

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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BASIS OF RACIAL UNDERSTANDING

By Rev. M. Ashby Jones, Chairman of the Federal Council's Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

The whole racial discussion today is confused and clouded by the claims of "superiority" for particular racial groups. There has been little effort at clear definition of what is meant by "superiority."

That there is a vast difference in the attainments and achievements of racial groups is readily granted. This, however, is far from proof that the more backward peoples might not show superior accomplishments under different environments, and perhaps in different lines of endeavor. The most deadly and unjust inference, however, from the assumption of the superiority of one race over another, is that any member of the so-called superior race is superior to any member of the so-called inferior race. This is to be guilty of the gravest of all injustices, to judge a man by his birth rather than by his individual accomplishments.

As Christians we face a world where the divisions are largely traced in terms of racial prejudices and hatreds. These divisions become more definite and these prejudices more acute as they are intensified by the clash of political and religious interests. It is supremely important that first of all we should seek to find the attitude of Jesus, and meet this world condition in His Spirit. To him the supreme value in all the universe was a man. As he looked into the faces of men, there was no trace in His consciousness of racial, national or class distinction.

This value, however, from Jesus' standpoint, is a potential value. It is not what a man is, but what he can be, which challenges the supreme effort of Jesus.

I would make this discussion honest and practical. We must recognize the countless differences in men—differences in heredity, tradition and environment. We must recognize the vast differences in attainments and achievement, which differentiate progressive from backward peoples. But fundamentally there must be faith in the potential value of a man. Without this faith we must accept the pseudo-scientific dictums, which determine racial destinies, delivering final judgments as to the superiority of this race, and the inferiority of that, and finally fixing their places in the world. Our allegiance to the Christ does place the responsibility upon us to grant to each man his inalienable right to a fair chance to develop into his best.

Where there has been a lack of human sympathy is where we have been thinking of men and dealing with them en masse or as a race. Here is the value of the very simple, but significant contribution which has been made by the Inter-racial Commission to this whole question. We have sought in every neighborhood in the South to bring together the best representatives of both races in Inter-racial Committees. These committees do not discuss the academic question of the relation of races.

As neighbors and citizens, they meet each other on the common ground of human needs and interests. They take up the specific needs of the home. Specific cases of injustices and discrimination in the courts, or in the business world, are brought before them for adjustment. Questions of better facilities for recreation, and all those problems which make for a fuller and richer human life come into the consideration of this comradely council. But the supreme good is to be found, not in any specific results, but in the spiritual

NATIONAL NEGRO ANTHEM

"Lift Every Voice and Sing."

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the dark present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of a new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet, with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come, over the way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading the path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on our way,
Thou who hast by thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray:
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we meet Thee;
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, we may forever stand,
True to our God, true to our Native Land.

atmosphere of human kindness which has been created.

I know we are prone now and again to say this or that is to be a final test of Christianity. I do not believe that there is any one test, but I am convinced that the efficacy of the Christian religion never found a more insistent challenge than in the relationship of the races in the world.

LITTLE THINGS.

Rev. Herbert Spaugh, Pastor Moravian Church, Charlotte.

Faithfulness in little things is the stepping stone to both spiritual and material success. From most of us the little things receive scant attention, and yet if it were not for the little things, the greater would not be possible.

All matter is composed of atoms and molecules, invisible to the naked eye. All time is composed of the little seconds, which we fritter away so easily. The security of a massive bridge may depend upon a single bolt. The safety of hundreds of lives may depend upon a small telegraph instrument. The breaking of an insignificant part will cause your automobile to stop running. A few little words may break up a home. One act started the world war. We remember the little poem:

"Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean,
And the beauteous land."

And it is the small duty that we are prone to neglect, the ordinary things of life. Some people when they join the church select the largest simply because it is large, when the smaller ones need them much more. Some people will take no part in a small enterprise simply because they cannot be in the limelight. But in God's opinion it is the small things that count. He it is who upholds the sparrow's wing, clothes the lily with His own beautifying hand, and numbers the hairs of His children. He descends to an infinite detail and builds the universe in the smallest things.

Fidelity in small things opens the way to larger. The lofty summits of the mountains are only reached by the small paths.

A friend who is faithful in the small things will not fail you when times of great need arise. Fidelity is an enduring possession, a possession which neither

moth doth corrupt and which you can carry into the life beyond. It is God's test of character for usefulness in the eternal life hereafter. We have the promise of Jesus, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

It was fidelity that led that noble reformer and founder of our church, John Huss, to endure the agony of a martyr's death at the stake, fidelity to His Master and to his convictions. It was fidelity to their God which gave our religious forefathers strength to endure the fearful persecutions which came upon them in the early days of our church following the death of their leader. It is this same fidelity that I urge upon each member of this congregation this morning. And to you to whom this congregation has entrusted the management of its spiritual and temporal affairs as God's stewards I give the words of St. Paul: "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."

NEGRO HEALTH WEEK PRONOUNCED A SUCCESS.

President Robert R. Moton, of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, in a communication directed to Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming, United States Public Health Service, calls attention to the National Negro Health Week having grown in scope and influence, so that now it may be regarded as an institution definitely contributing to better health and the prevention of disease. The helpful assistance rendered by the Division of Venereal Diseases, in the preparation of the Health Week Bulletin and in otherwise cooperating in the promotion of the Negro Health Week, facilitated the progress and success of this health campaign. Surgeon General Cumming feels gratified with the results of the Negro Health Week and he considers it productive of the utmost good. Popular educational publicity regarding the prevalence and prevention of venereal and other diseases is economically and socially productive and essential as an health measure aiming at the promotion of the best interests of the people through the effective cooperative functioning of the Federal and State health agencies.

Charleston County, South Carolina, has 398 less colored farmers than five years ago.

MISSOURI COTTON CULTIVATION EXPANDS.

Jefferson City, Mo., July 21.—Cotton cultivation in Missouri has taken a marked jump during the past five years, and the southeastern counties of the State are now well on the way of vantage in the cotton market. In this connection it is said that that portion of Negro migrants finding their way northward into Missouri, which preferred the cotton fields to the factory, has found steady employment in cotton cultivation at a good wage and under improved conditions of housing and with better chances for education and general advancement than formerly. Consequently Missouri's Negro population is steadily increasing and the supervision of the State administration over their welfare has increased its watchfulness. The Missouri Negro Industrial Commission has therefore been repeatedly called upon to broaden its inquiries into the community and work life of the Negroes of the State, and the findings of the Commission have provided ample material for increased attention to this particular phase of the State's work by officials in public office. The State administrative staff and the efficient personnel of the Commission are to be heartily commended.

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

(From the Office of the Dean.)

The Vesper Service is a very important feature of the School of Methods program. This service is held in the quiet of the evening after the busy day of class room work and recreation. The delegates gather under the stately oaks on the beautiful campus of the University, listen to a short but heightened message and commune with the Father All Glorious in song and meditation.

The patrons of the Convention will remember with pleasure the service Dr. J. J. Wilson, of Wadesboro, N. C., rendered in the first School of Methods in 1921. The Committee this year in formulating the program recalled the deep spiritual messages of Dr. Wilson and their inspirational effect, and decided to graciously extend to him an invitation to direct the Vesper Service.

At the closing service on Sunday, August 30th, will be the annual sermon and the Consecration and Communion Service. This is usually the most impressive assembly during the week of the Convention and the delegates leave on the following day with the thoughts uttered indelibly impressed upon their minds.

The annual sermon this year will be preached by Dr. W. E. Carr, of Holbrook St. church, Danville, Va. Dr. Carr needs no introduction as he is a pioneer in the cause of Sunday School activity, and has kept pace with the rapid development of the Church's Program of Religious Education. He is constantly referred to for counsel and advice on matters pertaining to Sunday School work.

Each mail is bringing in registrations together with letters and cards of inquiry. This year ought to be a record breaker. We note, however, that a number of the "Old Guard" have not registered yet. They say they are coming, but "Old Guard," remember we must keep to our old policy of assigning rooms in the order in which we receive registrations.

Are you seeking First Aid? 1. For that Crippled Cradle Roll? 2. For that Maimed Bible Class? 3. For that Wounded Workers' Conference? Then you had better register and come to the Catawba Synodical Convention and School of Methods, J. C. Smith University, Charlotte, N. C., August 24-30, 1925.

OVERCROWDING FACILITATES SPREAD OF SOCIAL DISEASES.

The National Anti-Slum League of Paris in its recent report states that overcrowding is rampant in certain sections of that city and that it may be viewed as the cause of social disintegration and the moral downfall of the family. "The danger of promiscuity, says the report, naturally occurs when parents and children sleep in the same room and elder and younger brothers—and very often brothers and sisters—sleep in the same bed."

The housing difficulties in Germany, according to an abstract in "Social Pathology"—issued by the United States Public Health Service, have much to do with the increase of venereal diseases, particularly among children. Due to overcrowding entire families have been infected, and a coincident laxity of morals standards has been found. One report states that a family of nine slept in one room, two married couples being among the number.

An editorial in "National Health," published in London, states that "We are not likely to attain a full measure of success in the control of venereal disease until we have arrived at a solution of the housing difficulty."

But the incubators of lewdness and its frequent associates—gonorrhoea and syphilis—are by no means limited to the lower strata of society. Promiscuity is very diffusible, and one of the most essential as well as productive measures for health-maintenance is the effort to combat mental and physical diseases by both mental and physical hygiene. The two leading British Societies for the prevention of these diseases are now in accord as to the efficacy of personal cleanliness and disinfection in the prevention of venereal infection. Widespread education by publicity regarding the great scourge of venereal diseases as they affect the Child, the Family and the State, and the conditions influencing their spread and prevention is very productive of good results and is universally recognized as essential health work. The Washington Times, of June 26th, gives publicity editorially to "The Curse of Deafness," and points out the causative relation of syphilis to certain types of deafness.

At 2:30 o'clock on the next day Dr. Russell with the church went on the main line with open Bibles, declaring that salvation is offered to all—everybody. It is offered by the Father, through the Son. As the light of God's love flashed from the different texts as read, Dr. Russell urging at the same time the acceptance of Christ, we felt indeed that we were on the main line and making a pretty run. The meeting was well attended. Friends came from Burkeville,—the Millers, Hydes, Marshalls and their pastor; from Nottoway,—Mr. Joseph Lomax and family; from Crewe,—Mr. Mason and family. These people hear Dr. Russell whenever he comes within their reach. It was a great meeting.

MRS. M. L. KENDRICK AT THE OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MANNBORO.

The Amelia Ladies' Missionary Circle met May 31st with the Oak Grove Missionary Society. Mrs. Seppie R. Mann, President, Mrs. Maymie L. Kendrick, of South Boston, Va., being the principal speaker.

At the Southern Virginia Presbyterian which convened in Newport News in April, 1924, Mrs. M. J. Wright and Mrs. S. V. Thompkins were sent out as workers with the missionary societies of Amelia County, Va. The result of their labors ripened into one grand missionary organization known as the Amelia Ladies' Missionary Circle.

The circle is yet young and has to be coached into a larger state of usefulness; hence, the invitation extended Mrs. Kendrick, whose address was one of a most constructive nature, full of strong, helpful knowledge and advice concerning the many problems confronting us which must be faced and handled wisely if we are to be a successful part of the great Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Kendrick is a very choice speaker and we hope to have her with us again.

Rev. D. A. Henry spoke also very interestingly concerning the problems which are calling the attention of the Church, and made an earnest appeal for the local churches to fall in line and

lend a helping hand to the many calls for the uplift of humanity.

Mrs. M. J. Wright, President; Mrs. S. V. Thompkins, Secretary, and Mrs. Richard Giles, a visitor, all made helpful remarks concerning the missionary cause.

Mrs. Joseph Scott, who was Miss Daisy Smith and who was a teacher in Ingleside Seminary before her marriage, presided at the organ. The hymns were beautiful and a solo was sung by Mrs. Mabel Scott, "Beautiful Garden of Love," deserves great praise and the duet prayer song sung by the little Misses Ellen Marea and Helen Scott was very entertaining.

Mrs. Julia Scott, who is our field correspondent, was present also and made a very helpful talk, but, owing to her indisposition, has not been able to fill her post of duty; hence the delay in sending this article.

All enjoyed what they thought a well spent day. The circle will meet with the Russell Grove Missionary Society, Amelia, Va., the third Sunday in September, 1925.

Benediction was given by Rev. D. A. Henry.

SARAH V. THOMPKINS.

DR. RUSSELL AT JETERSVILLE, VA.

Dr. I. H. Russell, our Synodical Evangelist, arrived in Jetersville on July 15 for a five days' meeting at Allen Memorial church. After preaching a strong sermon from the words, "How old art thou?" he stated that "we will oil, water and coal up tonight on the side track and tomorrow we will get on the main line."

At 2:30 o'clock on the next day Dr. Russell with the church went on the main line with open Bibles, declaring that salvation is offered to all—everybody. It is offered by the Father, through the Son. As the light of God's love flashed from the different texts as read, Dr. Russell urging at the same time the acceptance of Christ, we felt indeed that we were on the main line and making a pretty run.

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Our S. S. Superintendent, Mr. T. W. Wilkerson, and his Sunday School teachers deserve great credit for the success of the meeting. There were thirty who accepted Christ as their Saviour. Thirteen were baptized on Sunday morning and 25 received into the church.

The collections during the meeting amounted to \$50.00. Everybody seemed to have enjoyed the meeting and left the church giving God the glory.

W. H. SHEPPERSON.

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.

When more of our leaders adopt the old slogan, "Not for self but for all" our progress will be more pronounced.