

THE STAR OF ZION

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OIL OF GLADNESS IN AFRICA

By Henrietta Peters, Missionary

After five consecutive years in West Africa, the duration of my last trip to our motherland, I returned to this country to attend General Conference, "faint yet pursuing." For over seven consecutive years my husband had been on the field and although our furloughs were long overdue when he came home, because of our love for our chosen work, I remained at my post two years alone except for the time when Rev. Florence Randolph was with me.

We went to General Conference and mingled our voices with those of the residents of Africa and their representatives in crying out for closer supervision and more funds for our expanding territory. With what joy we accepted the gift from their hands of a resident Bishop in Africa and assurance of better support. Immediate plans were made for the \$25,000 Drive to culminate in October.

It may interest you to know that the idea of the Drive originated in Africa, and we had a wonderful celebration of our Twenty fifth anniversary there, for we would not have you think that we are forgetful or unappreciative of the sacrifices and services of the pioneers and pathfinders of our work in Quittah. I organized our people and we started there a financial campaign which has encouraged our dear friends in this country to undertake more for us, again proving the adage that God helps those who help themselves. Where we can give dimes you can give dollars, but all mingled together as a thank-offering to God we believe will help immeasurably to gain for us the redemption of Africa. If every donation made is accompanied by a prayer how soon should we be able to gain the day for Christ! Can we not carry upon our lips the earnest whisper and entreaty, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Africa is that they might be saved."

Many times in that far away land I have wept, and remained awake all night praying for a spirit, meek and submissive, to endure the various hardships we have had to suffer just because of the lack of intelligent interest in the work. In my solitude I could feel that our people in America loved the work but did not understand its pressing needs. Our spirits burned to ashes and our souls bowed in mourning cried out but not in vain until we have received "beauty for ashes and the oil of joy" for mourning.

Deep in my soul's recesses, buried in the mine of my heart, are the pleadings of our people in Africa that we should return to them with a bishop, and although it was a somewhat difficult decision to make we have reconsecrated and rededicated our lives upon the altar, believing that the majority of our constituency will help us to carry out the task. You cannot go but will you assist us who are willing to go?

There is need for haste in the King's business for today, as we are in this country, our East Gold Coast Conference is left as sheep having no shepherd. No missionary is with them and there are dozens waiting to be received into full connection, having filled their probation period and hundreds awaiting baptism. At Christmas time we try to make it a time of rejoicing for all the people in the community. Our schools close in December for one month, and it is needful that we should be on the ground to make preparations for the reopening in January. There are books and school equipment to be ordered. In fact they should be ordered in England en route and some carried with us from America so that they can be there on time. It is imperative that we do this because when we keep our schools up to the standard the English Government is pleased to render us financial assistance commensurate with our own

efforts for the maintenance and upkeep of our Educational Institutions. Then there are some schools there that have not sufficient apparatus to merit them receiving Government aid and it is our hope to so equip them that they shall be deserving of help also.

As far as Quittah District is concerned, Bishop Alleyne is going to a Conference that is alive, eager and expectant for any inspiration he has to give them. They have sent messages to this country thanking the Church for this assignment, and praying that we may all go to them speedily.

As your humble missionary, I therefore pray that you will send him in time and not allow him to go empty handed. He will need more missionaries to occupy the waiting territory, more native workers to man the stations waiting his arrival for further development, funds to enlarge the Girl's Boarding Department, farming tools and accessories for Liberia, a residence and furniture for himself and family, with special clothes, boots and outfit for bush traveling and some means of conveyance (a boat for Liberia and an auto for the Gold Coast.)

When we ask for money I believe people give with more willingness if they know what we want it for and believe we will expend it upon the object for which it is solicited.

Bearing this in mind, we pledge ourselves to keep faith with you and if you will give the needed help we will go forth to occupy our field of labor. The fare for each person going to Africa will be at least five hundred dollars one way. It takes not less than one month to reach there by the fastest route and even more when there are delays in making connections, hence you can understand why we are requesting everybody to report in October at the Convocation. We are depending upon you and surely you will not fail us. You do not have to be fearful of us as to whether we can do the work when we get there, and also we have proven that we are willing to remain in Africa after we get there.

I trust that Zion will have the same vision if not a greater one for foreign work that our other denominations have. Bishop Brooks has built in Africa, upon the ages of a dead past, a school which stands in Monrovia, a thing of beauty and a joy to the community there.

Rev. J. E. East, Secretary of the National Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Department, accompanied to Africa this year, seven missionaries and placed them in the interior of Liberia. We came home on the same steamer and since that time he has raised thousands of dollars through his own efforts in the Baptist churches and elsewhere and has two more missionaries ready to go out.

Will you allow your bishop to keep up and forge ahead if capable, or shall we keep the place that we have today in the forefront of missionary activity. Other Boards are awakening and working, and I believe the time has almost come when we can organize a Foreign Mission Council of Negro Churches in America that shall work intelligently and systematically with enthusiasm and prayer, and thus allow the colored folk in America to become known internationally as a people that believe in the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. As we climb, let us lift our brethren in Africa, giving them "beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning."

MEASURED

Misunderstood As Usual—The Political Horizon.

By E. M. Argyle.

My good Brother Abbott of Arkansas, in his very pungent and complimentary article of a few weeks ago, referring to this writer, avers that my writing smacks of heaviness, and infers that beneath the surface there lurks a germ of dissatisfaction. I would like to call Dr. Abbott's attention to the fact that this writer got all he asked for at the last General Conference, that was a right about face on our financial system; and we expected no more at this time. That was what we had contended for the past twenty-five years. We could not make ourselves understood; but we kept hammering away amid the jeers and anathemas of those higher up in the Church. They misunderstood us; we have never been disloyal to the Church. We could not be disloyal to the Church of our grandmother, who

litical powers, but it finally proved unworthy and treacherous to the race's interest, and finally dropped into innocuous desuetude, and became worthless as a factor with the powers, and we lost out. So today we have no political leaders of the race. Sordid greed for place and power has left us upon the rock of desolation and despair politically.

Of the three parties in the field we can only expect just a crumb of comfort from the Republicans, because it is the party that first advocated the principles of "all men up and none down." This Rooseveltian idea was really the slogan that encouraged our people; but of late years it has become very obsolete and a mockery in politics. Our humble advice is to stay out of politics and get closer to God. He will see to it that our enemies come to confusion and nought. He has taken care of us as a Church. He has taken care of us as individuals. He has taken care of us as a race, and He will direct our political future to our best interest if we but trust Him. God will never go back on those who trust Him.

Hickory, N. C.

HAYNES ON INTER-RACIAL CO-OPERATION.

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 12, 1924.—Speaking here today before the National Baptist Convention, Dr. George E. Haynes, Secretary of the Commission on the Church and Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches, said in part:

"The practice of the principles of Christian brotherhood between the races comes as a special challenge to the Churches. The Federal Council from the time of its organization has recognized the force of this challenge and Negro churchmen have had a share in its organization and work of Evangelism, of Social Service and of other phases of applied brotherhood. Especially has the work of the Commission on the Church and Race Relations appealed to the Churches.

"During the past three years the campaign to array the churches against the lynching evil has been one of several important forces in reducing the number of such atrocities last year to 28, the lowest in the records of the evil, and during the first six months of 1924 there were only 5 cases recorded. We are bending every effort so to marshal the forces of justice through the Churches that another year or two will see this black blot wiped off our entire land. There are other evils which have long challenged the Christianity we profess which the organized forces of the Church must also attack and abolish. The Christian conscience of this land will no longer tolerate these evils when the Churches attack them with conviction and power."

Continuing further the speaker described interracial conferences which have been held in Northern and Southern cities with the assistance or under the auspices of the Race Relations Commission of the Federal Council and the interracial committees that have been started by this means in such Northern cities as Toledo, Ohio; Wichita, Kan., and Chicago. He said:

"After an intensive study in thousands of classes in Churches all over the nation in 1922 and 1923, white and colored Christian men and women are facing squarely the facts of race relations in America and propose to do something about the situation. They have taken note of the misunderstandings, prejudices, friction and suspicion that are all too widespread. The Churches are slowly but surely tackling the task of removing these ill feelings and replacing them with cooperation and good will in the everyday relations of life. On each 2nd Sunday in February the past two years in hundreds of Churches, Y. M. C. A's, and Y. W. C. A's, has been observed Race Relations Sunday, promoted by the Federal Council's Commission. The next annual

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PRICE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE.

By Bishop E. D. W. Jones

At the meeting of the trustees of what has been known as the Macon Industrial High School, held in the chapel of the school, Sept. 20th, with Bishop E. D. W. Jones presiding, it was decided that the name of the school should hereafter be "Price Memorial Institute." It is in honor of the great immortal president of Livingstone College, who gave his life to Negro education within the confines of his own Church and is the only school in our Connection named to perpetuate his memory. The girl's dormitory will hereafter also be known as Bridges' Hall in honor of Prof. J. B. Bridges, who organized the school, gave us one of the finest campuses and spacious grounds of thirty-two acres and then turned it over to Zion to be used for the education of young women and men of our racial group.

Prof. J. H. Hammonds, Bachelor of Arts from Maryville College in Tennessee, is the principal. He is ably assisted his wife, who teaches and is matron for the girls and others who have prepared themselves for the work.

A local conference board of trustees representing the patronizing conferences was elected and have been duly qualified according to the laws of the State. The school opened September 15th and the prospects are bright for a fine year. Classes are being heard and the appearance of the surroundings presents a pleasing and encouraging scholastic air. Board and lodging on school grounds for \$10.00 a month. Special consideration for more than one of the same family.

Among some of the trustees elected were Bishops E. D. W. Jones, P. A. Wallace, Prof. W. J. Trent, J. B. Bridges, Rev. J. S. Campbell, Revs. S. Goodwin, Charles Tucker, B. D. McIver, S. H. Marlan, R. B. Williams, S. E. Brothers, A. L. McEntyre, J. D. Gaines, A. B. Roax, Laymen, S. F. Thomas, of Rayle, Ga.; J. W. Walker of Gough; T. J. Allen, Harlem, Ga.; W. J. Walker, Atlanta, Ga.; Revs. A. H. Hatwood, J. M. Cornell, W. H. Smith, of Key West; C. Campbell and Dr. R. A. Carroll.

Zion Church in Georgia is looking up and moving forward.

WHAT NEXT?

By C. S. Whitted.

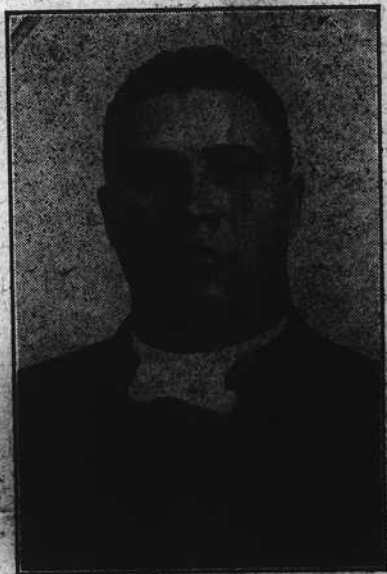
I have been informed by Bishop W. L. Lee, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., that the Board of Bishops voted that I should take out of the Relief Department \$200.00 to pay the funeral expenses of a certain minister who passed from labor to reward a few weeks ago.

I have donated toward the expenses \$10.00, and I am willing to donate \$10.00 or \$15.00 more, but be it known to Zion Church that C. S. Whitted will not take one penny of the money sent to this office for superannuated ministers, widows and orphans of the A. M. E. Zion Church, for any other purpose. I wouldn't be true to my husband, wouldn't be true to my Church, and wouldn't be true to my God nor to myself.

We have letters coming to this office daily from claimants of the Department asking for aid. I am sorry to say that we cannot comply with their wishes. I wish we could. The greatest amount the Department has had to distribute among the claimants since my election was \$6,146.85, with the exception of 1920 when the treasurer of the Tercentenary Fund paid me at the close of the General Conference at Knoxville, Tenn., \$1,250.00 and in Salisbury, N. C., in 1921 \$1,500.00.

The Church has raised more than \$400,000.00 in the last five years Tercentenary money. It seems to me

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BISHOP W. L. LEE, D. D.,
Fourth Episcopal District.

gave her all to the spread of Zion, when many of those who now enjoy the fruits of her labor and sacrifices were in their swaddling clothes.

We never were more happy in anticipation of a more glorious prospect for Zion. And we thank God that our lives have been spared to see the change. We have no sore toe, as a certain bishop wrote us; we have no chip on our shoulder. We were grossly misunderstood. We take no second place with any pastor, presiding elder, general officer or Bishop, in doing every thing possible to put over the new program, and bring the Church up to a higher standard of excellency. It is indeed hurting to be so flagrantly misunderstood.

When a man's whole heart and soul is wrapped up in a project, and his whole life yearns for certain change that will redound to the good of all, it hurts to be misunderstood. There is no heaviness in our heart. The sun shines as never before. We did think we had been mistreated by some; but if they can make it to the city of eternal rest, we shall hold no grudge, nor interpose their entrance. All's well that ends well.

The Political Horizon.

The political horizon is rather belated for our race group in this year of campaigning for ascendancy in government of these United States. There is a class that do not and will not of their own volition accord the members of our group any recognition, other than that of "hewers of wood and drawers of water." They howl about race superiority, and Nordic supremacy. They harp upon the hateful adage that one race is predestined to rule, etc. And without regard to political affiliation the so-called superior race have practically eliminated the Negroes from the arena of political activities.

There are a few, however, who are struggling hard to keep in the line, fight, and court favors with those who stand for recognition of the race. The crux of the whole matter is summed up in a nutshell. Once upon a time race leadership was sought after, and it had influence with po-