

Methodists Hear Reports On Mission Program

By JOSEPH T. SHACKFORD
 Henson's Chapel, at Sherwood, was host to a Methodist Missions meeting held Monday night by the Ashe-Watauga sub district area. Representatives from Methodist churches were present, despite the snow and icy weather. They were Creston, Green Valley, Boone, Todd, and Watauga circuits.

Marion District Superintendent Rev. John W. Hoyle presided and introduced the speakers who represented the mission program of the Methodist church at each organizational level. Speaking in behalf of the local church, Miss Geraldine Surratt, deaconess assigned to the Watauga circuit, urged the effective formation of a mission society in each church and reminded that the hub of all Christian missions is the mission society of the local church.

Rev. Vernon O. Morton, of East Marion charge, Marion District director of mission, spoke of the mission study book for the year, "Along the African Path," by Miss Dorothy McConnell, and requested that every charge hold a school of missions with the study book as a text. Mr. Morton also stressed the work of the commission on missions in each local church and suggested key leaders whom the commission should include and the opportunities which are open to the commission to enlarge the missionary interest and activity of the local congregation.

The work of the district director, Mr. Morton further suggested, is primarily promotional including such institutes as this one, the larger use of the study book, and similar general interests.

The work of the conference board of missions was discussed by the board executive secretary, the Rev. Horace McSwain of Shelby. Mr. McSwain stated that Methodist should know that for every dollar asked of local churches for missionary work, the urgent need of another dollar of known missionary work existed. Exactly half of the askings for missionary work was approved at the church-wide general conference in April of last year.

Mr. McSwain also reminded the listeners that the only real advance which will be made in the mission work of the Methodist church during the present quadrennium will be the advance specials of the conference program and the church at large.

Attention was called to the mission work of Africa where the work consists of a well-rounded community program of hospitalization, schools, social work, and religious training.

The advance specials of the Western North Carolina Conference cited by Mr. McSwain were (1) completion of the Highlands church, \$5,000; (2) completion of the Cherokee Indian Reservation church, \$10,000; (3) for Saluda Methodist church, \$10,000; (4) for Tryon Methodist church, \$10,000; (5) and for renovations of the Methodist church at Cullowhee for accommodation of the student work, \$1,250.

Addressing the gathering on Korean missionary work of the Methodist church, the Rev. Charles Stokes brought greetings from the missionaries in Korea and the very wonderful assistance which had come to Korea from American Methodists, including gifts, clothing, \$100,000 in 1951 from the week of dedication, world service held, and mission specials.

Turning to the lot of the Christians during the period since the beginning of the Korean war, Mr. Stokes said one word characterized their experience: "Suffering." Many Christian workers have been killed, a few have survived by going underground and using every device to escape detection.

Five hundred Christian pastors have disappeared, many of them are known to have been killed by firing squads of the communists. The destruction which has occurred, Mr. Stokes stated, is inconceivable, whole villages having been obliterated and large sections of both business areas and residential sections have been either flattened or gutted.

In the city of Won-Ju, where he worked before the war, Mr. Stokes said the Methodist work had been reduced to a pile of rubble. In the heart of the city there was total destruction. The

few buildings standing were in complete ruin. When the Chinese communists entered the war and set the United Nations forces in retreat, South Koreans by the millions entered lines of refugees moving south with the few possessions on their backs which they had been able to gather up.

As trains moved south, every square foot of space available was loaded with these south-bound refugees fleeing the Chinese communists, in weather, Mr. Stokes said, very similar to, but even colder than the current freeze in the mountain area. Many more were unable to mount the trains but walked days upon end the hundreds of miles into the already overcrowded areas of the south where safety lay.

Every available building in the southern cities was used to accommodate the refugees.

But on the bright side, Mr. Stokes said, in the midst of all the tragic sorrow, loss, and suffering, he never heard one word of complaint. More, they resorted to every ingenuity to make whatever provision was possible to provide shelter and food for the family. The Christian workers, along with the rest of the population, became refugees. But in their new refugee quarters, they began to give their Christian witness, to teach and to organize churches.

In the city of Pusan, for example, Mr. Stokes said that there was one Methodist church before the war, there are now eleven Methodist churches in Pusan ministering to the refugees.

In the city of Won-Ju, Mr. Stokes found 100 people worshipping in an abandoned army tent. Returning later, he found they had stretched the tent, extending the flaps, and had added a wooden floor.

Returning still a few months later, the church had outgrown the enlarged quarters, and being unable to stretch the tent further, they had established two additional churches in other parts of the city, and the original church was still going strong.

In the midst of the trials and hardships, destruction and deso-

Missions School To Start Sunday

The annual school of missions will begin at the Boone Methodist Church on Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock, jointly conducted by the Church Commission on Missions and the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The study this year will be based on Africa, using the general church mission text, "Along the African Path," by Miss Dorothy McConnell, and the WSCS jurisdictional study book, the "African Heritage," by Emory Ross. Sessions will be held Sundays and Wednesday at 7:30 in the church sanctuary January 11, 14, 18, and 21.

The opening study on Sunday night will be "An Introduction to Africa." Other studies will include a review by Miss Eunice Query of ASTC on "Cry, the Beloved Country," a treatment of the African problem by Taton which has received world-wide attention, and a sound film on African missions entitled "The King's Man."

Transportation committees have been formed by the circles of the WSCS to aid persons reaching the church. Persons desiring transportation may contact circle chairmen. In charge of the study are Mrs. J. R. Melton, WSCS sec-

Ministers Gather In West Jefferson

The Rev. Wilson Nesbitt, pastor of West Jefferson Methodist Church, was host to a meeting of Methodist ministers from Watauga, Ashe, and Alleghany counties at the Methodist parsonage in West Jefferson Monday.

Plans were discussed for the forthcoming united evangelistic mission to be held in the entire southeastern area of the Methodist church in April and May. Under the plan some 450 ministers from the Western North Carolina Conference will go to Virginia to conduct evangelistic visitation and preaching missions. The Virginia ministers in turn will come to the Western North Carolina Conference for similar work May 15-24.

Other business included discussion of the student deputation teams from the Wesley Fellowship of Boone Methodist Church to present programs in the local churches of the tri-county area.

District superintendent Rev. John Hoyle, Jr., Marion, ten Methodist preachers, and Deaconess Miss Geraldine Surratt were present at the meeting.

Luncheon was held at a restaurant and Rev. Ralph Miller of Henson's Chapel was elected convener for the next meeting to be held in July, possibly at the picnic grounds of the Daniel Boone Theatre.

1952 RECORD YEAR
 The year 1952 closed with retail and manufacturers' sales, personal income, employment and other key economic factors above January, 1951, according to the Commerce Department.

retary of Missionary Education; Mrs. Milt Greer, chairman of the Church Commission of Missions; and the pastor, Rev. Joseph T. Shackford.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was formally elected President when members of the electoral college in the 48 states cast 442 votes for him and 89 for Governor Stevenson. Every state which gave a candidate a plurality of the popular vote cast its entire electoral vote for him. Vice-president Alben Barkley will officially count the electoral vote on January 6 at a joint session of the House and Senate.

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