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

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## EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS AT ROGERSVILLE AND KNOXVILLE, TENN.

By Rev. L. B. West, D. D.

It was my privilege to conduct the week of prayer at Swift Memorial College, Rogersville, Tennessee. Swift College is a monument to the indefatigable labors of Dr. W. H. Franklin. The college is now guided by that capable and far-seeing educator, Dr. C. E. Tucker. I found the school in fine shape. The physical surroundings are pleasing to the eye. The students are alert and seem anxious to get what Swift has to offer. The teachers are from some of our leading institutions of learning, Fisk, De Pauw, Howard, Drake, J. C. Smith, Lincoln and Marquette. It is the aim of President and teachers to make Swift one of the finest Junior Colleges in the South. They are bending every energy to this end. The educational, moral and religious standard at Swift is high. Teachers and students are a fine looking group.

The students and faculty entered heartily into the week of prayer. Each day at eleven thirty o'clock we assembled in the school chapel where the Scripture was read, prayer offered and songs were sung. Then followed a twenty-minute address setting forth some phase of the Christian life. The spiritual atmosphere was intense. Serious minded listeners greeted the speaker.

The evening services were held in St. Mark's Presbyterian church which joins the campus. There are three colored churches in Rogersville—A. M. E. Zion, Christian and Presbyterian. The members of the Methodist and Christian churches co-operated nicely in the night services. A warm season of song and prayer preceded the preaching each evening, so that when the preacher stood up to talk, he faced those whose hearts were prepared for the reception of God's truth. The evangelistic spirit dominated these meetings. Sinners were urged to yield their lives to Christ and Christians were challenged to a higher level of Christian living. The results were encouraging. Christians pledged themselves "for a closer walk with God," and five persons accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Two who had wandered away from the fold were restored.

The Sunday services were held in the church. We had a glorious day. Large crowds greeted us and the spiritual interest was high. An appeal was made at the close of the sermon and two were saved. Dr. Tucker, in a very solemn and impressive ceremony, administered the Sacrament of Baptism to four persons.

Then came the reception of new members into the church, followed by the observance of the Lord's Supper. We had a spiritual feast. The night service was lively and inspiring.

The ministers, Revs. Robinson and Bradley, of the churches mentioned above, rendered valuable assistance. Dr. Tucker and Dr. W. C. Hargrave were untiring in their efforts. Their words of counsel and earnest appeals had much to do with the success of the services.

Everything was done for the comfort of the visiting preacher. He was snugly housed at the college and took his meals with the college family. It was a privilege to march in and out of that dining room keeping step with the boys and girls to the strains of melodious music. Put the town folks did not forget us. A spacious repast was given in the dining room of the church to which the ministers were invited and on the last day of the services the minis-

ters were again served to an appetizing supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Childress. And not only that, the college and church gave the visiting minister an appreciative free will offering.

Dr. Tucker is dreaming for Swift and making his dreams come true. He is ably assisted by Mrs. Tucker, who is a tireless worker.

I found Dr. Franklin in bed. He has been sick for several weeks but he has not lost his smile. He was cheerful and hopeful. Swift is still dear to his heart, and he glories in the progress that she is making. He and Mrs. Franklin seem to be happy and take pleasure in seeing their friends. They are enjoying a well-earned rest.

### East Vine, Knoxville

From Rogersville, I went to Knoxville to be with my friend, Dr. S. A. Downer, and his good people of East Vine Presbyterian church. We had almost a perfect week so far as weather was concerned at Rogersville, but on reaching Knoxville the mercury dropped and kept on tumbling down until Sunday morning, January 19, it was 7 degrees above zero. It came pretty near ruining our attendance. But we carried on. And what glorious meetings! Night after night we came together with expectant hearts and God did not disappoint us. The climax was reached on Sunday morning when four precious souls surrendered their young lives to Jesus in the presence of a large congregation whose eyes were wet with tears. It was a solemn moment. These young people became members of East Vine church. All of the services were inspirational. The singing, led by Dr. Downer, was uplifting, and men and women prayed fervently. A spirit of earnestness gripped the members. They sought a deeper consecration, and gave themselves anew to the task of winning souls for their Master.

The members of East Vine church are enthusiastic and greatly encouraged because they have as their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Downer. The outlook for a thriving, soul-gathering church is bright. Dr. Downer, apart from his scholarly attainments and natural gifts as a preacher and organizer, takes to East Vine the tested experience of former pastorates. Dr. Downer has a trusted and consecrated ally in Mrs. Downer, his good wife, who holds up his hands as he pushes the work of the Lord forward.

It was again my great delight to be the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Downer during my stay in Knoxville. They know how to make you want to come back. I also enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Fowler. Mr. Fowler is an elder in East Vine and Mrs. Fowler is one of the leading workers.

The funeral of Miss Mildred Williams was conducted at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Johnson, of Knoxville, Tenn., on Thursday afternoon, January 16th, at 2:30 o'clock. The Rev. S. A. Downer, D. D., pastor of East Vine Presbyterian church, was the officiating clergyman. He was assisted by the Rev. S. W. Smith and the Rev. L. B. West, D. D., of Charlotte. Mildred, as she was familiarly known, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williams. She was a frail child and although great care was taken to preserve her health she quietly slipped away on Tuesday, January 14, while working on a bit of embroidery. Mildred was just 14 years of age, but was an

active Christian in Shiloh Presbyterian church. Dr. Downer, in his eulogy, said that Mildred was connected with more Christian organizations in her short life than many people who have had longer years of existence. She was a kind and gentle child and was winsome in her manners. Dr. Downer spoke of her reverence for her parents and those older than she. He also called attention to her industry, referring to the fact that she was at work when she died.

A large group of sorrowing friends joined the relatives as Mildred's body was laid to rest in Park City Cemetery.

## HOW FAR SHALL I GO WITH THE CROWD

This question of how far one should go with the crowd has perplexed mankind for centuries. All revolutionary movements in history, all reforms, all new achievements have faced the burning question of how long will society be tolerated. How long will present conditions and environments remain the same? When shall people break away from the things that now exist?

When the Renaissance of Europe swept away the tradition of foolish superstitions of the past, bringing in science to teach men how to think, ushering forth new literature, informing men how to live, giving new thoughts about religion in order that mankind might have better standards, it had to answer the question of how far it would go with the crowd.

When Milton and Cromwell sacrificed their energies to make England pass the Bill of Rights and to forever free the English Commons from the clutches of greedy kings, they had to face the question of how far shall I go with the crowd?

When Patrick Henry, John Adams and George Washington rebelled against the idea that America should be taxed without representation in the English Parliament, they organized themselves into a union to throw off the yoke of foreign tyrants. They, too, had to face the question of how far should I go with the crowd?

When John Calvin, one of the great reformers of the Middle Ages, organized and formulated the beliefs of our own Presbyterian Church, he also pondered with the question of how far he should go with the crowd. This question has not only confronted nations, governments and societies, but it has faced the individual as well.

The questions then come to us as believers and workers in Christian service: How far shall we be swept with the streams of our associates, our environments? What can youth do in solving the problem?

In the first place, when conditions tear down our character, we should separate ourselves from them. A man's habits and character are usually the product of his surroundings. If the influence of his environments are bad, his character is likely to be immoral. If they are good, his general make-up will be good. A man can not have high moral standards if he allows others to persuade him into habits which will deteriorate the ideals and nobleness of his nature. There is not any use to build up standards of virtue, piety, good will and honesty, and let bad influence tear them down. The very lives of people around are full of how boys and girls have gone to ruin because they allowed others to tear down the noble ideals that mother taught. It, therefore, appears that one should leave the crowd when moral standards are crushed.

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## ST. JAMES CHURCH GREENSBORO

Sunday, January 19, the young people took charge of the service during the entire day. Rev. H. C. Miller based his discourse to the youth on Eccle. 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Rev. 3:8, "Behold I have set before thee an open door. Luke 12:48, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be required much."

From the theme, "What Will Youth Reply," the speaker stressed, Making God Fundamental while young; the splendid opportunities presented to youth requirements because of these opportunities. The Junior choir, under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Barber, rendered many choice selections. The day was closed with a musical program by the young people. Messrs. Gaston Meares, Jr., and Norris Wood and Miss Pauline Wood lifted the collection. Misses Susie Miller, Louis McRae and Marian Miller were the ushers.

Sunday, January 26, Rev. Miller spoke from I Cor. 10:13, using as a theme, "A Way Out." The speaker urged his hearers to hold fast during these days of stress and strain, declaring that God will not over-load His children; that in every emergency there is a way out, if we but wait and work while waiting.

Sunday night, a drama sermon, "The Prodigal," written by Rev. Miller, was presented to a well-filled house. The sermon was delivered in three acts, of two scenes each. The music for the drama was taken from the cantata, "The Prodigal Son." Mr. W. L. McNair, Jr., acted the part of the younger son, Rev. Miller, the father; Mrs. G. A. Bridges, the mother; Mr. W. S. Barber, the citizen; Messrs. Ed. Jones and Alvin Oldham, pals of the younger son; Bruce Miller, messenger.

Special solo parts were assigned Prof. A. D. Lomax, of A. & T. College, Mrs. E. B. Meares, Mrs. S. W. Carter, Misses Susie M. Miller and Lois McRae. Mr. Frank Caldwell managed the stage settings. The Junior choir, directed by Mrs. Sarah Barber, did the chorus work, with Miss Cecelia Miller, soloist. Marching in to the processional, "God of Our Fathers," the choir, wearing white with pink carnations, made a fine background for the drama.

As prologue the pastor recited Luke 15:11-32, followed by the chorus: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

The drama sermon was impressive to those who witnessed it. This was the first of a series of drama sermons the pastor is preparing especially for the participation of the young people of the church.

The Junior choir is a recent addition, due to Mrs. Barber's ability to hold and train young people. The entire membership is behind her effort. The Juniors sing at each evening service and once during each month at the morning service. Attendance at the evening service has increased within the past month about 40 per cent, due to inspiration and enthusiasm of these young people.

Persons wishing to use this Drama Sermon may secure copy for the mere cost of making said copy.

The Senior choir is preparing to render the cantata, "Joyous Bells of Easter," while the Junior choir will sing "The Dawn."

Recent additions to our membership are Prof. and Mrs. Cooper.

Rev. J. W. Smith, of Raleigh,

witnessed the drama sermon Sunday night.

The following persons have been recommended for officers in St. James church: Elders, Prof. J. A. Grimes, of A. & T. College; Mr. W. L. McNair, Jr.; Mr. J. H. Biggs, Secretary of Sunday school; Mr. J. F. Jordan, Deacons, Mr. S. G. McGill, Mr. Jas. Limley; Trustee, Mr. W. S. Clarke.

Death has once again entered our midst and taken from us one of our beloved elders, Dr. F. W. McNair, who died Tuesday morning, January 21, 1930, after an extended illness of a year or more. He was one of St. James' staunch supporters and had been an elder for a number of years. He was a quiet, peaceful, lovable disposition, a good husband and father, a fine man. He was a pharmacist and had been in the drug business for more than 20 years. The funeral was held from St. James, Thursday, 2:00 P. M. Quite a large number came to pay their last tribute of respect to one so well known and highly respected. He leaves to mourn their loss a loving wife and daughter, brothers and other relatives and a host of friends.

The Lucy Laney Circle met Monday afternoon, January 26, at the home of Mrs. Meares, with Misses Meares and Phifer as hostesses. Quite a bit of interest is being manifested by the young ladies of this Circle and they are hard at work. The hostess served delicious sandwiches and cocoa.

## SOUTHERN WHITE EDUCATORS BACKING NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

One of the most gratifying results from the efforts of the Association for the Study of Negro life and History according to the report recently made by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, is the interest in the movement shown by Southern white men in charge of State departments of Education and colleges. The Southern white press has also given warm-hearted support.

This is a new thought in the changing program of a regenerated South. The thinking element now realizes that you cannot inspire people by holding up before them what others have accomplished while decrying at the same time the worth of their own particular group. They are now saying that if the Negro is to be inspired to keep above vagabondage and crime he must have held up before him daily those of his own group who have demonstrated the capacity of the race.

Translating this new thought into action, these white educators are distributing Negro History Week literature, developing plans for appropriate exercises and actually participating in them. They are directing their attention not only to imparting such information to Negro institutions under their direction, but gradually they are ingrafting this thought upon the mind of white institutions of learning. This is especially true of teachers colleges, most of the heads of which are now saying to the white teachers of the South that they are not prepared to function efficiently in their respective communities unless they are informed on the Negro.

This new note is sounded in contradistinction to the wail of a number of so-called educated but misinformed Negroes who actually oppose the teaching of Negro history in the schools. This is especially true of those who have attended the most advanced institutions of the North where, because of an intellectual prejudice, the Negro is mentioned only to be pitied

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## A LECTURE TOUR

Mrs. M. B. Marks

After the Presbytery of Southern Virginia at Danville, where this honorable body was never more royally entertained than it was by Rev. and Mrs. T. B. Hargrave and their good people, and where the writer gave a lecture on the Hampton European Travel Tour. She enjoyed a delightful stay of ten days with Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Green, North Emoria, arrived home and left Bracy May 25th for Central Presbyterian Church, Petersburg, where Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Tice and their good people were celebrating the forty-third anniversary in their splendid new brick building, the result of their very faithful work there. The writer feels a peculiar interest in this one of the churches of her group, because of her God-given vision ere he brought it to pass. She lectured here on the 26th at 3:30 and on the 27th at 8:30.

While being entertained by Deaconess, Mrs. Mollie Loftin, Mrs. Ursula Jones, Mrs. Bragg and driver gave her a most interesting trip of sightseeing around Petersburg. How one's heart is touched, to see those well-looking, yet weakminded inmates of the asylum; how gladly they accept a nickel or a dime to buy tobacco! After seeing the less fortunate, we are all the more impressed with the fact, how thankful we should be for our blessings.

At Blackstone she peeped in on Mrs. Bettie and Mrs. Lavinia Bridgeforth, who have for more than twenty years been enjoying the confidence and patronage of the best people. Then to Ingleside, where she resided at the Alumnae Reunion, made so happy by Dr. and Mrs. Alter, the faculty and student body and the meeting of our alumnae sisters, and where the lecture was given.

After being entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bridgeforth, of Burkeville, she visited Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Shepperson and Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Wilkerson of Jetersville. All-day rain prevented the lecture. Miss Marcia V. Shepperson was taking a college course at Hampton Institute. On Christmas eve, she became the bride and a teacher for Mr. Wilson, a Hampton graduate and principal of a school in Pelham, Ga. Miss Viola Wilkerson is one of the bright music students of Ingleside and is to be a graduate in 1930.

Through the goodness of our white friend, Miss Sarah Osborn and Rev. and Mrs. Tice, the writer had the pleasure of representing the Tabb St. Presbyterian church, (white), at the Presbyterian Conference, U. S., for the advancement of Colored Women. She reported at the V. N. I. Institute June 15th, took breakfast and caught the next train to Norfolk, where she lectured for Rev. and Mrs. D. Nance and their good people, who are pressing forward to the goal, then returned Monday A. M., for the conference. It was as it were a week upon the Mount. The instruction was by Miss Carrie Lee Campbell, Mrs. R. I. Roope, Rev. J. F. Tice, Mrs. Dillard and Gandy, Mrs. Barrette and other noted speakers of the Conference School and town. Would that space permitted the mention of that body of Christian women, the wholesome surrounding atmosphere, and the beautiful Christian spirit manifested throughout. We were drinking from the fountains of knowledge of both Conference and School. All made one glorious week well spent. Here, too, the lecture was given.

After this busy week, the

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