

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. XLIX.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1927.

NO. 32.

THE LIFTING POWER OF PRAYER

By Rev. S. D. Thom, D. D.
Synodical Evangelist.

When Charles Lindbergh started his non-stop flight from New York to Paris in his monoplane, "The Spirit of St. Louis," with a few sandwiches, without a radio outfit, with 448 gallons of gasoline weighing 3,584 pounds besides his own weight and the weight of oil and other instruments he was called the "Flying Fool." It was thought his plane could hardly have lifted itself from the ground and escaped the entanglements of telegraph poles and trees, nevertheless he rose higher and higher, sailing over and under clouds and sleet storms and at last landed at Paris with victory on his lips, "I did it." He demonstrated the inward power that lodged in his soul and today the world is singing his praise, and the nobility of Europe and America are vying to honor the hero of air, sea and land.

To convince the world of the lifting power of prayer and how attained it was necessary for Jesus to demonstrate the inward power gained through prayer. "And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship and go before him unto the other side while he sent the multitude away. And when he had sent the multitude away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray. And on the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea."

Prayer to lift must give out a faith that will grasp God with the grip of a bulldog when eyes, ears—the senses—are closed to physical limitations, when one is constrained to believe by an inward urge that God will not fail him. This faith is not gained by any sudden flight but by a steady upward climb of the soul as seeing Him who is invisible. Prayer deals with spiritual values and it is the only means to come in possession of them. Men of old discovered this power to lift in the spirit world and discarded the things of time and sense to get hold of it. "By faith Moses choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season."

It causes the soul to become conscious of a never-failing power at its command. Man is so constituted that he does not do much unless he is conscious of the possibility. The air is conquered because daring spirits believed and became conscious that it could be done. In the spirit-world when the human soul by communion with God becomes conscious that the power of the Eternal is at his command soul-energy is set in motion to prove the truthfulness of the promise. "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

Will venture to do the impossible. Jesus walked on the water and was upheld by a strange power. The water did not congeal under his feet, for the billows were dashing as usual, to convince every doubter that this power is transferable, that it can be in the command of the humblest saint, if he or she fulfills the condition. So surprised was Peter when he saw Jesus walking upon the water, that he said, "If it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come." And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. The same power that kept Jesus from sinking held Peter also. Jesus ventured to do the impossible, strengthened by prayer on the mountain top with his Father; through Jesus Peter did the same thing.

To get this power to do the impossible connection with God must be made. "Abide in me, and I in you." Jesus made His abode in the Father, fellowship and

companionship were sweet and He told His disciples and us, if we are to realize the uplifting power of prayer to do wonders in His name we must tarry at the foot of the cross in prayer to receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon us. There is a Pentecost for all who wait and expect the blessing.

It is lifting upon a higher plane in the realm of the Spirit making one to become a superman. Hero worship in the physical world will never die; for when one does the extraordinary, the thrill like a cannon ball goes bouncing through one. At the transfiguration, Peter, James and John had a view of the benefit of living in that high plane of the Spirit. It was at the time Jesus was praying that He was lifted out of the ordinary, and glory broke out from the inside; his raiment became exceedingly white, His face shone with a radiance that belonged to inhabitants of the spirit-world. The thrill went through the chosen three and so overcame them that Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." The higher plane is the place of transfiguration, a place where the believer puts on divine energy; where he becomes a spiritual superman, setting in motion a force to transform those living at the foot hills and in the valleys.

The hindrance to the lifting power of prayer. Peter walked on the sea but as soon as he began to doubt he began to sink. Peter was wavering; he was holding a little and letting go. A wavering soul hinders the Almighty, blocks the divine current from flowing into his life; it is a return to the physical while he pretends to dwell in the spiritual and he sinks under his own weight of unbelief.

The will must be brought under divine direction and this will enable one to see things as God sees them and the cry of his soul will be, "Thy will be done." This is the meaning of the admonition, "Rejoice in tribulation." "We are counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." The lifting power of prayer has to do with the help we will be able to give a dying world. Jesus became a man among men. He knew His Father as a trusted friend and He became conscious that the power of the Eternal was at His disposal, says, "All power is given to me in heaven and on earth." Jesus wanted His disciples to know that they are sharers with Him of this power and they can do greater works than he did.

Through the lifting power of prayer men were drawn into the kingdom not only on the day of Pentecost but wherever men have taken away the hindrance out of their lives. This gives a fuller insight of the mind of God. The last word is not yet spoken for Jesus says, "I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." This is revealed only to those who live in the higher plane of intercourse with the Father through Christ.

This will make the giving of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. The converts of Samaria received the Spirit after Peter lay hands on them. God never meant the laying on of hands today to be an empty form, but should carry with it all the blessings which He deigns, provided those that perform the ceremony meet the condition.

It will make possible the salvation of sinners. "The prayer of the righteous availeth much." The preaching of the gospel and the prayer of the saints—preaching and praying in the Holy Ghost are the only means to wake up sinners from

the sleep of death and make them alive in Christ Jesus. If conditions are not met the one who ministers mocks His divine majesty and poses a stumbling block in the way of sinners.

It makes possible also the healing of the sick. While medicine should not be discarded for God so provided that some herb shall be for food to nourish and build up life; He also provided others to preserve life by aiding nature in throwing off things that derange the system. It is also true that the prayer will reach the sick and restore them to health. The weapon is put in the hand of the believer by Christ Himself—a weapon not to destroy life but to help suffering humanity. There is a tendency today to frown at those who exercise themselves in this gift but as days come and go men have clearer insight of the redemption of both body and soul—the whole man, more emphasis will be placed on divine healing. Why should it be thought the day of spiritual healing is passed when the day of prayer for the conversion of sinners is not passed? Both are matters of the same faith and faith is the victory that overcometh the world. Healing of the body is a picture of healing of the soul and those who desire to become recipients of this blessing must understand the meaning of it.

When Jesus found the man whom He had healed He said, "Behold, thou art healed, sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee." Healing of the body by means of prayer or laying on of hands must be regarded as a kind of sacrament; that restoration of health by divine agency, is a new lease on life not to be lived to forward sin but to be devoted to the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom. To help a cripple to health to repeat the acts that brought on sickness and sorrow is simply helping one to continue in sin that grace may abound.

Atlanta, Ga.
LEONARD STREET CHURCH NOTES, CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

"Never put off today 'till tomorrow, What you can do today; That's what the old time proverb, And old-time people say; But I say put off 'till tomorrow, Your worry and fret and gloom, Keep steady and sweet all day today, For tomorrow has never yet come."

If Rev. Barber had kept the sermon that he delivered Sunday until tomorrow, I am sure we would have missed a great treat. In spite of a very rainy day there were eager listeners present to hear the message of Christ.

"It never rains unless it pours," is an old saying; however, we find that it is true. We have felt showers of rain and we have had showers of blessings poured upon us today.

The third of a series of "Midsummer Musicals" was given at the Sunday evening service, under the direction of Mrs. J. A. Mann. A splendid program was received by a large and appreciative audience.

Rev. Barber and a delegation of our young people from various organizations of the church will leave Monday, August 8, motoring to Knoxville, Tenn., to attend the School of Methods. Others are expecting to attend during the latter part of the week, and all are looking forward to the School of Methods with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm.

Beginning with the present notes, the Publicity Committee of the Leonard Street church will consist of Misses Mary F. Wilson and A. Louise Davis.

FROM JETERSVILLE, VIRGINIA.

Rally for the Neil's Memorial Building Fund.

As the prize is not given to the fleet nor to the strong we are delighted to say, we have started on a journey, the goal of which is the completion of a church at this place to be known as Neil's Memorial. Yesterday July 31st, was our first rally day, and we had a representative congregation. Our church was comfortably filled. Many of those present were personally known to Mrs. Neil. Our pastor, Rev. W. H. Shepperson, preached from II Samuel 24: 24, emphasizing the following verse, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God that which doth cost me nothing." The discourse was ably delivered. Rev. Shepperson was at his best. I have never heard him preach better.

The Jetersville work was started by Mrs. Neil in 1885, just 19 years after her real beginning at Big Oak, Amelia Co. It may be interesting to know that the work was started as a mission Sunday school in an old farm house which yet stands 1 1/2 miles from the present site of our church. Be it known that at this time Mrs. Neil was not living on our field but 3 1/2 miles away and it not being a day of automobiles and motor transportation, her only means of going from place to place as a ministering angel to the ignorant and suffering was an old horse called "John." These 3 1/2 miles were driven every Sabbath morning for some months.

and surroundings and came to Jetersville to live in one room, eat in another, and teach in a third room of the aforementioned farm house. The first lady who came to our field to help Mrs. Neil 42 years ago has kept up with our progress all these years and yet has kept interest in us and our work, so much so that the first money placed on the table in our rally yesterday was \$25 from her, Miss Mary A. Fitzgerald. Following this was placed a contribution of \$6.00 from Miss Edna May Burkwell, one of Ingleside's instructors, and so on from churches, members and friends, until our number rounded up \$106.76. We feel deeply grateful to those who gave to our rally, and later when we have heard from all of the churches to which we sent cards, and friends who gave us \$1.00 or more we shall publish a list of same.

In the congregation yesterday were to be found Mr. J. E. Wingo, who accompanied Mrs. Neil to Jetersville on her first trip; Mrs. Sarah Paige Brown, who was a pupil in this first Sunday school; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown, who were the first to be married in this Allen Memorial church in 1890. The ceremony was performed by the late Rev. J. M. Rittenhouse, at that time of Nottoway, C. H. Mrs. Neil's Mission Sunday school soon outgrew the farm house room and hence a school building was erected. Yes, a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. A church was established and the school building remodeled and used as church and now our Sunday school of 100 scholars and the church membership are sadly in need of a more commodious and modern place of worship. Hence we are saying to all who are interested in the great work and those who feel in their hearts the working of the Golden Rule, "Come over into Macedonia and help us" to build Neil's Memorial church.

The Daily Vacation Bible School at Jetersville was a signal success. It was organized and supervised by Miss Annie Brodie, of Charlotte, N. C., for one week. It ran from July 11 to 29th inclusive. The instructors were: Principal, Miss Marcia Shepperson; Primary class, Miss Viola Wilkerson; Junior class, Miss Maggie Ford; Sr. and Intermediates, Mrs. S. P. Brown; Industrial work, boys, Miss Christine Riley; girls, Miss Sadie Anderson; Music, Miss Eve John Brown. The enrollment was 56, and the average attendance, 45.

Many pupils deserve honorable mention for regular attendance and splendid deportment. Hurrah for our D. V. B. S. We hope for six weeks next year. We thank all who helped to make it a success. In the Master's service, MRS. SARAH PAIGE BROWN.

URBAN LEAGUE AWARDS SOCIAL SERVICE TRAINING FELLOWSHIP.

The National Urban League through its Executive Secretary, Eugene Kinckle Jones, has announced its Fellowship awards for the 1927-28 school year. Miss L. Genevieve Lomax was awarded the "Ella Sachs Plotz Fellowship" at the New York School of Social Work. Miss Lomax is an honor graduate of Howard University, class 1927, having graduated with Magna Cum Laude. She is a native of Bluefield, W. Va.

The Joint Fellowship maintained by the New York School of Social Work and the National Urban League, was awarded to Cecil D. Halliburton, graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, class of 1923. He is a native of Hickman, Kentucky.

The third award was to Floyd J. C. ... of the University of Pittsburgh where his field work will be associated with the Urban League of Pittsburgh which pays one-half of the fellowship.

These students will receive tuition scholarships from the schools to which they are assigned and their living expenses from the Urban League—the total value of the fellowship amounting to around a thousand dollars each. There were seventy-five applicants for the fellowships—of which fifty-two took the competitive examination based upon which the final selections were made.

During the past sixteen years the League has had about fifty "Fellowships" in training practically all of whom are actively engaged in social work—many of them leaders in their field.

ETHEL (MISS.) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Rev. V. H. Murray and his daughter, Miss Lina C. Murray, conducted a Daily Vacation Bible School at Ethel. The school was fine. The enrollment was 80. The school opened July 25th and closed on the 29th. The number of boys was 38 and girls, 49. Miss Lina C. Murray taught the Senior class and Mrs. C. Dobson was teacher of the Primary class and Mrs. Eliza Barr was teacher of the Juniors. Mrs. Maggie McCain helped in teaching the girls needle work and Rev. Murray taught the boys many games. Some of the boys won nice Bibles. Among the boys that won a Bible were Ira Dobson and Richard Drake. The little boys made some nice tie racks. Three of them will be carried to the School of Methods at Knoxville, Tenn.

Everyone enjoyed the school and hopes that it will be two weeks next year. Many helpful things were learned at the school. May God bless Rev. Murray and his daughter.

S. D. DOBBS.

If you keep a good joke to yourself two days you'll find that everybody's heard it.—Sel.

THE NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 30th.—The program for the twenty-eighth session of the National Negro Business League which will be held in St. Louis, Mo., August 10, 11, and 12, was released today and contains many interesting topics bearing upon the needs and requirements of modern business.

The Thursday morning session will be devoted to a full discussion of the general subject of Organization Management. Among the men who will discuss management from the viewpoint of their particular lines are: Banks, Major N. R. Wright, Philadelphia; Insurance Companies, J. E. Johnson, Secretary, Security Life Insurance Company, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Newspapers, Roscoe Dungee, Editor Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Retail Grocery Store, Chauncey Hudson, Valdosta, Ga.; Retail Dry Goods, H. A. Smith, St. Louis; Department Store, T. J. Elliott, Muskogee, Oklahoma; Schools, J. R. E. Lee, Jr., A. & M. College, Tallahassee, Florida; Hospitals, Walter S. Burke, Business Executive, United States Veterans' Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama; Churches, R. B. Hudson, Secretary, National Baptist Convention, Selma, Alabama; Fraternal Organizations, P. D. Davis, Birmingham, Alabama; Building and Loan, Don A. Davis, Hampton Institute and Advertising and Selling, C. Benjamin Curley, New York City.

After the welcome addresses at the opening session on Wednesday morning, August 10, there will be a discussion of the subject of

by Robert L. Vann, Editor of the Pittsburgh Courier. Other speakers invited to speak on the same subject include: A. M. Shearin, Manager Southern Fidelity and Surety Company of Durham; R. R. Taylor, Jr., Secretary, Chicago Mortgage and Credit Company; Douglass B. Fullwood, Manager, Michigan Peoples' Finance Corporation, Detroit; J. Alston Atkins, Manager, Safe Loan and Investment Company, Houston, Texas.

Negro Trade Week Campaigns will be discussed Friday morning by George W. Powell, President of the Jacksonville League and George W. Lee, representing the Memphis League. Sam H. Reading will tell about the Philadelphia Better Business Show held last March.

Women are represented on the program by Mrs. Annie M. Malone who discusses "The Negro Woman in Business," and Miss Thira J. Edwards, of Gary, Indiana, who speaks on the subject, "What the Woman Who Buys Expects of the Man Who Sells."

Dr. Robert R. Moton, President of the National League, will deliver his annual address on Wednesday evening, August 10, at the Tabernacle Baptist church.

Other special speakers of the sessions include: C. C. Spaulding whose subject is, "Danger Signs in Business;" Anthony Overton, President Douglass National Bank and the Victory Life Insurance Company, Chicago; Rienzi B. Lemus of the Brotherhood of Dining Car Employees; A. Philip Randolph, Organizer of the Brotherhood of Pullman Car Porters; Arthur W. Mitchell, President, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; Jesse O. Thomas, Field Secretary National Urban League; Dr. M. W. Dogan, President, Wiley College; Dr. J. S. Clarke, President, Southern University; C. E. Coles, President, National Builders Association; H. C. Matney Commercial Department, Bluefield, West Virginia, Institute.

Bishop R. E. Jones, of the M. E. Church, Vice-Chairman of the

(Continued on page 4)