as they saw for the first time a living active Zion Bishop. Bishop Harris easily makes friends with every one whom he meets, white or colored, and his lectures and sermons are still spoken of in highest praise by all who have heard him. It demonstrates most clearly that with a fair measure of health and strength, the Bishop is particularly fitted and best adapted to build up this Florida work.

The Bishop came to his South Florida Conference unfavorably impressed with the character and ability of the Florida ministers; made so, no doubt, by the abundant correspondence had with some whose object it was to ingratiate themselves into the confidence and affections of the Bishop to the detriment of the work and the prejudice of others. Hence, an army of transfers had about-faced, and looked toward the South, especially the land of flowers, with their gospel guns loaded and ready to follow in the wake of the Bishop at his behest. But did they come? Why did they not come? We certainly need strong, able, intelligent Zion ministers in Florida; men who can organize societies, build churches and support themselves by teaching school or otherwise, while planting Zion in this broad land of ours. We need good men, God-called men, willing to make a sacrifice of time, intellect, money and labor to plant Zion in this truly missionary field, as we are doing, in a State the fairest of all in the sisterhood of states. That the opinion of the Bishop as to the ability and zeal of the Florida boys has been decidedly changed, we judge from the fact that he has doubled our assessment with a reasonable expectation that the amount assessed will be raised; said amount being fully 50 cents for each member of every church in the bounds of our conference. We will raise it without a doubt and will claim a place in this respect by the side of the Philadelphia and Baltimore and New England annual Conferences.

The Tampa district of South Florida Aneual Conference is in a good spiritual condition. Many of the churches are having spiritual awakenings. There have been accessions to the churches and the financial work of the ministers is most flattering.

Rev. R. R. Frederick, at Kissimmee, Fla., is doing nicely, having organized both a junior and senior V. C. E. Society in his church. Rev. Frederick having been appointed to preach the annual Christian Endeavor sermon at the district conference, Sunday-school and V. C. E. convention to convene at Sefner, Fla., it is hoped that the Christian Endeavor work will be stimulated and materially advanced.

Rev. Wiley Walker, pastor at Alafia and Homeland mission, is doing a splendid work this year. A fine new edifice will be built at Homeland and the church at Alafia, will be remodeled and beautified. Sister Arnold, one of the oldest Zionites on the Alafia with her husband, is a tower of strength to Rev. Walker in rapidly pushing forward his church work at this place.

Rev. L. G. Brookins, lately transferred from the Tennessee conference, has caught the spirit of the Florida boys and is doing remarkably well at Bartow, Fla. He will be one of the teachers employed in the city public school this fall, should he be successful in passing in the June examinations. He has organized a mission in East Bartow and is meeting with success. These are the kind of transfers Florida needs. All who come to assist us in building up and spreading Zion are thrice welcome. All others need not apply.

Rev. A. Jackson at Myers, Fla., writes us that he has organized a Varick C. E. Society, established and set up an Odd Fellow's Lodge, and with these forces expects to build a church for Zion in the very near future. We shall be with you, Brother Jackson, immediately after our district conference and see why we can't organize a society under Zion's banner with the necessary complement of officers to hold the property you propose to erect for Zion.

Rev. W. J. Sanders at Tampa, Fla., is wide-awake and hard at work on the completion of the newly erected parsonage. Rev. Sanders has saved already this year to the trustees twenty five dollars which heretofore was paid for rent of parsonage. By the assistance of that zealous and industrious local preacher, Brother G. W. Lucky, Rev. Sanders will erect very soon, a fine new belfry to his church, reaching sixty feet from the ground and measuring twelve by fifteen feet at the base. Rev. Sanders is an original Florida Zionite and is hard to beat.

Rev. S. W. Cunningham, the pastor of Simmons Hammock and Plant City circuit, is now called the South Florida "Revivalist." The great revival just closed at Seffner, Fla., was crowned with abundant and unprecedented success. Bethel church and the Baptists claimed many accessions on account of this revival, but Zion received the major portion of the converts. Such a spiritual awakening the people say was never known at Simmons Hammock before. Rev. Cunningham has organized at Lakeland, Fla., and visits his people one Sunday in each month and through the week when convenient. He is determined to build a church by the next annual conference at Lakeland. Bishop Harris seems to have awakened new life and inspired our Florida ministers to new hope and greater zeal than ever before. All of them are meeting with reasonble success.

Dr. G. W. Maize at Key West, Florida, is decidedly in the lead of all other denominations at this place. He has already raised and paid one hundred dollars on the principal debt and pays all current expenses as they become due. The Sunday-school has been reorganized under the newly elected superintendent, Brother Murry, and with Mrs. M. A. Bryant at the head of his able and efficient corps of teachers, Zion Sunday-school is the model school of the Island. It is very amusing to see how every other school waits to see what Zion will do on Easter and Children's Days and now that the V. C. E. Society is organized, what will the other churches do?

"Let Zion's watchmen all awake and take the alarm they give," etc.

Rev. Dr. G. W. Maize sells the STAR at Key West and it goes like hot cakes. I cannot see why he does not order a double quantity. Let the people have our paper, especially now, since the Editor has ceased to publish so much useless end personal discussions among the brethren, so damaging to our religious organ, and so disgusting to a majority of its readers. Our ministers would rather read Bishop Hood's Episcopal Address to his conferences, food for thought, and the editorials and communications from our leading men and Bishops of our Church on live topics and matters of general interest. We are watching Bishops Hood and Pettey and their conferences, who are demonstrating how nearly possible it is to raise 50 cents per capita General fund.

*Gainesville, Fla.*

## ZION'S PROGRESS.

This is my first article. Zion is not dead in Texas. Although our work is missionary in this State we propose to make Zion a great church. Our outlook is bright. Our preachers should fight sin. It will occupy all of our time doing so. This world must be brought to God. I am a true Zionite. Rev. J. W. Whiting, P. E.

*Baileyville, Texas.*

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Rev. J. T. Matthews who was sent to us last December from the Genessee conference by Bishop Walters understands how to work for God and Zion. He is indeed a gospel minister and an all-round man. In the six months he has been here he has remodelled the church which is now the finest little church here. He teaches the members that they must be loyal to the general and local church. He is the right man for us.

*Norfolk, Va.* A. F. Gusson.

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Bishop C. R. Harris looked well and acted wisely when he sent us as pastor Rev. S. M. Charles who is a power in the pulpit and a good Sabbath-school worker. His revival resulted in 35 conversions and several additions to the church. Our Presiding Elder T. F. H. Blackman of Tennessee is a Paul in the ministry. Our pastor's wife is a great help to him in church work.

Mr. Editor, the STAR is a fine paper. I love it because it is a Negro paper. This is my first article.

Mary E. Burgin.

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The appointment of Rev. R. G. Smith is proving a success. Rev. J. Hooper, our presiding elder, is well beloved and a convincing preacher. His quarterly meetings held here are grand. Resolutions of condolence relative to the death of Brother John Willer of Best chapel, and brother Geo. Jones of St. James church, were read showing great sympathy for the bereaved and ordered to be printed in the STAR. Whereas, it has pleased our heavenly Parent to take from our ranks Brothers John Willer and Geo. Jones, resolved that this quarterly conference and said churches bow in submission, and that we extend to the families our sympathy. Signed: E. W. Fields, John Richardson, Thos. O. White, Larry Simmons, H. S. Kemp, Jane Fields, Rev. R. G. Smith, pastor, and Rev. J. Hooper, P. E.

*Pollocksville, N. C.*

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This is a mission point which I have in Albermarle. Notwithstanding all the disadvantages surrounding us, Zion here is coming to the front. We are erecting a building for the Lord which will be a credit to Zion. We have a small membership, but they are up and at work. It would be well for the Connection to help this point. We had a splendid quarter in February. The Lord stepped into His chariot and rode into our midst. I do not think that the Central North Carolina Conference has a circuit or station that can beat such quarterly meetings as we have. While I was looking for my Presiding Elder J. H. Mattocks, in stepped the young hero, Rev. S. J. Hargrave, A. M. The Presiding Elder was sick and could not come.

On the Sabbath he preached on, "And there came a leper to Him beseeching Him." His sermon was logical and well seasoned with grace. I have a growing Sabbath-school. The Ladies H. and F. Missionary Society is still at work. At 7 p. m. Rev. Hargrave preached on, "And there was war in heaven." He got on one of his spiritual horses and carried us into glory in our imagination and pictured out to us Lucifer and the army of rebellious angels fighting against God; how God sent His Son to hurl him out of heaven, etc. It was a great sermon, well delivered.

Rev. A. J. McNeill.

*Albermarle, N. C.*

## DOTS FROM ALABAMA.

**Third North Alabama District Coming To The Front.**

BY REV. S. P. COLLINS, P. E.

Our district is coming to the front. Rev. A. J. Warner, the "Swamp Angel," is pastor at Birmingham. He is burning the ground all around him, and robbed the devil of many souls before he went to the Bishops' meeting and since he returned. Rt. Rev. J. B. Small, D. D., came to this district and preached soul-stirring sermons in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. They were the kind to take deep root and bear good fruit in every sinner's mind. They were full of consolation for every heart that bleeds; full of invitation to Christ and not to creeds. Rev. Warner is preparing for a rally to raise a thousand dollars in June. The church is in a gospel blaze.

Tuscaloosa, Rev. T. H. Tipton, pastor. He is a son of thunder and has made great improvements on the church and parsonage. They do not look like the same places. He is a good financier and expects to make a fine report on all Connectional claims next conference. He is a transfer; this is his first year and his people love him. He is preparing for a rally to raise five hundred dollars to pay off the debt of the church.

Jerusalem circuit, Rev. T. R. Gaines, pastor. He is the coming young man in Zion, surpassing his last year's record. He has paid off the debt of the new church he built last year. Little Center is collecting general funds monthly and pays the presiding elder nicely. This is his fifth year and the people say they want him five years longer.

Jasper circuit, Rev. N. R. Rhodes, pastor. He is a sky-rocket preacher and singer. He has ceiled the church, paid off the debt, has his work in good shape, and has taken in some 30 members. All the people of the little town seem to love him. He will make a good financial report this year; much better than year.

Castle Hill circuit, Rev. George Bolling, pastor. This is his first year and he is working hard to bring his churches to the front. He is a Christian gentleman.

Banks chapel circuit, Rev. A. C. Cornelius, pastor. He is working hard to make a success. He has a noble people who own land generally and are doing well. His people love him.

Woodstock circuit, Rev. R. Steel, pastor. The church here is under a mortgage, the membership is small, and the pastor is having a hard time. I don't know how we will get out. He is doing all he can to save the church and he has suffered this year in this poor place.

Bessemer circuit, Rev. Paul Brimage, pastor. He is trying to build a new church at Bessemer. I think he will succeed. This is his first year and he is doing well.

Woodlawn circuit, Rev. T. H. Jones, pastor. The church here is under a mortgage, the membership is small, and the pastor is having a hard time. I don't know how we will get out. He is doing all he can to save the church and has suffered this year in this poor place.

Fayette circuit, Rev. A. A. Williams, pastor. He found this work in a bad condition. When he was appointed to it in December last he went to work in earnest and repaired the church at Fayette and bought lumber to build a new church at Davis Creek and finished the church at Berry's station. Rev. Williams is 63 years old but still in the ring.

East Birmingham, Rev. J. A. Walls, pastor. This is his first appointment. He is doing good work, has a fine Sabbath-school and the church is growing nicely.

West Tuscaloosa mission, Rev. I. Fluellen, pastor. He is running a revival and having quite a success.

North Birmingham, Rev. L. H. Hurst, pastor. He is doing all he can to make improvement in his mission.

Mt. Nebo circuit is moving along nicely, and we are determined to help take the world for Christ. The people here are very kind to us, having resently banquetted us, leaving us one hundred pounds of good things. Rev. A. D. Miller.

*Lancaster, S. C.*