

# The Star of Zion.

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## The Pastor's Duty to the Sunday School.

(Read Before the Sunday School Convention at Matawan, New Jersey.)

By Rev. I. Beecher Walters,  
Trenton, N. J.

The Sunday School is a school. Its work is educational. We mean by education to think accurately and behave correctly—and if this definition is correct, some of us pastors put ourselves in a very dim light, by getting up to address the Sunday School by saying, we have not studied the lesson; especially so, where we have those who make up our Sunday Schools who are attending the Public Schools, and in the advanced grades. This sort of an expression does not reflect upon the pastor only but has been very detrimental to many a tender mind. The strenuousness with which we attack a task depends upon our conviction of its worth-whileness, and the pastor who has a low conception of the importance of the Sunday School job, has a first rate reason for his resigning from his position as leader and teacher of his flock. No person should appreciate the importance of the Sunday School more than the pastor—he should fix his mind upon it, awaken his attention to its measure, to its proportions and study it well. I do not feel, however, that these are new truths of information I am imparting to the pastors and other members of this Convention; for I have no revolutionary fad or theory to urge, and hence I make no claim of pointing out new duties—for the pastor's duty to the Sunday School is as old as God's word, when spoken on the Sea of Tiberias by Jesus Christ, when He pitched a church campaign with Peter, telling him to "Feed my lambs." The Bible is the chief text book of the Sunday School. It is God's word, the record of His life with men, and His revelation of Himself to them; it shows us Jesus: "the way and the life."

First, the pastor should study and make ready to go to his Sunday School just as much, and more so, than he would prepare his sermon he is to deliver to his congregation. For the pupil is growing and developing; and as his life goes on, experience widens, powers mature, instincts ripen and petrify into habits; interest come and go; so it is the duty of the pastor to keep in mind Professor James' striking statement of these facts and his conclusion that, "In all pedagogy the great thing is to strike the iron while hot, and to seize the wave of the pupil's interest in each successive subject before the ebb has come." The primary reason why so many of us have failed to discharge this duty is because we are not willing to pay the price—we are unwilling to study and prepare these lessons, therefore, evade the Sunday School. We seem to forget that the special training of the young on the Lord's Day in their spiritual and eternal interest is a grand branch of the work of the Church, and which requires careful study and diligent efforts and is a subject which demands very interest from the pastor.

The School on Sunday as it was originally called by which little children of the neglected English populations were taught in spelling, reading and religious truth, has come to be a great and powerful factor in our social and Christian life. It is more comprehensive, and contains elements not dreamed of in the scheme of Mr. Raikes. Mr. Trumbull said: "that America has been practically saved to Christianity by the Sunday School."

If this statement is true, we can see that the duty of the pastor is far from being performed when he fails to be a leading factor in his Sunday

School. The members of the Sunday School are eager to know the truth and susceptible to good impressions so that Jesus said: "of such is the kingdom of heaven." To my mind the pastor's personality is the greatest factor in winning the scholar to Christ: for it must be the man back of what he teaches and preaches that is going to count. It was the personality of Christ back of what he preached and taught that caused men to say: "Never a man spake as this man." So if our personality is unselfish and consecrated, miracles of grace may be wrought; but if it is self-indulgent and untrue, it must answer for the spiritual death of those whom it might have saved. As pastors we may know our botany, but our teaching is a failure if it does not lead to the "Rose of Sharon." We may know our lessons in geology, but the "Rock of Ages" is what we must have the children to know; We may know our geography, but we must lead the children to know something about Bethlehem and lead them to Calvary. If as pastors we fail in this; if as pastors we do not allow this to bring us into the Sunday School—we need to go back and exclaim: "depart from me, oh Lord for I am a sinful man." There is a lesson in the story of the artist who painted the last Supper with such elegance of detail on the cup in the Master's hand that is quite outshone the Master's face: as pastors in the Sunday School, as well as in the congregation it shall be the center of duty, and this duty must bring us to the Sunday School each Sunday.

The pastor must recognize as the highest officer of the Sunday School. He should sustain it and identify himself with it, and not merely patronize it with an air of superiority and condescension.

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## Shells From The Buckeye State.

Some Rulings of our Presiding Officer, Friends and Subscribers To The Star. Our Prospective Quadrennium.

By Rev. Jas. P. Foote.

The Connectional Council just closed in Richmond, Va., was one of the most interesting and instructive that has been held. It was held at a season of the year when many pastors are on their vacation, a part of which they prefer to spend at the Council meeting, and this in a great measure accounts for the great numbers present. In our Council Meetings the procedures demand the attention of the best minds of the Church and in the discussions and debates those present have the advantage the thoughts of the most fertile minds in the Church, on the Bench and from the ministerial ranks. It is therefore, no mean thing to be present on such an occasion.

It was said that this Council was noted for the many rulings made by the Presiding Officer, many of which required quick perception and keen judgment, or the chairman would have been in a pitiable predicament. It seems however, that the decisions were received with pretty general satisfaction.

It is quite evident that our Zion has, and is making progress in a very rapid way, and yet it is alleged that when it comes to the point where we are to decide for a truly "Bigger Church," and adopt those things which make to the enlargement of the Church, cautiousness is used to a fault. The "Watchful waiting" policy is good both in church

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## Organization and Plan of Evangelistic Campaigns.

By Dr. R. LaFayette King.

When Evangelistic services are held in a community they should be in no wise considered as a criticism of the pastor.

They have been found to be a necessity. Every pastor quite understands that people become accustomed to his voice, attractive as it may be; also, to his methods, effective as they may have been in the past; and because of their familiarity with his manner of thought and his way of working, unconsciously the message loses power with them. Before they realize it they have become indifferent; and this is fatal to the best interest of the church.

Then, too, communities, sag, as do individuals, and something more is required than the steady, faithful work of the pastor of the church. A new voice arouses interest; a new method commands attention, and when wisely conducted and carefully guarded, the evangelistic campaign is certainly a blessing to the individual church and to the community.

There are certain things that should always be kept in mind. If an evangelist is called to lead the church forces he should certainly be fully able to do the work.

The evangelical denominations are more and more coming to look upon the evangelist as a necessity. They are assisting in his training, guarding him in his services, and strengthening him in his mission. Again no evangelistic campaign is worth while if it disturbs too much the regular life of the church.

The purpose of the campaign is to deepen the spirit of the church, causing her to be more aggressive, making the work of the pastor easier, and calling to his assistance and support an additional number of men and women who will gladly follow his leadership.

It is also to be remembered that evangelistic work, if it is to be permanently effective, should be simply an added emphasis given to the regular work of the church.

Therefore, it is not strange that some conservative ministers look with a bit of suspicion on a movement which is too sensational in its appeal, too erratic in its methods, and too unlike what is known as the real life of the church. Anything that decreases the respect for the true minister of the gospel and causes them to feel that the church is not all she should be because her methods in the past have not been like those of the evangelistic campaign is harmful rather than helpful to the community.

There are ways of testing the genuineness of the evangelistic movement. Does it honor Jesus Christ in both method and appeal? Does it magnify the office of the true minister of the gospel so that when the meetings have closed he is stronger in the affections of the people than before? Does it properly represent the church of Jesus Christ in spirit and in power so that when the meeting is over the people love the church better and long to do more for her?

Does it create a better spiritual atmosphere so that it is easier for men to preach and easier for them to work for Christ?

Does it make it easier for men and women to live and more difficult for them to do wrong? Does it plainly present Jesus Christ as the only Savior of men? If the evangelistic campaign can bear these tests, then it is genuine and worth while.

Any pastor will do well to enter upon such a campaign, and he has a right to expect from it a great blessing.

A principle which is well worth

## Summer School at Livingstone A Grand Success.

THE REGULAR SESSION OPENS SEPTEMBER 29.

The Summer School at Livingstone College has just closed a six week's term that is generally regarded as the best in its history.

The School represents both the County and State Summer Schools and is therefore regarded as one of the leading Summer Schools of the State. Its support comes from the State and the seven Counties surrounding Rowan. There were in attendance 154 teachers.

While the school is held primarily for the benefit of the teachers of the eight contributing counties, there were present teachers from twenty counties of North Carolina, besides three other states. The Superintendents of the following Counties—Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Caldwell, Davidson, Iredell, Rowan and Stanley were enthusiastic in their support of the Summer School and urged their teachers to be present.

Mrs. T. E. Johnson, Dr. N. C. Newbold, Professor A. T. Allen, of the State Board Examiners, Prof. R. S. Kizer, County Superintendent of Rowan, and Dr. D. C. Suggs, Summer School Director, Constituted the Board of Directors that guided the Summer School to such a successful end.

The closing was signalized last Friday night by presenting a beautiful Cantata entitled: "Pauline." The cast of participants was made up of members of the Summer School, and each individual presented his part in a very creditable manner. The play as a whole elicited very favorable comment.

The Summer School being over, President Suggs is proceeding with usual energy to make ready for the opening of the regular session, Wednesday, September 29.

From the applications already in hand, the attendance this year will be a record breaker, both as to numbers of students and area of country represented.

Among the new attendants will be representatives from the Canal Zone, Central America and South America, besides a number of States in the Union hitherto unrepresented.

The reorganization of the literary work in all departments contemplates the strengthening of the courses of study, and the giving to the school firmer hold on the confidence of the Academic organizations of the country, as possessing merit worthy of every consideration.

The opening too will take place in the large auditorium which has been in course of construction for nearly two years. The large pipe organ will be in place ready to peal forth rhythmic harmonies to the time of "Music in the Air."

The heating plants for Dodge and Ballard Halls will also be in place with a number of additional comforts hitherto not available.

Persons desiring to enter should write early to President D. C. Suggs, Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina, for application blanks, and strive to be present at the opening, or very soon thereafter.

been there.  
W. L. LEE,  
450, Quincy St.,  
Brooklyn, New York.

considering is that the evangelistic campaign should not interfere with the life of the church, but quicken it; not make it more difficult for the pastor to call his people together when the meetings are over, but easier to enlist them in permanent and continued service. Evangelistic meetings are on trial today. The methods of some evangelists are being severely censured. Some of these criticisms are just, others are unjust, but out of the fire of criticism will come a better day for the better sort of evangelists. If an evangelistic meeting is held then the most thorough preparation possible should be made for it. The measure of preparation will be the measure of blessing; and it should never be forgotten that pastors will get out of the meeting what they put into it, only with added interest. God is willing to bless his people. He is waiting to pour out His Spirit upon them.

Suggestions For the Work.

There should be a determination to have a better state of things in the community with God's help. This is the best sign of an approaching awakening. The indications of God's providence are sometimes so plain as to bring about a clear revelation of His will.

Sometimes by peculiar and alarming events, sometimes by the presence of great need, and offer by the burden which so rests upon a few of God's faithful ones that desire for a revival is really an agony of spirit. When the wickedness of the wicked grieves, humbles and distresses Christians it is a real indication that God's Spirit is working. When there is a revival of the spirit of prayer on the part of even a few we may make ready for a coming victory.

Another sign that a revival may be expected is when the attention of the minister is especially directed

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## A Pleasant Visit, A Great Church and A Great Pastor

Mr. Editor:

I am sending you this note to say that I visited John Wesley church in Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 5th Sunday in August. The pastor, Rev. G. W. Gaines, had organized a city-wide "Tag Day" for Saturday, August 28. His members went out on that date and came in in the early afternoon and late evening and brought in three thousand three hundred and thirty-seven dollars and seventy cts (3,337.70). It was a novel way of having a rally in the late summer. The church has reached its greatest proportions and is doing its share of the city's work, as well as its share of our denominational work. It is a real inspiration to see Dr. Gaines and his people at work.

On Sunday I spoke to great audiences that taxed the capacity of the church while hundreds were turned away.

The Dr. must have a greater edifice to hold his crowd, and he and they are on the job to secure it.

The church is alive on every side of itself, and souls are being born into the new life almost every Sunday.

The church is one of the very few (if any other has it) to have a pool for immersion baptism. The pastor is strictly in his element when he is helping men to be saved. He has a helpful wife who enters largely into his work, and they both are happy in prospect of the enlarged measure of work for God and humanity when they enter into the proposed new building, which is bound to come. It was a real pleasure for me to have