

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"

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BY THE WAY

By Uncle Billie

Your life achievement is not conditioned upon what you think of yourself, but upon your conduct and what others think of you as a resultant of your conduct. Listen to the Man of Galilee: "What think ye of Christ; whose son is he?" "Whom do men say that I am?"

Driving With a Big Stick.

This statement implies at least two beings and one inanimate object: a driver, his big stick, and the driven. Stripped of its verbiage, this is the attitude some of the brethren would have the Church assume toward the individual church that fails to raise its full quota. To legislate or even suggest that a church is to receive no support from the Colored Division of National Missions because it fails to raise its full quota is nothing more nor less than driving with a big stick. The Church is receding with marked acceleration to materialism when it emphasizes and makes clear that the local church's existence is conditioned upon a certain financial standard set for it with no regard for the progress the local church is making to meet its quota, and, at the same time and with breath to spare, say nothing about the spiritual growth and numerical results of the spiritual fervor. Some would give the local church a limited time to measure up. That is about equal to two times three and three times two; for it is still driving with the same big stick; the only difference is you are given a little time to get out of the way of the big stick. The driver is after you with the big stick and if you don't run the consequence is evident.

In the Workers' Conference one of the brethren higher up suggested the idea that if the local church did not or could not foster a mission Sabbath school in connection with it, the preacher's stipend or supplement should be "held up." That certainly has the color of the materialistic and the stench of commercialism.

Let Us Educate the People.

You can lead people to hell but you can't drive them to heaven; and when you attempt it you are making enemies for the Kingdom and citizens for the commonwealth of destruction.

I should feel very mean did I feel that any reader of my opinion on this advanced step of the Church, that is the budget plan, should regard it as radical and an innovation that is likely to work harm to the local church. The Presbyterian Church believes in the process of education; and—not boasting—I am a Presbyterian from my grandparents and parents, maternal and paternal, and I believe in Presbyterian principles. I believe in intelligent leadership and not driving. I firmly believe that within a very short time our entire colored constituency is going to measure up to its full quota. Most of you can recall when our group thought it was a flashlight of honor and praise from the first and second heavens to raise ten and twenty dollars on Children's Day. And what did we do with it? Some of the ministers would give each Board a dollar and keep the residue for "other expenses." That meant, of course, that a particular church had given the general Church eight or nine dollars for benevolence. And the entire matter stopped there until the next Children's Day.

Are we still in that rut? Of course not. Brother C. J. Baker and Dr. George W. Long have talked "quota" so loud, long and direct that the most ignorant

layman is talking about "our quota."

I am sure that the big stick is not needed when a Presbytery jumps practically from nothing to over 50 per cent of its quota. Yes, a little over half; but that is a long jump when you stop and consider that the jump was from the freezing point, 32 degrees; but we are now half way to the boiling point, 106 degrees Fahrenheit. And who can safely predict that the Colored wing of our great Presbyterian Church will not have risen to the boiling point, 212 degrees Fahrenheit, in its contribution to benevolence within the next two years?

Of course, a few of our small congregations have "gone over the top," they say; that is fine and gives a brother an opportunity to boast; but when a church with over two hundred members "goes over the top" in its benevolent quota, the signs of the times reflect progress.

This is an era of economic disruption and consequent migration among peoples and not a people. And under these conditions, when you drive with a big stick, you subtract consideration for the slip of the cog or the broken cog in the wheel oiled with desire and hope, and pushed with determination.

Many of the prophets and many of God's chosen servants of the people drove with a big stick. That was the big stick age and the age of the sword. That was a dispensation in which the big stick figured largely in the consummation of God's Kingdom and in the preparation for the advent of the Messiah. But when He came He preached and taught that the sword of the Spirit is the weapon of the New Economy. He commanded Peter to put up his material sword.

I believe that our people and all other peoples should be taught, impelled, and persuaded in all Godliness to give liberally to the cause of Christian work. I believe that giving to benevolence should be the biggest secondary matters in connection with any congregation. But when you tell your congregation: "If you don't come across with your quota the Board is going to cut us off or cut the preacher off," you are certainly sounding a minor note of the dying swan.

Atlantic Presbytery

Atlantic Presbytery did not pay its quota in full; it paid over half, says Dr. J. M. Miller. This year they say they are going to pay all. They say the people are becoming more interested each year through the ministers of this Presbytery.

Throw away the big stick and let's reason. That is the way Presbyterians do; that is the way far-seeing men do; that is the way the Man of Galilee did.

SPRING MEETING OF THE WHITE RIVER PRESBYTERY.

By C. N. Shropshire

White River Presbytery convened in its spring meeting Wednesday, April 14-18, at Allison Presbyterian church, Little Rock, Ark., of which the Rev. Geo. E. Caesar is pastor.

The retiring Moderator, Rev. G. F. McMiller, D. D., of Springfield, Mo., preached the opening sermon from the text, Rv. 21: 21, "And the twelve gates were twelve pearls." The sermon was clear, forceful and practical. The speaker called our attention to the fact that there are twelve gates leading into heaven. Three on the east, three on the west, three on the north, three on the south. He said as Presbyterians we do not fight, and as

other denominations we go on our way to heaven, but let us all be friends and work together.

Rev. L. W. Davis was elected Moderator, and C. N. Shropshire and M. B. Dasby, temporary clerks.

The Presbytery was welcomed to the city by Rev. O. C. Wallace, pastor of the Congregational church, and Dr. G. B. Ashford, President of the Ministerial Alliance and pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church. Response by Dr. E. C. Hames.

The docket was very full, but the Moderator kept it on the schedule time. Reports coming in from the various churches on membership, raising our benevolences, and on the spiritual condition of the churches show an increase over any previous year.

Although our Presbytery is small and several of our churches are vacant, almost all of them paid their quotas—six exceeded their quotas and one doubled its quota.

Gibson chapel is not one of the seven, but this church is buying a manse without aid from the Board. They raised nearly \$2500.00 during the year.

The Presbytery was glad to receive Rev. C. J. Maclin from the Presbytery of Birmingham into our Presbytery. We welcome others to come West.

On Thursday evening at eight o'clock the Presbytery listened with interest to a popular meeting of ten minute addresses on the following subjects: "Christian Education," Dr. E. C. Hames, of Little Rock, Rev. T. C. Boyd, of Pine Bluff, and C. N. Shropshire, of Texarkana; "Ministerial Relief and Sustentation," Revs. S. J. Grier, Crockett, Texas, and L. W. Davis, Morrilton, Ark.; "National Missions," Dr. C. S. Mebane, Hot Springs, and Dr. H. M. Stinson, of Cotton Plant.

The Rev. T. C. Boyd and Elder J. C. Thompson were elected principal ministerial and lay commissioners, respectively, to the next General Assembly.

Friday evening was given over to the Women's popular program. An excellent meeting was had. The President, Mrs. T. C. Boyd, presided. The sum of \$25.00 was raised. The Sunday services were good.

Much credit is due Rev. Geo. E. Caesar and his congregation for the most splendid way they entertained Presbytery. Rev. Caesar is doing excellent work in the church. He is loved by all.

Resolutions of thanks were read. Doxology was sung and prayer offered. Benediction was pronounced and Presbytery adjourned to meet with Holmes chapel, Monticello, Ark., Wednesday, August 18, 1926.

Our western field is coming to the front. We are praying for other workers to come over and help. Our schools are doing good work. Most of them are overcrowded with pupils. In Dr. Stinson's school the pupils scarcely have standing room. Some of his teachers have more than fifty pupils in their rooms. We have some churches that are vacant. Have you not heard the Macedonian call, "Come over and help us?"

ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY

By Rev. T. A. Robinson

The Spring meeting of Atlantic Presbytery was held with the Edisto Presbyterian church, Edisto Island, S. C., Dr. W. L. Metz, D. D., Stated Supply, Wednesday, April 14th, through Friday the 16th, 1926.

The writer, in company with Rev. J. M. Miller, D. D., Mrs. Myers, a teacher of Emerson Institute, Blackville, S. C., and Miss A. B. Singleton, a teacher

of the Frasier Excelsior Academy and Elder Wm. Parker, of Zion Hill church, Bamberg, S. C., motored from Bamberg to Edisto Island, more than a hundred and twenty miles. The good Dr. Metz took us in his high-powered Chrysler six.

At Charleston we were joined by the Moderator, Rev. W. T. Frasier, D. D., and his delegation and good Madam; also Rev. J. E. Jackson, of Columbia, our Synodical Evangelist, Rev. T. H. Ayers, D. D., Prof. Harper and Mr. H. O. Walker, our Sunday School Missionary of Orangeburg, and the bishop of John's Island, Rev. S. H. Scott, with his delegation. After gazing and stretching a little we were off for the seat of Presbytery, Edisto Island. In a short while we were passing Adam's Run. In the yard of our Stated Clerk, Rev. Wm. H. Paden, we saw a few John Henrys warming up for the last lap of the trip. One was that of Rev. H. McFadden, of Allendale. We reached the home of Dr. and Mrs. Metz, Edisto Island, just before sunset. Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Long, of Cheraw, in their Studebaker coach, had preceded us by a few minutes, but long enough to be safely tucked away in the manse.

Dr. and Mrs. Metz met us in the beautiful, well kept yard, all full of welcome smiles, with hearty handshakes. After greeting the delegates, the good Dr. proceeded at once to assign us to our temporary homes, so that by sunset or thereabout, all of us present had pleasant homes.

At the opening services Wednesday night "Uncle Billie" pulled out an up-to-date and classical preliminary with his robed choir and beautiful anthems. Mrs. Metz, the organist, deserves much credit for the showing the choir made. Many of the city church choirs will have to hustle to even measure up with the choir out on Edisto Island.

The retiring Moderator, Rev. W. T. Frasier, D. D., delivered a soul-stirring sermon from the subject, "Friends in Two Worlds." All present were deeply touched as the speaker defined and explained the spiritual relationship existing between this and the "better land."

After constitution of Presbytery with prayer by the retiring Moderator the following elections were had: Moderator, Rev. M. A. Sanders, Charleston; Temporary Clerk, Mr. H. O. Walker, Orangeburg; Stated Clerk, Rev. Wm. H. Paden, Adam's Run.

The welcome address was delivered by the pastor, Dr. Metz, in well chosen words. He also gave us a brief historical outline of the entertaining church and Edisto Island. He stated that the material used in constructing the present church edifice has been in constant use for more than a hundred and fifty years, having been the property of the white Presbyterians in use down on Edding Bay in colonial days, and about 60 years ago was brought to its present site and reconstructed for use by the colored Presbyterians, and the church was pastored by the first ordained, colored Presbyterian minister in America.

The response was made by Rev. G. E. Henderson, pastor of Zion church, Charleston, S. C. Rev. G. W. Long, D. D., of Fairfield Presbytery, and Rev. J. E. Jackson, of McClelland Presbytery, were voted seats corresponding members. They were introduced and asked to make remarks. Rev. T. H. Ayers, D. D., Fairfield Presbytery, was received by letter and his name enrolled as a member.

Thursday morning at nine o'clock the Presbytery reassembled for business sessions. The chief business of the day was

the election of commissioners to the General Assembly convening in Baltimore, Md., the fourth Thursday in May, 1926. The following were elected: ministerial, Rev. M. A. Sanders, Charleston; Rev. Wm. H. Paden, principal and alternate, respectively; lay commissioners, Elder W. R. Grant, Summerville, principal, and Elder Simmons of Zion church, Charleston, alternate.

After the election Dr. G. W. Long, of Cheraw, our Synodical executive, was given the floor. He brought to the Presbytery quite an inspiring message concerning the work of the Church at large. He gave us to know that the general Church is eagerly interested in the work among the colored brethren. Dr. Long was given many cheers and a rising vote of thanks for his devout interest and ardent work, which never seems to cease for our good. Our Presbytery is always delighted to hear him.

In the afternoon session we had two welcome visitors in the persons of Prof. Adair, of Chester, S. C., the worthy dean of the Sunday School Missionaries, and Mrs. Jones, of McConellsville, S. C., the lovable and veteran missionary and President of the Atlantic Synodical. We were delighted to have these distinguished visitors. They were on the Woman's program Thursday night. Prof. Adair brought to us the sad news that some of the Sunday School Missionaries had to be cut off for the lack of funds and that Atlantic was about to lose a full time Sabbath School Missionary. The Presbytery feeling the paramount need of a full time missionary voted a resolution in the form of an appeal to the Department of Sabbath School Missions asking for the continuance of a full time Sabbath School Missionary, and, if possible, Mr. H. O. Walker, our present missionary. The Presbytery also voted a resolution endorsing and thanking Mr. H. O. Walker for past services in Atlantic Presbytery.

Thursday night was given to the Women for their popular meeting. They had a grand time and raised, it was said, more money than any other Presbyterial in Atlantic Synod. The night's collection alone was \$45.

The Presbytery finished its business Friday evening in time to get dinner and visit places of interest on the Island. Most of the delegates being inlanders were anxious about seeing the beach. Our party went to McKonklyn's Bay, and while there we watched nature's blue waters of the Atlantic rolling in from the East and gathered clams and oyster shells, using our koklak to catch the beautiful ocean scenery on the beach.

Friday night was used for a men's popular meeting. The treat of the evening was the lecture by Rev. J. E. Jackson on "The Value of Christian Education Over All Others." The speaker in a masterly way entertained his audience by driving home his subject with an avalanche of points, showing clearly that our education is incomplete without Christlikeness in our hearts. I have heard many lectures on Christian Education, but none better or more effectively handled from entirely new angles. He left us thirsting for more of what he had to say. A large number of white folks were present who seemed to enjoy the lecture and entire program equally as well as our own people.

Dr. Metz, assisted by others, pulled off another new one in the form of a pageant, entitled "As It Is Today." The pageant endeavored to show the way the world of today judges and how God judges. It dealt with two

characters, a man and a woman. Both had fallen, but the man was soon received back into society by the world, but the woman was scorned. The man boasted and was stubborn; the woman wept and was sorry, but was turned down. At last they came before God, but this time the case was reversed. The boasting man was turned away, while the penitent woman was forgiven and received into heaven.

Dr. Metz is the author of this pageant. The pageant, to one who studied it, is a new epoch in moral dramatics, the evolution of involution, classical in its presentation, and yet so simple and true that we can see the lesson or picture in every day life.

After the pageant an offering was taken amounting to \$25.

From the church we were invited to the manse where we were guests of the Charleston Chapter of Johnson C. Smith (Biddle) University Alumni. Here we had a delightful time mingling with friends new and old, while salads delicious, and sweet courses were served.

All of the Presbyterians and visitors are with one accord in saying we had the best all round Presbytery on record. "Uncle Billie" went over the top. We just had a great time.

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HARBISON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE NOTES.

By Mrs. A. P. Butler.

Since our last writing many interesting things have happened at Harbison.

The March exhibition given by the Young's Literary Society proved to be a pleasant affair. The program in the chapel, consisting of orations, declamations and a debate, was of a high order and witnessed by a large crowd. At nine-thirty gallant young men and beautiful young ladies wended their way to the spacious dining room, which was beautifully decorated and where the tables were laden with the delicacies of the season.

The program in the dining room consisted of a toast to the ladies, one to the faculty, one to the seniors, and other witty speeches. As the last strains of music died away, each one went away, declaring this to be the end of a perfect day.

The following persons attended the Smith-Livingstone game: Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Young, Miss Jennie Young and Mrs. W. D. Hall.

Prof. J. P. Sartor was called home on account of the death of his brother. We sympathize with him in his sore bereavement.

Mr. Walter Harry, of Philadelphia, a former student of Harbison, spent a few days on the campus recently.

We were glad to welcome the McClelland Presbytery to our church and community. It was inspiring to have in our midst men and women who are working so hard to hold up the banner of the cross.

Sunday morning, April eleventh, the congregation and friends listened to a forceful sermon preached by Rev. J. E. Jackson, Moderator of the Presbytery. His subject was, "The Reward of Faithfulness," Numbers 13th chapter, 30th verse.

Miss Lucy L. Notestein, of New York, a member of the Board of National Missions, spent two or three days on our campus. She visited our class rooms and spoke highly of the work being done. While here she had the pleasure of meeting the Presbytery. Her talks were inspiring and full of information.

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