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MISSIONARY WORK

Bishop J. B. Small in Africa—Our Part in the Mission Field.

BY REV. D. C. COVINGTON.

We suppose by this time that Bishop J. B. Small is upon the distant shores of Africa, our fatherland. It takes a man with a consecrated heart to God and a deep love for suffering humanity to risk his life among savage, ignorant and superstitious races. Nevertheless they must have the light of the cross. Bishop Small exemplified the fact by the blessed example of going. He is in line with the evangelic prophet who exclaimed, "Here am I, send me."

The cry for the gospel and Christian enlightenment in the dark continent of Africa and other heathen lands is growing louder and longer each day. The great A. M. E. Zion Church cannot afford to turn a deaf ear to this awful cry which comes from the black sons of Ham. The prayers of the whole Church should be sent up in behalf of Bishop Small while upon the dark fields of Africa, and for the interest of God and Zion. All that the Church needs today is more consecrated men and women who are willing to hazard their lives for the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom.

There is a vast amount of work to be done at home and abroad; and the greatest of all questions which come up before us as a Church to-day is that of her mission work. We find it to be the uppermost question among the other great Churches of this age, and it must be the watchword of Zion. Should our great Church allow herself to stand back, and sneer and jeer at the thought of sending men and women to Africa? She will awake some day in the future and find herself a back number. Our Lord and Master commanded His disciples to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," etc. We should like to know if Africa is not in the world. There is no question about it as we see it. Zion must send missionaries to Africa and other foreign fields. The question might be asked by some, "How is the Church to do this?" I answer by saying that plans must be put on foot to raise money and consecrated men and women sent. We notice that the other great Churches are making advance steps in this one direction. The following clipping from the *New York Age* will give us an idea of what the Bethel Church is doing along this line:

Missionary Meeting at Bethel Church. On Tuesday evening of last week a meeting of the Missionary Department of the A. M. E. Church was held at Bethel Church on West 25th St. Bishop A. Grant called the meeting to order and introduced Bishop H. M. Turner, who presided and made a good address on the work of the Department. Bishops Lee, Embry and Salters also spoke.

One of the most interesting features occupying the attention of this Department of the A. M. E. Church at present is the plan to send missionaries and teachers to what is practically a new field, their work being almost wholly confined to the country of Liberia in West Africa. This new work will be among the savage tribes which are located near Lake Nyassa in the interior of Africa. This work, unlike most African mission stations, promises results from the start, as the board has received communications from the chiefs of several of the tribes which inhabit that locality, through an intelligent young native of the Ajawa tribe by the name of John Chillembue, who became a convert to Christianity in an English school in the Nyassa neighborhood, and who has been at the headquarters of the Missionary Department of the Church at the Bible House, New York, for some time. Secretary of Missions H. N. Parks, said that a missionary party of three will be sent to the Nyassa region, but it was not probable that they would leave before January 1. The party will consist of a minister, a physician and a nurse. The tribes which made application for the missionaries are the Ajawas, Mangolas, Chikundas, Manganjas, Chipetas, Atongas and Angonis.

The above shows that the Bethels are not asleep to the interest of their missionary work. Zion is regarded as being one of the most progressive Negro Churches in this country; and it is a fact that cannot be disputed that Zion is the oldest Negro Church in existence. It is expected, then, that she will lead along every line. Our General Missionary and Church Extension Secretary, Dr. A. J. Warner, should put himself in direct touch with every Zion minister in order

that there might be a great financial revival for the cause of missions throughout the whole Church. We again quote the doings of Bethel's annual meeting of her Missionary Society held in New York:

"At the annual session of the Home and Foreign Missionary Department of Bethel Church, the headquarters of which is in this city, there were present Bishop H. H. Turner, the president; Bishop B. F. Lee, Wilberforce, O., Chancellor of Payne Theological Seminary; Bishop M. B. Salter, Charleston, S. C.; Bishop J. C. Embry, of Jacksonville, Fla.; Bishop W. B. Lerrick, of New York; P. W. Wade, of Little Rock, Ark., presiding elder of that district; Dr. H. S. Coleman, of Jacksonville, Fla., presiding elder of the Little Oak district, and G. D. Jimerson, Smithfield, Va. They are members of the executive committee of the board, assembled to hear and consider the reports of the Secretary relative to missions in San Domingo, Hayti, Barbadoes, Canada, West Indies, South America and Africa. Among the important matters that were considered was the new Mission House in Monrovia, Liberia. Secretary Parks reported showing that the amount of money realized during the past year, \$8,814, was contributed by the Church for African missions. The board decided to spend \$2,200 for a Memorial Chapel in Monrovia, Liberia; \$2,300 for the expenses of the annual conference of the board to be held next year at Sierra Leone; \$1,500 for missionary work in British Guiana, and \$1,800 for work in San Domingo. These appropriations were also decided upon: South Africa, \$1,000; Canada, \$1,200; the Barbadoes and Demerara, \$1,200; Nova Scotia, \$1,000; Bermuda, \$500. This made the sum total of appropriations for the year \$11,400. Bishop Turner will sail for South Africa to look over the fields for missionary work, and Bishop Grant will go to the West Coast of Africa for the same purpose.

The above figures speak very convincingly for Bethel, if there is any reality about them. Read Bishop Walter's ringing address to the Western New York Conference which appeared in last week's STAR. Among other things he said: "The next great effort of our Church must be in the interest of our Church Extension and Missionary Department. Our cry from now on must be more missionary and church extension money." Brethren, read this wonderful address and become inspired. Let us also think of the home missionary work to be done here among us. Think of the field to which Bishop Jehu Holliday has been sent to labor. When we read his article in the STAR of July 1st, we said: "Oh, how much do we need money, and good men in order that strong churches might be planted in that section for Zion." We feel safe in saying with a strong man at the head of our Missionary and Church Extension Department like Dr. Warner, the cause will be carefully looked after. Let the brethren encourage him.

Charlotte, N. C.

By chance I read your paper occasionally. It is one of the finest I have ever read. I am agent for the Indianapolis *Freeman* and would like to take the agency of your brilliant paper. The St. John A. M. E. Zion church located on George Street under the able pastorate of Rev. Dr. R. E. Wilson is doing a great work. Dr. Wilson is just the man for Cincinnati and his large congregation is much pleased with him. He is a man of ability and Zion would feel proud of him. Rev. J. F. Moreland, the founder of St. John church, was in the city shortly after centennial to visit his family.

Cincinnati, O. H. B. Brooks.

The 27th of January our church was honored with a visit from our esteemed Bishop G. W. Clinton. All hearts were aglow because of his presence. Notwithstanding the weather was severely cold the auditorium of old St. Mark Zion church was completely filled by 7.30 p. m. We had arranged a unique reception for him and the program represented by the various working clubs of the church began promptly on time. Each society had either contributed to some new improvement on the church or to the pastor's comfort. The Bishop was introduced and made a warm response to all he had seen and heard, commending in the most profuse terms the work of these various organizations, calling upon all to be loyal to the claims of their church. He said I thought this was an "Ideal Pastor" and an "Ideal Church." His remarks were received with marked demonstrations of approval by all, after which we partook of an eloquent repast prepared by the board of Stewardesses.

Athens, Tenn. Rev. H. L. McKinney.

RANDOM SHOTS.

Unexpected Encomium—Let Not Praise Turn Our Heads.

BY REV. W. H. MARSHALL.

The recent conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church in this town was a splendid exhibit of the moral and intellectual progress of the colored people since emancipation. In slavery days a colored preacher was looked upon with a sort of Christian disdain, but the pulpit efforts of the colored clergymen in the pulpits of Chambersburg last Sunday were revelations of eloquence to congregations that had heretofore listened only to white pastors. The fact that the black preachers were invited to occupy the pulpits of their white brethren was in itself a sign of mighty revolution in public sentiment. It was a proof that the white people have broadened in their sympathies and rid themselves of some of the unchristian prejudices that were once almost universal, as well as an exhibition of extraordinary development and growth on the part of the colored Methodists.—Chambersburg (Pa.) *Public Opinion*.

Steady! Steady!! Boys, steady!!! Another community has awakened to the fact that the Negro in the dying hour of this century is not the same helpless, ignorant, hopeless creature who in despair saw the present century ushered into being. Another community has learned that the slave of '61 is no more the freeman of '97 than the savage, whom Julius Caesar found roaming over the British Isles, is the proud Lord during the Reign of Queen Victoria. Another community has opened its eyes to behold no longer a cringing Negro, but a man, black though he be, asking no quarter, seeking no favor and desiring nothing but to be let alone and to be given the privileges to which an American-born citizen is rightly entitled. Great is the distance from the auction-block, the slave-pen, the rice-swamp and the cotton-fields of the sunny South to the pulpits of the cultured whites of Pennsylvania; and that in so incredibly short time the journey should be accomplished is perhaps the greatest marvel of an age so remarkable for its achievements. History is being rapidly made in these days. The Negro has capacity; and he is therefore but the legitimate off-spring of an age of wonders.

Though Chambersburg, Phoenix-like, arose from the ashes into which it had been burned by a guerrilla band of Confederates; though it marked almost the Northern limit to which rolled the waves of Rebellion; though its homes, halls and streets were made historic by that Prince of America and "Comrade of the Cross," John Brown; and though such orators of our race as Day and Douglass had pleaded there thirty years ago—yet, singularly enough, the city was full of "unchristian prejudice" against the Negro; and the best defense the city could make for the prejudice was that "it was almost universal." That this city, the Pearl of the Cumberland Valley, bears witness to the "extraordinary development and growth on the part of the colored Methodists" is indeed gratifying. It is impossible to always close the eyes to merit. Prejudice has no foundation upon which to stand when ignorance has been destroyed.

Not only in Chambersburg, (which indeed was no worse than the rest of the State), but everywhere, the people's opinion of the Negro is changing; and the day is not many decades away when this country shall be ashamed to know that it was ever unfair to those who in spite of injustice, were always ready to die on the field of battle to preserve the nation's honor and its liberty.

But the victory is not yet obtained. Why, boys, you've only driven back the skirmish line. The main body of the fiendish "Army of Unchristian Prejudice" with unbroken ranks and strong fortifications is just beyond. Don't stop! Don't let a little praise (deserved though it be) turn your heads! Don't throw down your arms and rush forward crying, "Victory! Victory!! Steady! Steady!! Boys, steady!!! Look around you. See, here; there, everywhere your people dying for want of knowledge and moral training. See our poverty compared to the wealth of others. Then go to work as you never worked before. Don't get excited and tell your

people, "We're as far advanced as any one else." It is not so, boys, and you know it. Our greatest battles are yet to be fought. Put on, keep on the panoply of war. Pray, preach, study, work, economize! Steady! Steady!! Boys, steady!!!

THE SERVICE THAT PAYS.

PERFORM THE LITTLE DUTIES, AND THOSE IMMEDIATELY AT HAND.

BY REV. FRANCIS H. HILL.

Some people find that in order to do what they regard as the work of their lives, they have to go some great distance to begin; but it is not so with the majority of people. The majority will find the work of their lives lying near at hand. Even where they stand, there it begins.

What fault is there more common, and to poor mortals so easy, as marking and pointing out the mistakes of others. If they be weak in any point, we spy it out, as it were with an eagle's eye, and make it plain to the eyes of others; and then in the "I am holier than thou" spirit set out to correct that and the hundreds of others we discover in them.

It may not be wrong for one to correct the mistakes and faults of another; but it is duty to correct the faults of self. It may not be as easy to see one's own faults as those of another; or to conduct our own homes, our own business, our own church as well as we often think we could manage some one's else; but it is duty that we should. And men will give themselves any amount of worry and trouble, only to be the doctor of other people's deformities; and almost immediately abandon every effort to correct their own, looking for some other, and what they regard as greater work to do.

In the church, that member who finds his duty nearest at hand and can always be depended on for support and service, and who does not stand idle, waiting for the opportunity to come for him to do some great thing, is filling his life's measure to a grand good purpose. Few, if any, men live to any purpose who live only to do the great things of life; few, if any, members of our churches contribute their proper and lawful service to the church who act only in some great crisis in the church.

Among us as ministers of the gospel we find some who in their desire to achieve success in their calling, and to gain fame, it may be, are looking far away to other fields, neglecting the duty of cultivating that field, the church, that little world in and about them. That minister is most useful and most successful who labors faithfully in that one field in which he is set. That member of the church is most useful and successful who willingly, gladly and lovingly performs each duty in turn, whether it be small or great, to the glory of God, the upbuilding of the church and a benefit to his fellow man.

He whose life is consecrated to the duties and service immediately at hand will have joy in his life. And they are the happiest Christians who are always finding something to do for the blessed Master. To him the world appears to be, and really is, growing better every day, because every day he is doing something to make it so. He knows nothing of that anxiety and disappointment which many others feel who are always sighing and pining to do the occasional, the remote and unreachably thing.

The man who is always seeking to do the great things, and always failing in the attempt, will become weary and disheartened; but the man who daily proceeds on life's journey doing the little things, and doing them well, one after another, patiently, cheerfully and faithfully, will find (always) something to do that keeps his heart glad, and makes the hearts of others to rejoice. Brighter and brighter shall the light of glory shine around him, until the final hour of his life shall come; and when in the glorified presence of the Lord he shall stand, then shall he hear the blessed words of welcome—"Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord,"—and realize, throughout eternity, the greatness, the grandeur and worth of a life filled with service of God in little things, and taste forever the sweetness that flows out from the performance of this life as we found them at hand.

Providence, R. I.

CHARLOTTE DISTRICT.

Hard Working Men Who Are True As Steel To Zion's Interests.

BY REV. H. L. SIMMONS, P. E.

I have made the second round on my district in the Western North Carolina Conference which is much improved with the past six months.

Clinton chapel, Charlotte, is now recruiting from the long and tedious law-suit for her retention in Zion. Too much cannot be said of our beloved Bishop Lomax, who was then and is now our presiding Bishop. His material strength and timely counsel were a great stay for Zion. He is still looking to her several interests. Rev. R. H. Simmons, D. D., was the pastor in charge during the great church fight here. His exceptional knowledge of law, both in Church and State, and the tenacity with which he holds to what he believes to be right, reflect much credit upon him. It is thought by some that it was a God-sent that he was the man in charge at that time. There had been some unrest with occasional threatenings long before his pastorate of this church, hence there could have been no better time for the break. The members of his church also deserve much commendation for their loyal support rendered him and the church.

Rev. D. C. Covington succeeded him here and is doing nicely. He has added nearly a hundred members to his church since conference. His church is full at all the services. He and his members have raised considerable money on the debt of the church, etc. He is much loved by his people and is a good pastor.

Rev. R. B. Bruce, in charge of Grace church, is serving his third year and seems to grow stronger with his people. He and they are very successful in their financial rallies. They anticipate building a fine brick church in the near future.

Rev. H. B. Moss has had charge of the Little Rock church here since last conference and is succeeding most admirably. When he took charge they were very much in debt to a first and second claim on the building and lot. He and his people have paid off the first claim and are now getting ready to pay off the second. He is giving perfect satisfaction.

Rev. S. N. Pharr, in charge of Center Grove circuit, is succeeding grandly. He is raising money to build a new church on his work and also remodel another. He is a great worker and a good pastor.

Rev. Wm. Massey, in charge of Little Hope church, is doing nicely. He is quite an enthusiastic preacher and warms up his people from his pulpit. They love him very much. He promises to raise all Connectional claims.

Rev. H. B. Bennett pastor of Weeping Willow and Steel Creek, has been very successful this year. He has conducted very excellent revival meetings in his charge and has had great many accessions and converts.

Rev. B. F. Martin, D. D., pastor of Jonesville church, is a very strong intellectual preacher, and to this end is capable of anything in the gift of the church. He is making it nicely with his people.

Rev. P. J. Holmes is serving his second term in the China Grove station. He has also organized a mission on the east side of the city of Charlotte, that part of the city called Brooklyn. The outlook is fair for a good church here. He is taking steps to pay for the lot and asks for the cooperation of all the pastors in and out of the city and friends in general to help in his rally to be on the 4th Sunday in July.

Rev. D. E. Best has charge of Rockwell station. He is getting along very well with his people since the Spring has opened up. They are giving him a full house and a better support.

Rev. M. Caldwell has charge of Jonahville circuit. He is a hustler and never fails to succeed. His people are well pleased with him.

Rev. W. L. Alexander in charge at Moore's Sanctuary is a good preacher and gives satisfaction as a pastor. He will make a good report at conference.

Rev. S. W. Jackson is serving his third term on the Pineville circuit. He is moving along quietly in his charge. The outlook is favorable for a great harvest at the end of the year.

Rev. H. S. McMullen is a model pastor. He has charge of the Mowing Glade circuit. He is a success wherever he goes. He is doing nicely in his charge and will make a good report on all lines at the ensuing conference, God willing.

Rev. F. L. Bell pastor of Bidle circuit, is doing as well as could be expected, or as well as any that preceded him. This circuit by some means has never been thrifty since my knowledge of it. We hope for the better.

Brother John Hunter has charge of the St. John's and Greenville missions and is doing very nicely at St. John's. He having purchased a good lot there expects to build a church in the near future.

Brother J. G. Williams in charge of New Bethel mission is succeeding nicely. He has made some improvements on the little church and had some accessions.

We hope to beat the record on Children's Day in the Charlotte District. We are giving all possible encouragement to the collection of our General Fund. The Western North Carolina Conference is assessed \$2,000 to be raised this year. I have great hopes that the Charlotte district will raise her part according to membership.

I take the opportunity to say to the brethren of this Conference that I received several weeks ago from Rev. B. F. Wheeler, D. D., a very neat and well arranged album in which to deposit silver presentations to the Rt. Rev. J. W. Hood, D. D., between this and the time of his 25th anniversary of the Bishopric in our beloved Zion, to take place at his home in Fayetteville September next. I have furnished nearly all the ministers in my district and they have taken some to present to whoever will take part to this end. I still have some on hand and will send to any address one or more with the Bishop's self-addressed envelope. Send a two-cent stamp with order for the book. Now is the time for an expression of our appreciation of that great man whose worth to the Church no man can calculate and whose labor for race elevation has been untiring.

Charlotte, N. C.

HEWING TO THE LINE.

BY S. A. LEAK, JR.

I see so many communications in the STAR and so few from this place until it looks as if Pine Bluff is not in it. I am glad that Bishop Hood has called a halt on the personalities used by some of our writers. I saw a great long letter some weeks ago in the STAR from Asbury Park, N. J., in answer to a letter from Lancaster, S. C., full of strong personalities.

Correspondents must follow in the footsteps of our bishops. If somebody in North Carolina writes about honorary degrees, somebody from somewhere else in the next issue of the STAR is going to shoot off a big gun of personality. Some of us take great pleasure in blowing off through the STAR. We forget we don't know it all. Some writers make regular mule-daddies of themselves in trying to make small of some one else who oftentimes is our superior in every particular.

As a colored race we will never be a people until we stop writing such foolishness. It will not cost any more to write privately to the person than it does to write to the STAR. Some of our young fellows are so ambitious to hurry to the STAR to let the readers know you are living. You must learn to practice race-pride. Don't you let your education run away with your good judgment. I see in the STAR where the Editor says long letters will be boiled down. We hope he will boil down some of you young fellow's tomfoolery, or better still, light his cigar with them. Take Bishop Hood's advice. Stop and consider.

Pine Bluff, Ark.

[Since the Editor does not smoke, he would do to give the long letters to the smoking devil boy in the STAR.—ERRON.]

WETUMPKA DISTRICT.

It Must Lead The Other Alabama Districts On All Lines.

BY REV. JOSEPH GOMEZ, P. E.

Almost without exception the work is encouraging. The brethren all seem more determined to make this the most successful year of any of the past.

Rev. P. W. Laramore, at Wetumpka, is not only holding his own, but is grandly pushing the work on wards. Elder A. W. Williams, at Bibbtown, has made another payment of \$55 on that church and is hopeful of soon making a still larger payment. His church is increasing in numbers and in interest. Elder Williams is a stirring man in Zion.

Brother C. T. Green is pastor of the Oak Grove circuit. He is one of the elders truly loved by his people and is endeavoring to finish Troy Chapel and add new life to the whole circuit.

Brother F. H. Alston is one of our coming young men. He has the Pike Road circuit. He is arranging to repair Zion Pilgrim, and he says that he wants to get all of that property to our Connection this year. May God bless his efforts.

Rev. E. M. Brooks is holding his own on the Mt. Meigs circuit. He is building up in every right way and is adding to our Church members throughout the circuit. He is a good manager and a good preacher.

Rev. J. Goode is pastor of Chehaw circuit. He is doing the best he can there. Because of bad weather during Winter he lost some ground, but it is hoped that he will regain it soon.

Rev. Robt. Taylor is holding the Fort on the Tallapoosa circuit. He is one of Zion's good preachers and is planning to build a church at Franklin. He has many good offers and promises made him by both white and colored citizens of that community.

Sweet Gum circuit is pastored by that zealous, strong and excellent preacher, Rev. J. H. Hubbard. He is holding every thing together on that circuit and has considerable money on hand to remodel Mt. Zion church, which when done, will be an ornament to our Connection in that place.

Ft. Hull circuit is held by Elder J. S. Chambliss. He knows how to make one happy who visits his work. He is a man of noble qualities, a good example. He is endeavoring to rebuild at Howard School House.

That pious, energetic and far-seeing man, Rev. J. C. Laramore, holds Cotton Valley circuit. He is raising money to finish payments on Pine Grove church that he completed the building of last year, and has purchased the material with which to complete the new church at Liberty Hill.

Rev. D. D. Green, pastor of Walker Chapel circuit, is bringing things together there in a splendid manner. This is his first year on that work. He is completing a new church building. Brother Green is a most excellent man and truly a Christian gentleman.

St. Luke circuit is under the pastoral care of Rev. T. R. Rodgers. He has not been able to give all the time necessary to make his work a complete success, but he has done a good work under the circumstances.

Elder Gill is pastor at Pine Grove circuit No. 2. Because of Elder Gill's sickness, and bad weather, he has been prevented from doing as much as he would have done under more favorable circumstances.

Our pleasant, reliable and up-to-date brother, Rev. J. W. Billingslea, is rallying Zion's army at Chreeshaw Zion. He is much loved by his people and is doing well.

Rev. C. F. Brown is another of our intelligent young men who has the Verbena circuit. He is doing well there and carrying the work successfully onward.

As relates to general fund and other Connectional interests, it is a common saying among the brethren that our district must not fall behind, but must, if possible, lead, not only those of the Alabama Conference, but those of the State of Alabama.

Tuskegee, Ala.

Don't forget Bishop Hood's Anniversary.