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

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DR. H. B. TAYLOR ELECTED COMMISSIONER TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

His Ability Early Recognized by Washington City Presbytery—History of the Fifteenth Street Church.

By Elder John Edgar Smith

Editor Africo-American Presbyterian: We are presenting to the readers of the Africo with this article the likeness of Rev. H. B. Taylor, D. D., pastor of Fifteenth Street Presbyterian church, Washington, D. C. It will be recalled that less than a year ago Dr. Taylor was called to the pastorate of this church, whose organization dates back to 1841.

Recently unusual honors have come to Rev. Dr. Taylor in his election by Washington City Presbytery as one of the three ministerial commissioners to the General Assembly which meets in Baltimore this month. In a field of six nominees Dr. Taylor ran second. His election is all the more worthy of note when it is recalled that of the forty churches comprising this Presbytery, only three are colored.

For 85 years the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian church has made itself felt in this community. On Nov. 21, 1841, in a little frame schoolhouse located near the corner of Fourteenth and H Streets, Northwest, the present Fifteenth Street Presbyterian church was organized. The year Frederick Douglass made his first speech and started on his great career of Presbyterianism among men of color in this city had its beginning. The church was formally received into Presbytery, May 9, 1842.

This organization of a church in a schoolhouse is indicative of the close relationship existing between the two, even in those early days. Special literary training, coupled with Christian piety, is the first essential required of the Presbyterian minister today. Of the 19 charter members 18 were Presbyterians when they enrolled in this new organization. Thus it may be seen that then, as now, the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian church made no attempt to weaken other churches by drawing upon their membership.

Rev. John C. Cook was the first pastor of the church; David Carroll, elder; and Charles Bruce, Alfred Cook, David Carroll, Clement Talbert and William Prator, trustees.

Rev. Mr. Cook served the church until his death, 13 years later. During his ministry the membership increased to 120, among them being many of Washington's most influential citizens of color.

Membership Increase

In 1857 Rev. William Catts, of Philadelphia, accepted the call. During his pastorate nearly a hundred persons joined the church.

After his resignation, Rev. Hiram Revels, afterwards United States Senator from Mississippi, was elected pastor, but declined. An invitation was then extended to Rev. Benjamin T. Tanner, of Pittsburgh, to supply the pulpit, and so satisfactorily did he do so that on February 28, 1861, he was, by an almost unanimous vote, elected pastor. Rev. Mr. Tanner was subsequently elected a bishop in the A. M. E. Church.

Rev. William B. Evans served as stated supply, from November, 1863, until March, 1864, when Rev. Henry Highland Garnett, of New York City, was unanimously elected pastor. During his pastorate here, upon invitation, he delivered a sermon to the House of Representatives.

Following Rev. Mr. Garnett, Rev. J. B. Reeve, of Philadelphia, was unanimously elected pastor, on April 13, 1867. He declined. Rev. J. H. Muse was

then employed as stated supply for six months, following which, on February 26, 1868, Rev. Henry Highland Garnett was again elected. He declined and Rev. J. Sella Martin was chosen in his place.

Chaplain of Senate

Next came Dr. Sepimus Quentin, once chaplain of the United States Senate; Rev. J. B. Reeve, dean of the Theological Department of Howard University; Rev. George Van Deurs, and Rev. John Brown, a Scotchman.

The connection of Rev. F. J. Grimke, D.D., with the church



REV. H. B. TAYLOR, D. D.

began in 1877, while he was yet a student of Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1878, before his graduation, a call was extended him which was accepted, and save for three years, 1885-1888, spent in Florida in search of health, he has continued as pastor until the present time.

By an amicable arrangement the burden of the work now rests upon Rev. H. B. Taylor, D.D., his assistant, a classical and theological graduate of Johnson C. Smith University (formerly Biddle) who is rendering very acceptable service. Dr. Taylor began this active pastorate of the church in June, 1925.

The church building at the corner of Fifteenth and R Streets, Northwest, is valued at approximately \$75,000 and is free of debt. In addition, the church owns its own manse which it bought for cash last year. The membership now is approximately 500, and it is significant or the present healthy spiritual condition that 22 children on a recent Sabbath came forward to join the church.

REV. S. J. ELLIS TO PUBLISH BEAUTIFUL LYRICS AND CLASS ROOM ACCESSORIES.

Dear Mr. Editor: It will probably be of interest to the friends, students and congregations of the Rev. S. J. Ellis, the able and versatile minister and Principal of our field, to hear that he will soon publish three beautiful lyrics in sheet music form. It may truly be said of each of these songs as has already been said by noted musicians concerning the first one to be completed: "It is a beautiful number and worthy of a place in every home." The titles of these beautiful numbers are "Mother, She's The One," "The Price of Love," and "Jehovah-Jireh." The first one is one of the most beautiful and touching tributes ever paid to mother. The second bears a special message, a

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QUICKENING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF OUR CHURCHES

By Rev. S. D. Thom, D. D.

(Read at the last Workers' Conference, Chester, S. C.)

To my mind this is a very important subject, seeing the condition of our churches throughout the country. It is a known fact that during a revival many people come into the church, but very soon they drift away again. One of the reasons is they come into a dead church; the reception is chilly; they are made to feel that they are not wanted.

The second reason is they see no gripping program of the church and nothing appealing is given them to do. This causes many pastors to become discouraged as year after year the churches seem to be at a standstill—non-responsive, dead and ready for the undertaker. I say many pastors give up hope of quickening their churches, turn aside to other endeavors and treat the churches as side lines. In doing this they have no message for the people and while other churches are crowded with anxious worshippers theirs are forsaken and stand as monuments of shame.

How may we correct this condition and enlist the devotion of every member to this cause? The mission of the church in the world must be made clear to every member. Some think that to become a member of a church is to build up a society of "four hundreds" and beat in the community that they have the "cream in town." Those having this conception of the church shut the door against the masses and demand of every one seeking admission not an experimental knowledge of Christianity but his social standing in the community.

It must be clear to the mind of every member of the church that the mission of the church is to give the gospel to the world regardless of the man's color, condition or where he lives. The man may be a jailbird, a bandit, a drunkard, or she may be the worse woman in the community. Jesus is depending on every Christian to bring the gospel to every outcast.

Every member must know that the mission of the church is to establish upon the earth those principles which will result in the inter-racial, political and international goodwill of the world. First of all it is required that every church member live up to those principles and practice them in his dealings with men regardless of their nationality.

Look at the interracial conflicts all over the world—race against race; every race has its own god, prays to him; but the God who made of one blood all men to dwell upon the face of the earth is yet unknown.

The mission of the church is to remove selfishness and crime from the earth. Materialism is enthroned. The cry is, gold! gold! Selfishness is a cancer, eating the souls of men and women. Men are bent upon advancing their own interests regardless of the sufferings it brings upon others. The same spirit is in the church today. People have not the time to do the Lord's work, and those who are best prepared feel that church work is for those people who have nothing to do. We are experiencing what Paul meant when he said, "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world."

Having shown clearly the program of the church, the next thing is to prepare them to carry it out. Where shall we begin? We must begin where Christ himself began, when the program of man's redemption

was handed Him. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him, He became Spirit-filled and He insisted upon His disciples to have the same unction to prepare them for the task. In turn the Apostles insisted that every member must have the same qualifications to render him fit to do the will of Jesus.

We today insist that the preacher first of all be Spirit-filled; and from his devotion to the cause, and from the richness of his spiritual experience cause the Christ life to be born in the members.

The Spirit exercises a twofold function in quickening. First, He acts like a dynamo, generating in the soul spiritual energy, driving the possessed as Jesus Himself was driven so that his actions were no longer his own but Spirit-directed. This great dynamo will urge to fellowship with God. The possessed will live in a spiritual atmosphere, will have a consciousness of God's presence and fellowship with Him will be real and pleasant. No wonder writes John, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you that ye may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

The Spirit will not only be a dynamo generating spiritual power, but also will be as dynamite in one's life. The work of the dynamite is to blast deep-seated and stubborn objects; objects above the strength of ordinary man.

Go to Stone Mountain where the statues of heroes of the civil strife are carved. There will you see the dynamite working, blasting solid granite, hurling massive rocks hundreds of feet. I say it reverently. The great dynamite tore up from the breast of Jesus the spirit of selfishness. In the three-fold temptation it was an appeal to His selfishness to be self-centered, to use the God-given gifts to forward selfish ends. I say this was blasted out of His soul and Jesus returned from His retirement where He fought and won. He returned in the dynamo of the Spirit into Galilee and His fame went before Him from Dan to Beersheba; and His public teachings were so impressive that they arrested everyone who heard them and communities followed Him to hear the word of life.

The same quickening influence which came to Jesus came to His disciples. They were Spirit-filled men. They went out in the power of the Spirit; the great dynamite broke down opposition and wrought so mightily that thousands became obedient to the faith. Is that all? They were men and women such as we see walking on the streets of our cities and in our pews on Sundays. They lived in a material age. They were selfish as we are today. That first great work of that great dynamite blasted out of them selfishness. No man looked at his prosperity as his own, but to be used for the brotherhood and the evangelization of the world. They had fellowship with God and with one another: they had one heart and one purpose. They attended the school of Christ and were indoctrinated into the principles of the kingdom; they forsook not the assembling of themselves together.

The whole gospel must be preached. It must be personal, such as Nathan used when he looked straight into the eyes of King David and said, "Thou art the man," bringing conviction

and repentance. This will help to have in the churches converted people.

A missionary gospel must also be preached. They must see that the gospel is the only hope of the world. They must be led into the missionary spirit by knowing the Home and Foreign fields. To this end the literature of the Home and Foreign fields must be studied in classes and the activities of the general Church must be made familiar.

A satisfying gospel must also be preached. The gospel is sufficient to satisfy the craving of the soul, to meet all its needs and to give a certainty of a place in the home of the blessed. A man said to me the other day, "I know I am heaven bound; hell was not made for me and it is only a matter of time when I'll put on the golden shoes and walk the streets of the New Jerusalem." That same man seldom attends church services and gives nothing for the support and spread of the gospel.

A social gospel must also be preached. It is not enough to know that the gospel is suited for the whole world. It is not enough to be sure of heaven, but one must be interested in the remaking of this world and give a helping hand to the man or woman who fell among thieves. How easy to pass on the other side!

It must be known that Jesus is depending upon every one of His followers to better the social condition of this community. The poor must have a living wage; they must be properly housed and have sanitation as good as the man living on the hill. Naked children must be clothed and fed; and outcasts sought in the dives of sin and brought back to the family circle.

In preaching the whole gospel each member will find his place of activity and go about doing good.

To this end the pastor must humble himself before God and confess and repent of his worldly-mindedness and from the depth of his soul beseech heaven in fervent prayer for a pentecostal shower in order that his charge may see its duty to the community and the world at large. When the church is quickened, men and women and children off the streets will be won; for every member will go preaching Christ in speech, action and living. There will be no trouble to raise the church's budget; the Boards will no longer borrow money to do the members' work, but money will flow into the treasury and not very long the world will be won for Christ.

BARBER COLLEGE NEWS

By Myrtle Brodie

On Sunday morning, April the 25th, Rev. Rice preached an unusually fine sermon to us from St. John 21 and the latter clauses of the 21st and 22nd verses. He urged each one of us to take Christ as our guide and follow Him through life.

The Presbytery of Birmingham met April 14-18 at the Mount Calvary Presbyterian church of which Rev. Rice is pastor. The teachers and students received much inspiration from this Presbytery, for during our devotional hour each morning, we were favored by interesting talks from several of the ministers.

Those who spoke to us were: Rev. Henry L. Peterson, D. D., of Memphis; Rev. D. S. Collier, Okolona, Miss.; Rev. P. A. White, D. D., Keeling, Tenn.; Rev. W. M. Sample, Birmingham.

ham, and Rev. Vanhorn Murray, West Point, Miss.

On Sunday morning during our Sunday school hour, Dr. Baker gave quite an interesting talk to the school. Space will not allow me to mention all of our visitors, however we shall keep in mind the wonderful and helpful talks given by the friends and members of this Presbytery.

The Program Committee of East Tennessee Synodical Convention and School of Methods met at Barber College on April 21 to make out a program for the ensuing year and to make plans for the School of Methods. During this time, Mr. J. M. Somerndike and Dr. A. B. McCoy were with us and gave short yet helpful talks.

Our chorus rendered for the Presbytery and also for the Committee a program, and Mr. Somerndike showed his appreciation of the music by treating the chorus and students to ice cream, which well repaid the chorus for their efforts.

Since the arrival of spring and her cohorts which have made the campus a place of beauty, our vesper services are held out of doors. The blue sky, the stars, and the moon over us express silently God's love and care for us. On a recent evening after several spirituals had been sung by the students, Miss Mary Doolittle expressed in choice words the beauty of music and told how we should keep music in our lives in order to have an all-round life.

Several evenings ago the play entitled, "Nothing But Love," was repeated for the public, and in connection with it the Senior class of the High School Department gave a social. The evening was spent pleasantly by all who were present.

During the month of March, the Silver Medal Contest, to which the students had long looked forward was held in the chapel. Each speaker was at her best, and the judges declared that each deserved a prize, though the medal was given to Myrtle Brodie. The contest with the remaining girls was held a few days later and Ida Scott Cooper was the winner of this. At present the student looked forward, was held in the Gold Medal Contest which will be held some time in May. The speakers in this contest will be only those who have won the Silver Medals.

The Erathomeus club is having some most interesting meetings now. Several lovely poems written by Miss Smith, one of our advisors, were read at the last meeting. A better place for a poet could not be found than Barber.

Our Y. W. C. A. meetings are very peppy. Our Dean, Miss A. Kinniburgh, talked to us at the last meeting about "The Ideal Girl."

All that can be heard upon the campus now is "Commencement" which will take place on May 25th. We are hoping to end up this term with great accomplishments.

The last monthly concert was given by the chorus Sunday, April 25th. Special mention may be made of the following pieces, "The Heavens Are Telling," by Haydn. "By the Waters of Babylon," by Coleridge-Taylor, and a vocal solo, "His Almighty Hand," by Miss Helen Jones.

The closing exercises of Red Stone Academy, Lumberton, will be held May 18th-19th. Sunday, May 16th, the annual sermon will be preached by Rev. P. P. Johnson, of Maxton. The graduating exercises will take place Wednesday, May 19, at which time the annual address will be delivered by Dr. C. H. Shute, of Johnson C. Smith University.