

# Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 32.

VOL. XLVII.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1925.

NO. 29.

## COUNCIL PROPOSES "LIFT THE LEVEL" EFFORT

Because of the serious financial condition of the boards of the Presbyterian Church and in an effort to raise the full budget of \$15,000,000 for the present church year, the General Council, through its committee on program and field activities has proposed a "Lift the Level" effort. The purpose is to increase its average annual giving of \$5.84 to the benevolence boards of the church this year to \$8.02, which would result in the raising of the entire budget to \$15,000,000.

The four boards have agreed to cooperate in the "Lift the Level" campaign for a "supreme effort to raise the budget," and all field forces of the boards will be enlisted. The campaign will be a concerted effort entirely within the budget, it is pointed out by Dr. James G. Bailey, field director of the committee on program and field activities, and will not be a debt-raising campaign. Dr. Bailey calls attention, however, to the aggregate indebtedness of the Church of \$1,240,000, \$700,000 of which represents the deficit last year of the Boards of National Missions and Christian Education and \$148,000 of which is a New Era Movement debt and \$390,000 an Interchurch World Movement debt. The New Era and Interchurch debts are being gradually reduced by the boards from current income, as provided for by action of the General Assembly. The General Council has warned the church that in any event the Church must make a gain of more than \$2,000,000 in its giving to the boards this year to prevent further deficits and to discharge debts.

Official announcement of the conditions confronting the Church and of plans outlined will shortly be made in a communication from Moderator C. R. Erdman and Stated Clerk L. S. Mudge to all churches and sessions. Personal effort will at once be made to bring this determined effort to raise the budget before all Synods and Presbyteries in order to secure their favorable action and the commendation of the plan. A resolution has been prepared to be offered to all Synods for their consideration calling their attention to the situation and determining "that this Synod approves the proposal of the General Council and the Assembly for a united 'Lift the Level' effort to be directed through the Presbyteries to the sessions and boards of trustees of all our churches, in order that quotas as allocated may be taken most seriously and substantial advances made in benevolent giving and special appeals for debts and deficits entirely avoided."

An official statement has been prepared to be circulated among all Synods and Presbyteries. It indicates that a committee of five business men was appointed by the General Council to consider the problem of debts and deficits of the boards. This committee, consisting of J. Williston Smith, George C. Barber, Ralph W. Harbison, J. J. Ross, and S. Frank Shattuck, recommended that a determined effort be made to raise the entire budget of the Church, and the goal be "A Debtless Church, March 31, 1926."

This committee also recommended an immediate survey by each board of its organization and proposed expenditures, with a view to ascertaining whether further saving may not be effected; and the organization and prosecution of a vigorous, persistent and nationwide campaign to raise the entire budget of the church.

This campaign was put under the direction of a committee of five of the council with the Moderator and Stated Clerk at its

head," says the official statement. "The plan adopted to carry out these recommendations which were adopted by the General Assembly, is to lift the level of the Church's giving to the boards for 1925-1926 from \$9,722,529 to at least \$12,000,000.

"This is recognized as the minimum step up, which is absolutely necessary to prevent retreat and disaster in our work. It is but a step toward the budget of needs, \$15,000,000, already approved and apportioned to the churches. That goal is still before us. But we say with desperate earnestness 'We must reach at least \$12,000,000, or suffer sore embarrassment and disaster.'"

"No deficit raising campaign is to be put on. No new and sensational methods are to be employed. The plan is simply to reach every church and every member with a thoroughness never achieved before. It is proposed to do this through official approach to the sessions of the Church. If every church member will give as proposed, and every church loyally endeavor to reach its quota according as God has prospered it, the boards will receive not only \$12,000,000, the budget of absolute necessity, but may get the budget of need, \$15,000,000.—The Continent.

## WHEN TWO PRAYERS MET AT GOD'S THRONE.

(This is absolutely a true story of what happened at Greensboro this year.)

It was in the month of May, 1925, in Greensboro, N. C., when a wealthy white man of a fashionable residential section, and a prosperous business man, knelt down in prayer to God before breakfast, in his closet at home, and prayed this prayer: "O, God, help me that I may help others."

Whether it was on the same day or not that that white gentleman and Christian prayed that God help him that he help others, that a poor, honest, clean, hard-working, Negro widow woman, in an humble cottage prayed that God help her, we cannot say; but she prayed this prayer: "O, God, help me; I am a lonely, widowed woman. For my fatherless children. I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith. My child now is about to be graduated in June of this year. I have no money; she has none. Without the necessary funds they will not let her be graduated with her class. O, God, help me and show me the way."

Going about her work thinking, the thought came to her of a white man here in Greensboro who was quite a friend of her husband during his lifetime. Dressing herself she went to a colored man and asked him if he would call up Mr. — and see what time he would be in his office. The appointment was made at once and the colored man agreed to go with this colored mother to see this white man. At the proper hour the three met in the gentleman's office. Upon introduction, the gentleman said, "Yes, madam, I knew your husband well and I have often wondered how you were getting along. What may I do for you this morning?"

Clearing her throat and at the same time fearful that the amount she wanted was too much to ask for as a personal loan upon no security, she began thus: "Sir, my daughter has finished high school at Bennett College, but she can't come out with her class unless I can get up the money." "How much is it you must have, madam?" he asked. "Thirty dollars," she said. "That is not enough. I am going to write you a check for \$50 and don't you worry about paying it back. Just do the best you can and if you find that you can pay it back, do so at your pleasure. It was only this morning that I prayed to God to help me to help others." And she went away happy and her child

was graduated with the class.—The Bulletin, Greensboro.

## URBAN LEAGUE EXECUTIVE ENCOURAGED BY PROSPECTS IN WEST.

Eugene Kinckle Jones, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League, has just returned to New York after a 7,500 mile trip to Pacific Coast cities where he investigated the social conditions among Negroes and inspected work of the Urban League in cities of the middle west.

While enroute he visited Denver where the National Conference of Social Work of which he is the only colored member of the Executive Board held its annual meeting. From Denver Mr. Jones visited Los Angeles where there is a thriving Urban League supported by the Community Chest to the extent of \$11,300, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland and Seattle. He found a Negro population of 3,000 in Portland, of 4,000 in Seattle and San Francisco, Oakland 10,000 and San Diego 3,500—all fertile fields for Urban League work.

Mr. Jones states that the League further plans to stimulate interest in the Urban League's plan of organization in these coast cities.

In Minneapolis, Mr. Jones addressed the students of the Department of Sociology of the University of Minnesota and in St. Paul spoke on the subject of "The Negro in the North" from Radio Station WCCO maintained by the Washburn-Crosby Flour Mills in cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Mr. Jones also addressed Urban League mass meetings in Saint Paul and Minneapolis where the Minneapolis League was formally launched with Mr. A. L. Harris, former "Fellow" of the League and teacher at the West Virginia Collegiate Institute, as Executive Secretary.

The Urban League is now supported by community chests in twenty cities. There are twenty-nine Urban Leagues with offices and staffs, requiring the expenditure this year in the neighborhood of \$400,000, including the budget of the national office.

In speaking of the National Conference of Social Work, Mr. Jones states that in his opinion this organization is one of the most democratic national movements in America. In addition to having set speeches by prominent white members of the conference, on the "Menace of Racial and Religious Intolerance." Throughout the conference there was woven into the fabric of the discussion a thread of racial interest which indicated that the more than 3,000 delegates there were thoroughly aroused to the importance of developing better relations in interracial contacts that our democratic institutions may be preserved.

One cannot look into a great boiler to see how much water it contains, but running up beside the boiler is a tiny glass tube that serves as a gauge. As the water stands in this tube, so it stands inside the boiler.

And so our friendliness toward mankind is the gauge of our friendship toward the unseen Christ. By precept and example, through commands, miracles and parables, Christ has taught us how to express our friendliness to others.

The Bible is not like any other book, and cannot be taught like any other book. It must be taught with reverence. You cannot get anything out of a human being until you trust him, and you cannot appropriate the truths of this book unless you have confidence in it. A man vague in his faith can do a lot of harm,—he is no teacher of the Bible.—Dr. Howard A. Kelly.

## CHURCHES SEEK BETTER RACE CONDITIONS

New York.—The launching and successful operation of interracial committees, the holding up of economical justice and the removal of discrimination in all walks of life is the plan offered in "the crusade of the churches for applied brotherhood in race relations" by the Federal Council of Churches in America. Circulation of leaflets and news matter dealing with the improvements necessary in this platform is being made by the race relations commission of the council, which held its fifth quadrennial meeting in Atlanta some time ago.

Expression by the race relations body as to the co-operative program to be entered into takes the following effect:

1. Face the facts; let the churches of America continue their study and discussion groups and the use of their pulpits and lecture platforms to bring the facts of race and race relations to the light of day. Let them help the newspapers and magazines to give larger space and attention to the whole range of information.

2. Interracial conferences: The past years have demonstrated the effective utility of conferences between thoughtful, conscientious leaders of racial groups to discuss conditions that confront them and to adopt plans to deal with the situation. These conferences have been most effective where surveys have been made by competent persons beforehand to secure data as a basis for such conferences and program making. The observance of race relations Sunday is commended as a step in this direction.

3. Interracial conferences: Experience has shown that small committees of white and colored men and women have been indispensable for effectively carrying out constructive programs of race relations, especially in the local communities. Let the Christians and churches in each community and of the nation increasingly give attention, service and support to such committees.

4. Justice through law: The churches have joined the campaign to abolish lynching in our land. That campaign has met with success as shown in the rapid reduction of the evil. Let the churches continue the crusade until America is a lynching-free land. Let us go forward with a campaign for speedy and impartial trial for those accused of crime and for justice in the courts that shall guarantee to every citizen, irrespective of creed or color, full protection of our laws.

5. Economic justice: The Negro as a producer has many handicaps in agriculture, industry and commerce because his white neighbors do not regard him as a man to be dealt with on the basis of capacity and worth. The voice and hand of the churches and of Christians generally should be raised that equal economic opportunity shall be accorded every person on the basis of his ability. Amicable race relations in industry and business are of vital concern to religion.

6. Removal of discrimination: The churches of America have a challenge to the very principles they profess in the discrimination in housing conditions, school facilities, travel accommodations and other public provision of our communities. For the sake of our own ideals as well as for the protection of our fellow citizens, we are called upon to abolish and to prevent these discriminations.

7. Our children and young people: The education of our young people in attitudes of racial respect and appreciation is so vital for the future that the

churches cannot ignore this responsibility as a part of their program of education.

"The white and Negro people, the two largest racial groups in America, profess a common religion and common ideals of democracy. They possess mutual interests wrought out through generations of contact. As a result the American churches have probably the most unique opportunity in the world to demonstrate the processes of interracial co-operation that will influence racial groups everywhere."

## C. S. C. & S. M. NOTES

(From the Office of the Dean.)

Following out our line of thought of last week with reference to our platform speakers, the woman chosen to address the meeting is Mrs. Agnes B. Snively, of the Division of Missions for Colored People, who will have as her subject, "The Presbyterian Church at Work in the World." Being connected with Headquarters Staff it is readily evident that Mrs. Snively is quite able to handle the above subject.

In casting around for an outstanding layman of the Synod to address our meeting, the Committee chose the Honorable Mr. W. P. Evans, of Laurinburg, N. C., who is one of the race's pioneer business men. He stands high as a churchman, and is a man whose counsel and leadership are sought far and wide. Mr. Evans will be the popular speaker for Tuesday, August 25.

As we stated last week, the Committee felt that our Convention is old enough now to have a nation-wide outlook and should attract men on its program who have achieved national prominence in some line of endeavor. The Committee with one accord voted to invite Prof. W. W. Sanders, of Charleston, W. Va., to bestow that honor upon us.

Prof. Sanders is an educator of national prominence. Having served as a teacher in the public school system of W. Va., and then as State Librarian, for the past 10 or 12 years he has been State Supervisor of Negro Schools, having served under four governors of the commonwealth of West Virginia.

As a token of the esteem in which he is held in the educational world, at the last meeting of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, Prof. Sanders was elected President of this great body, and will preside over its sessions that will be held in Durham the last of this month. He will address our convention on Friday evening, August 28.

## THE D. V. B. S. PROJECT IN CATAWBA SYNOD.

By F. C. Shirley.

At this writing we are in the midst of the D. V. B. S. program in Catawba Synod. The response received from the pastors and Sunday school workers in this project this summer has been very encouraging. Following are a few quotations from letters of leaders who are conducting schools this summer:

Rev. A. H. George, Wilson, N. C.: "Our school was brought to a close Wednesday night. Our daily attendance this year was in excess of 100 in face of the fact that the Baptists conducted a school also."

Dr. J. H. Hayswood, Lumberton: "The D. V. B. S. here has been a success. The people took right hold of the idea and sent their children in for what they could get. And from the throngs present each day the indications are that much good has been done."

Dr. J. L. Hollowell, Statesville: (Continued on page 4)

## ST. JAMES CHURCH GREENSBORO

Mrs. W. J. Jones, Reporter.

Sunday at the 11 o'clock services Rev. Miller spoke from the 9th Psalm and 17th verse: "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God."

The speaker said by way of introduction: "I am glad it is a bit cool this morning; my subject is 'Hell.'"

In the good old days men discussed both heaven and hell, pointing out the horrors of the one as well as the bliss of the other. Now the subject "Hell" is presented in a mild form as though going to the place of punishment was a long sleep.

Discussing the terms, "wicked" and "forget God," the speaker took up two of four propositions, namely—

What do we according to Scripture understand hell to be? Is it simply a state of being or both a state and a fixed place?

What is the nature of the punishment? Is the term "fire" real or figurative?

The subject as discussed made a profound impression on the well-filled auditorium.

The Missionary Society met with Mrs. Wynn, on Lindsay St., on Thursday afternoon. The Society is planning to have one month's vacation from the weekly meetings, beginning August 1st. The meeting was well attended, and at the close delicious refreshments were served.

The banners for finance and attendance have been with the Earnest Workers' Class two weeks.

The two Adult Bible classes have installed a telephone in the manse and made appropriation for a drinking fountain in the vestibule of the church.

The J. R. Nocho class gave an entertainment last Thursday night at the church. Quite a success was had, both in finance and pleasure.

On Sunday last delegates were elected to go to the Dis. S. S. Convention which convenes at Mt. Airy, August 6th. The delegates are as follows: Misses Nettie Fuller and Marietta Mears and Mr. W. M. Bergens; alternates, Miss Susie Miller and Mr. Wm. Barber.

Mrs. S. Preyor has gone on her vacation to different points of the State and will return September first. Mrs. Preyor will be much missed from our circle, for she is a noble woman and a real missionary worker. We hope for her a very pleasant vacation.

Mrs. Ed. Cecil has been very ill, but at this writing she is much improved.

Mr. Cundiff, President of the Earnest Workers' class, who has been very ill, is out again, much to the delight of his classmates and many friends.

## ATLANTIC SYNODICAL CONVENTION AND SCHOOL OF METHODS.

The Synodical convention and School of Methods of Atlantic Synod will begin August 17th and will last for one week. We are looking forward to a great time.

We are expecting delegates from every department of the Church. Our program this year has many new and attractive features. Our teaching force and public speakers will be as good as ever.

If you have not registered please do so at once. Send registration fee to Dr. G. W. Long, Cheraw, S. C. Rooms will be at a premium.

A. A. ADAIR, Dean.