

REPORT OF THE WEST KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

By Rev. J. L. Moore.

The seventh session of the West Kentucky conference met with the pastor and members of Bank Street A. M. E. Zion church, Russellville, Ky., October 5, 9, 1922.

The conference was slated to open at 2 P. M. The hour having arrived, and the bishop being at the universal peace Congress, Nashville, Tenn. Dr. C. S. Whitted, the brotherhood man, by a telegraphic request from Bishop Geo. C. Clement, took charge of the conference and opened the same at 2:30 P. M. Rev. S. P. Trigg was scheduled to preach the opening sermon, but being absent his place was ably filled by Rev. A. F. Fuller. Rev. Fuller preached a good sermon and the same was enjoyed by those present.

The communion was administered to the ministers, preachers and delegates by Dr. C. S. Whitted and the presiding elders, Drs. T. H. Merriweather and C. N. Payne.

Dr. Whitted then proceeded to organize the conference. Rev. A. A. Garvin was elected secretary of the conference. Rev. S. P. Trigg, statistician, Rev. J. L. Moore, reporter to The Star of Zion, and Bros. Sammie Smith and L. L. Hines, marshals.

The annual sermon by Rev. T. H. Merriweather, then presiding elder of the Madisonville district, was an annual sermon in every sense of the word.

Thursday morning Bishop Geo. C. Clement, A. M., D. D., took the chair and the day was spent in the settlement of claims. This was indeed a busy day.

The majority of the pastors reported round on everything.

Every man of the conference loves Bishop Clement and his good wife.

At high noon of this same day the bishop suspended the regular routine of business and introduced Rev. P. C. Milburn, of the Michigan conference, who transferred to the West Kentucky conference, to preach at this time. The speaker selected for his text the last clause of the 41st verse of the 4th chapter of St. Mark: "What manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?" From these words Bro. Milburn preached a good sermon, all things being considered.

Thursday evening was taken for the cause of education. The Rev. F. D. Douglas, of Chattanooga, Tenn., preached the sermon for the occasion to a large and appreciative audience. The speaker in a very impressive manner, told the need of larger contributions for this great cause. The sermon was timely, thoughtful and lively. Prof. H. V. Taylor, A. M., S. T. B., the president of Atkinson College, was asked to tell the needs of the institution. Prof. Taylor would have his hearers know that his appeal was meant to arouse their better thinking instead of emotion, lest some would be contented to give the widow's mite when it is in their power to give more, and the school therefore, go dragging on. The Prof. told how badly they needed \$5,000.00 to carry on the work of the boys' dormitory now under construction. He also told of the new five room bungalow which was built this year and paid for and the girls' dormitory covered and painted. The school is going forward under the leadership of Prof. Taylor. The cloud which was lowered over the institution for many years is now passing off and a new day is dawning. An offering of one hundred thirty dollars was taken at this occasion.

The Rev. Charles P. M. Bigsby, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist church of this city, was often with us and he and his people contributed much for the good of the conference.

Friday morning the reports of the pastors were continued. The reports from the lay delegates showed that the greater number of the charges asked for the return of their pastors. Friday was a day of speech making which followed with introduction of visiting ministers and general officers as follows: Drs. C. S. Whitted, secretary of the ministerial brotherhood, B. G. Shaw, connectional evangelist, D. H. Sansom, our Bible man, of Charlotte, N. C., Dr. Luther Stew-

ard of the C. M. E. church, who represented Bishop N. C. Cleaves, R. L. Cherry, presiding elder of the Bardstown district, T. O. Stoner, presiding elder of the Louisville district of the Kentucky conference, J. P. Thomas, of Jacob Street Tabernacle, Louisville, Ky., H. C. Weeden, of 15th Street Memorial church, of Louisville, S. A. Chambers, of Jenkins, Ky., and Rev. J. R. Eley, of the Kentucky conference; Revs. F. D. Douglas of Tompkins chapel, Chattanooga, Tenn., W. C. Anderson, of Binghamton, N. Y., S. P. Trigg, of Clarksville, Tenn., P. C. Milburn, of the Michigan conference, and Rev. C. H. Watson of Mt. Vernon, Ind.

Dr. B. G. Shaw, the last speaker of this group, who was just out of a revival, at Chattanooga, which he held for the Rev. Mr. Douglas, in which more than 300 souls were saved, was still electrified with evangelistic fire and spoke until it seemed as though we were in a great revival. Rev. C. H. Waders, our blind hero of the conference, was asked by the bishop to make the response, which he did in a very creditable way.

Friday night was given over into the hands of the missionary women. Mrs. G. C. Clement, the talented wife of our beloved bishop, took charge. A splendid program was rendered by the women of the district and city, which was much enjoyed by the overcrowded house.

Her address as vice-president of the 6th Episcopal district, was alive with helpful instruction in the missionary circle. The missionary sermon was preached by Dr. C. H. Watson, of Mt. Vernon, Ind. Text, Isaiah 6: 1, 6. The sermon was of a true missionary character. A collection of \$39.50 was taken.

The presiding elders' reports which were made Saturday, showed an increase along all lines over the previous year. One or two new societies have been brought in, two new churches erected, money in treasury to build one at Nortonville, and \$2,200.00 in treasury to build a brick church at Drakesboro. This money was raised during the pastorate of the Rev. W. P. Powell and the Rev. C. B. Simmons who is still pastor of Nortonville and McNary. He built a church at the latter place.

The Daughters of Conference brought in from the charges a nice amount of money for the support of the conference, and the day closed with the presentation of a purse by the writer to Rev. T. H. Merriweather, the presiding elder of the Madisonville district, made up by the brethren of the same in honor of this gentleman. Great appreciation was shown by him for the same.

Sunday was an exceptionally high day in Russellville. The Sunday School was well attended at 9:00 A. M. by the ministers and delegates of the conference, and the students of the Sunday School.

At 11 A. M., Presiding Elder Merriweather introduced Bishop Geo. C. Clement, A. M., D. D., as speaker of the hour. The Bishop took for his text Matt. 11:28,30. His subject was "Rest under the Gospel Yoke." The sermon was indeed a great one and the spiritual fervor ran up to the highest notch. At 3 P. M., Dr. S. A. Chambers was introduced by the bishop to preach at this hour. This divine took for his text Psalms 9:14. "That I may show forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation." His theme was "Salvation."

A great sermon was preached from this theme. The speaker would often wax warm and carry us away in a storm.

Sunday evening at 7:15 P. M., the Rev. W. C. Anderson, of Binghamton, N. Y., was introduced to preach. He selected for his text 2nd chapter of Hab. 2, 3, and discussed the text under the following heads: 1st. The Vision; 2nd. The Preparation for the Vision; 3rd. Promise of the Vision. A good sermon was preached. The appointments followed. Only a few changes were made in the Madisonville district, while a great many were made in the Russellville district.

Rev. C. N. Payne was given the Madisonville district, and Rev. C. C. Marks was assigned to the Russellville district and the Rev. T. H. Merriweather goes to Greenville station.

zel Shelton were united in holy wedlock; so this gentleman goes off from conference, with two responsibilities, just one more than he had when he went there. The conference wishes them a happy life.

The transfers to this conference were Revs. S. P. Trigg, from the Tennessee conference, and P. C. Milburn of the Michigan conference. Rev. H. H. Carter transfers to the Kentucky conference, and Rev. W. I. Rowan to the Virginia conference. The conference closed with the understanding that Thanksgiving day would be rally day at Atkinson College in the interest of the school, at which time the cornerstone of the boys' dormitory now under construction will be laid.

So closes the most successful session that has ever been held in the W. Ken. conference, with only one thing lacking—the presence of Dr. J. W. Martin, our secretary of education.

Earlington, Ky.

THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE INDIANA CONFERENCE.

By H. M. Stovall, P. E.

Dear Editor:

We would like to let the general Church know that the Indiana conference is still marching on. All of the pastors in Indianapolis are doing great work for God and Zion. Since our last report to The Star we have had added to our Indianapolis work another brilliant young man in the person of Rev. Lightford at Penick's chapel, who succeeds Rev. Dr. Dodson who transferred to the Alabama conference and is now stationed at Opelika.

I have just closed the second quarterly conference at Penick's chapel which showed, great progress made in this last quarter under the leadership of Dr. Lightford. This brings us up to the second mass meeting held this conference year. This meeting was held in our new church, Wood Temple, of which the Rev. Mr. Gant is pastor. Never in the history of the conference has there been a more interesting mass meeting held under the leadership of the women. Standing at the head is one Mrs. Belle Street, who is a tireless worker and who is doing the greatest work of her life at this time. By her side there are a number of other splendid women, Rev. Mrs. S. D. Davis, a general officer in our great Church, as you know, the Rev. Miss Stevenson, secretary of the Y. W. of the conference, Mrs. White and Miss Chambers, Mrs. Croconall and Mrs. Nanie Tabor and others whom space will not allow me to name.

The mass meeting was well attended by all of the pastors of the city and many topics were discussed regarding the missionary work and workers.

Last, but not least, since the General Conference is to be held here, in all of our august gatherings the question automatically arises, "how many bishops are needed and who shall they be?" We all agreed that we need four. In our judgment Drs. C. C. Alleyne, W. J. Walls, J. W. Martin, W. L. Hamblin, H. J. Callis, and that great leader of men, S. L. Corrothers, are well prepared and deserving men for the bishopric. There are many others who are well prepared and deserving men, but since we all can not be bishops, the Indiana conference stands out firmly for prepared young men. Past experience tells us that young men for the bishopric are needed.

Our mass meeting goes down on record as having broken all previous records for the spiritual uplift of fallen humanity. The Rev. W. B. Brown, pastor of St. Mark, preached a splendid sermon and told us the great need of home and foreign mission work. We all caught this inspiration and at the close of the meeting a liberal donation was made to the Rev. Dr. Chambers, who has been confined to his bed for the last two weeks. It will be remembered that Dr. Chambers while in the bloom of life, wrought much for Zion. We ask the prayers of the Church that his days may be prolonged, for we need his godly advice.

The women of today are far different from what they were ten years ago. They are taking leading parts in politics and all other national affairs and the question was sprung in

women are doing the missionary work why not elect a woman to the office of corresponding secretary to succeed Dr. Matthews. The women of the Indiana conference are asking the women of the General Church to think on these things.

Indianapolis, Ind.

NEWTON DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

By Mrs. J. R. Thompson.

Our district conference convened in John Wesley A. M. E. Zion church on the 10th, 13th of this month. Our pastor, Rev. M. W. Davis, D. D., and wife, assisted by his co-workers and friends, left no stone unturned to make every one feel at home. Dr. Davis has a great big heart and does everything in his own way and just makes you feel welcome whenever you are around him.

Conference opened Wednesday at 10:30 A. M., in the good old fashioned way by singing: "And are we yet alive," followed by the hearty handshake.

The Holy Communion was then administered. There was truly a spiritual awakening in the hearts of all present. Our presiding elder, Rev. M. L. Blalock, was at his best. In fact all of the ministers seemed to be in a splendid spirit. Bishop J. S. Caldwell honored us with his presence, bringing with him sunshine and looking just like spring. There was no appearance of autumn around him; nothing dying. The flower garden of life is ever in full bloom whenever the noble head of this great family is present.

This was one of the best, if not the best, district conference ever held in this district.

The reports were good. Everyone was bent on doing his best. Tuesday night there was preaching by Rev. J. M. Davis, of Williamsport. Wednesday the annual sermon was preached by Rev. J. T. Daniels, of Carlisle. Rev. Daniels is truly a fine young man.

The greatest day of all was the women's home and foreign missionary day. The women came in large numbers and the meeting was presided over by Mrs. E. J. Caldwell. We were delighted to have in our midst Mrs. Bettie Blalock who presides over the Buds of Promise, Mrs. Caldwell was accompanied by her two lovely daughters, Mrs. Daisy Tucker and Miss Beulah Caldwell. Mrs. Caldwell opened the meeting and laid out the routine of business which was carried out to the letter. Reports all through the conference were good. The missionary mass meeting went "over the top." The programme on Thursday night was one that will long be remembered by those present. Mrs. Annie Davis, of Harrisburg was chairlady. Recitations were rendered by the following persons: Mrs. Hattie Briscoe, of Harrisburg, Mrs. W. W. Matthews, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Garland, Miss G. Fenderson, Mrs. Ella J. Caldwell, all of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Matthews is doing noble work as supply captain. Miss M. V. Singleton, superintendent of the Y. Branch, is bringing up her work second to none. Mrs. Bettie Blalock is looking after the Buds and had a fine report. Dr. Matthews, our missionary secretary, was called to the rostrum, and spoke in glowing terms concerning Africa. Dr. Matthews is truly a great man, sent of God to do this work. Long live Dr. Matthews in this good work. There was \$369.30 for the mass meeting, \$300.00 sent to Mrs. Ida V. Smith.

The conference was graced with Dr. Garland, wife and little son, who expect to sail about November 15th in company with others to their new field of labor. Dr. J. R. Johnson, Dr. P. M. Laws, Rev. L. J. Spencer, of the A. M. E. Church, Dr. G. E. Ferris and Rev. I. B. Turner, of the New Jersey conference, were present.

The welcome addresses were delivered by Miss L. Estella Powell, who is teaching in Atlantic City, on behalf of the church, Dr. P. M. Laws, on behalf of the ministers' union. The delegates, ministers and friends left with smiles which said, that we were glad that we have been here and will come again.

Newton Pa.

JEFFERSON DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

By Rev. S. C. Byrd.

The forty-sixth session of the Jefferson district conference convened in Sand Hill A. M. E. Zion church, Rembert Hill, Ala., October 4th-8th, Rev. J. H. Arrington, pastor.

Rev. F. R. Blakey, the presiding elder, opened the conference.

Organization was perfected. Rev. A. J. Sparkman was elected secretary. District officers present were: Prof. A. J. Sparkman, president of the Sunday School, Brother W. B. Faddis, president of the V. C. E. U., Mrs. S. A. C. Horn, president of the W. H. and F. M. society, Mrs. C. A. Wilcox, president of the Y.-B., and Mrs. T. McMillan, president of the B. of P., who rendered valuable service, Rev. S. C. Byrd, reporter to The Star.

Rev. S. C. Byrd preached the annual sermon. He selected the 5th chapter of Jeremiah 1st. verse, subject, "God wants Men."

The welcome address which followed was delivered by Miss Sylvia Rembert with well chosen words. Mrs. R. A. Cherry and Rev. F. A. Hubbard responded to the delight of all who heard them.

Second day, morning session, the collection of dues was the principal business.

At 11:30 A. M., Rev. S. B. Hall preached from the 7th chapter of Matthew, 24th verse. His explanation was simple, and his logic profound.

In the evening the clouds hung low with the threatening of much rain, and yet despite the gloomy weather the congregation gathered and crowded the church until standing room was at a premium. In the meanwhile, the song and praise service began.

At the close of the service Rev. Blakey introduced Rev. J. E. Springs to preach the educational sermon. Text: "My Grace is sufficient." 2nd Corinthians, 9th verse.

This strong, gospel minister proved himself equal to the task. He swayed his audience at will. We were all made to rejoice in the God of our salvation.

Third day morning session, the conference was opened by the presiding elder who delivered his address. He emphasized the fact that the Church is calling for an educated ministry, and further stated that the pews must be prepared to follow the law of our Church.

In the course of his address he touched on the Tompkinsville and Pennington High School, which is now known as the district high school which he labored so hard to bring to the front. This is an old district school which had lost its prestige.

Rev. Blakey is loved by all of his ministers and laymen as well. The district thanks God for his appointment through Bishop Wood.

The trustees, boards and teachers of the high school were elected.

At the evening session the presiding elder presented Rev. J. H. Davison, of Tenden, Ala., who preached from the 6th chapter of Gal. 7th and 8th verses.

He is the David of the district. The sermon was full of good things such as would do for the saving of souls and the building up of broken hearts.

He gave the central and leading thought and left no stone unturned.

At the fourth day morning session, the committees reported and the business of the conference was finished.

Miss Elna Lewis and Mrs. R. A. Cherry were elected delegates to the annual conference; alternates, Mrs. A. T. Coleman and Mr. A. W. Fenderson.

Sunday morning at 11:30 Rev. W. E. L. McCullough preached. His sermon was good. He is the Caleb of the Jefferson district.

At 8 P. M., Rev. F. H. Hubbard preached the closing sermon. He is the old Roman and his sermon fitted the occasion.

The conference closed with resolutions of thanks.

Total amount raised \$410.35.

Jefferson, Ala.