

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LII.

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## CONFERENCE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONARIES IN THE COLORED SYNODS

Held at Cordele, Ga., February 7-10, 1930.

The Conference of Sunday School Missionaries of the colored Synods was held at Gillespie Normal School, Cordele, Ga., February 7-10, 1930.

Thursday, about the noon hour, the Sunday school missionaries, who are pioneers of religious training to the unprivileged children of America, and especially to our group, began arriving at Cordele by trains, buses and Fords. They hailed from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. There were four women and fifteen men—nineteen in all. Any one meeting these men and knowing the State in which they labored could easily discover that each man fitted into his particular State and occupation in a characteristic way.

There was Rev. H. C. Cousins, of Oklahoma, with his evangelistic spirit which is so much needed in a growing State; the consecrated Shropshire, of Arkansas, a qualification one must have to labor in this State; smiling Van Horn Murray, the Sunday school man of the Mississippi Bottoms, yes, the only way to get through Mississippi: the business-like Mr. Taylor, of Alabama, the growing manufacturing State of the South; scholarly Covington and J. T. Jones, the singer, a fine combination for Tennessee; Rev. W. C. Jones, the champion hand-shaker, and Lucky Brown who handle Georgia; Sunshine Scott, who sells sunshine in Florida; serious-minded Cundiff and jolly Adair, who take care of South Carolina; methodical Shirley and quiet Marsh, who keep North Carolina going; easy-going Young slides through Virginia. The ladies? They are adapted to all of the States. Since Dr. McCoy is from Atlanta and did not come from any State it was unanimously agreed that he was the diplomat and represented the force.

Thursday evening at 8 o'clock the Conference had its informal opening in St. Paul Presbyterian church. Welcome addresses were delivered by representatives of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches of the city. All of these addresses were timely and made us feel that we were among our friends. The response to these addresses was made by Dr. McCoy. After the introduction of each missionary, Mr. John M. Somerndike was presented. He spoke of his appreciation of the splendid work being done at Gillespie Normal school, and his high esteem for Dr. and Mrs. Clark who head this work.

Friday morning, February 1, the Conference proper began with devotionals, led by Mr. John M. Somerndike, Director of Sunday School Missions in the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., subject, "The Pentecostal Shower, the Beginning of the Christian Church," Acts 1:1-4, and the 9th chapter of Luke. The address was very illuminating and instructive. After a season of prayer the devotional hour closed.

"Our Program: Its Progress and Plans for the Year" was outlined, which call for some specialized work on the field, which, it is hoped, will help to consolidate some of the work done and make for the expansion of the Church into new territory.

Probably no part of the program created more interest than the report of the past year's work. A chart of the work was placed on the blackboard so each one could see

what had been accomplished in comparison with the previous year. The work of the entire force showed a gain of 687 points over the previous year; and an increase in all departments except evangelistic service.

The devotional Bible Study was conducted by Dr. Bethel, of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. Taking for his discourse the Book of John, he gave a series of five lectures on the meaning and object of the Book. Each discourse left us eager for the next. These lectures left us with a deeper appreciation of the writings of the Scriptures and their divine message to mankind.

The following program included the entire program of the Conference:

### Program

#### Friday Morning

9:30-10:00. Devotions.  
10:00-10:15. Introductions.  
10:15-11:00. Our Program: Its Progress and Plans for the New Year—Mr. J. M. Somerndike.  
Discussion.

11:00-12:30. Report of the Past Year's Work—Dr. A. B. McCoy.  
Discussion.

#### Friday Afternoon

2:00-2:45. Devotions and Bible Study.  
2:45-3:30. How Can Sunday School Missions Strengthen Our Church Work?—Mr. A. A. Adair.  
Discussion.

3:30-4:15. Sunday School Extension by Counties—Dr. A. B. McCoy.  
4:15-5:00. Religious Instruction in the Home, and Family Worship.—Mr. J. M. Somerndike.  
Discussion.

#### Saturday Morning

9:00-9:45. Devotions and Bible Study.  
9:45-10:30. Getting Results from Sunday School Visitation and Workers' Conferences.—Rev. C. N. Shropshire.  
Discussion.

10:30-11:45. Promoting and Maintaining Teacher Training Classes, led by Mr. J. T. Jones. Each missionary took part.  
11:45-12:30. What Shall be Our Policy with Reference to Sunday School Literature?—Dr. A. B. McCoy.  
Discussion.

#### Saturday Afternoon

2:00-2:45. Devotions and Bible Study.  
2:45-5:00. The Vacation Bible School, led by Dr. A. B. McCoy.  
A model Vacation Bible School was conducted by Miss Jones, and definite plans adopted for the promotion of Vacation Bible Schools in 1930.

#### Monday Morning

9:00-9:45. Devotions and Bible Study.  
9:45-10:15. Our Plan of Week Day Bible Instruction in Public Schools.—Rev. H. M. Scott.  
Discussion of Problems and Policies.

10:15-10:45. Our Vacation Sunday School Bands—Mr. A. A. Adair.  
Discussion.  
10:45-11:15. Our Young People's Leagues—Rev. F. C. Shirley.  
11:15-12:00. Our Seasonal Program for 1930-1931, led by Dr. A. B. McCoy.

#### Monday Afternoon

2:00-2:45. Devotions and Bible Study.  
2:45-3:15. The Evangelistic Emphasis—Mr. J. M. Somerndike.  
3:15-3:45. What Kind of Christian Literature Should We

Produce and Distribute?—Rev. H. C. Cousins.

3:45-4:30. How to Plan and Conduct Sunday School Institutes—Miss Jones.  
4:30-5:00. Obtaining Support from the Field, led by Rev. V. Murray.  
Discussion.

5:00-5:30. Consecration Service.  
The papers and discussions were very interesting and caused many suggested ideas of getting over the program.

Friday evening the Conference and friends of Gillespie School enjoyed a splendid literary program presented by the student body. This being the week for the observing of Lincoln's birthday, this program was given in the interest of the Board of National Missions. The program was interspersed with short addresses by members of the Conference on their experiences on the field, and quartette selections by the Southland Singers. The evening closed with a reception given by the young people of St. Paul Presbyterian church and Gillespie School in honor of the Conference. This reception was held in the spacious dining room and reception room of the new dormitory for girls.

The routine of the program continued through Saturday, closing with a model Vacation Bible school, conducted by Miss Helen Jones. The Conference remained after the close of the afternoon meeting to witness the baptism of the infant son of Rev. and Mrs. S. Q. Mitchell, little Samuel. Dr. A. S. Clark performed the ceremony, assisted by Drs. Holley and A. B. McCoy, and Rev. F. C. Shirley.

Sunday morning, 10 o'clock, found us in one of the best organized and conducted Sunday schools within our connection. Every department functioned in splendid order and on time.

The morning worship began promptly at 11 o'clock, with a short song service by the school.

The morning message was delivered by Dr. Bethel, of Tuskegee Institute. The message was taken from John 12:32, subject, "The Drawing Power of Jesus." The discourse was a wonderful presentation of the ways in which Jesus draws men today through the home, the Sunday school, the church and the individual. This message left a lasting impression upon its hearers. We left this service with a new vision of the power of the gospel.

At 4 o'clock P. M. the Young People's Forum of the community gave a very interesting program. This program was enlivened with messages and incidents from the mission fields by several of the missionaries, closing with two stories of missionary experience by Mr. John M. Somerndike which he had among the Indians and Mexicans, which were intensely interesting.

The Sunday services closed with a pageant and the evening message was delivered by Rev. H. C. Cousins, Missionary from Oklahoma.

Monday morning, the 10th, Conference continued with the devotional Bible study, under Dr. Bethel, and the regular routine of the Conference. The afternoon session consisted of papers and discussions.

The outlines of the program for the year were worked out by the Conference with a few changes from last year's program. The Conference closed with a consecration service and the reading of resolutions of thanks. The consecration service was conducted by Dr. Bethel as a befitting close to, and the passing into history of, one of the most inspirational and instructive conferences ever held by our department

of the Board of National Missions.

In a short time we were all off to our respective fields to do our best in gathering boys and girls and training them for service in the church.

"It may not be on the mountain height,  
Or over the stormy sea;  
It may not be at the battle front,  
My Lord will have need of me.  
But if by a still small voice He calls,  
To paths I do not know;  
Thou answer, dear Lord, with my hand in thine,  
I'll go where you want me to go."

This was the closing verse as we separated until another year.

### A MISSIONARY

## SCOTIA SEMINARY NEWS

Sunday evening, February 2, instead of the usual Christian Endeavor meeting we were delighted to have Rev. A. B. McCoy, D. D., the Sunday School Missionary, speak to us on the interesting subject, "Crusading for Christ." He also organized the Volunteer Band for Vacation Sunday School work. Miss Maetroy Broomfield was elected president, Miss Lillie B. Moore secretary, and Miss Addie D. Henderson, treasurer.

We were also glad to have as our week-end visitor Miss Maud H. Verner, a former matron here, who is now at Barber College. She brought to us greetings from Barber and extended a hearty invitation to all to come to Barber when we were through at Scotia.

The Young People's League met at the Westminster church February 1. They came over on the campus and assembled in the Music Hall for recreation and to get acquainted. The Senior class gave a program in the chapel which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It included a play, "Mistakes," "Who's Who in Scotia," "Faculty," selections from Dunbar and solos.

The Junior Prize Contestants' names were read in Chapel Tuesday morning. Those students making the highest grades during their three years' high school work are eligible for this contest. The girls making such grades are: Misses Letha Torrence, Wilma Powell, Inez Brown, La Verne Redd, Audrey West, and Amanda James.

A group of the students presented a program at Rock Hill school, a few miles out of the city, where Miss Mary Eury, a graduate of Scotia, is a member of the faculty. The school is endeavoring to add a library to its buildings.

Under the leadership of Mr. S. G. Hawfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Cabarrus County, the colored teachers and the School Commissioners of the county held their meeting at Scotia Seminary in January. Previous to this their meetings had been held in the Court House, but it seemed to the present management that these meetings should be held at Scotia for the good of the student body, who are admitted to the meetings, as well as the teachers and the good of the school in general.

The February meeting will be held in the Chapel at Scotia on Saturday, February 22. These meetings are attended by practically all the teachers of the county and a very large percent of the Commissioners. Superintendent Hawfield takes a marked interest in the progress of the colored schools, several of which are taught by graduates

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## RESOLUTIONS BY SABBATH SCHOOL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Your Committee on Resolutions of Thanks submits the following report:

The days we have spent here in this Conference have been days in which we have been drawn very close to God. Indeed, they have been days of "Mountain Top" experiences. And we depart from the Conference surcharged with the spirit of God in a way in which we have not felt it before. Much of this is due, we believe, to the hallowed environments and spiritual atmosphere of Gillespie Normal School.

We desire, first, to express our gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Mr. J. M. Somerndike, Director of Sunday School Missions, for the earnest and sympathetic manner in which he has presided over our Conference. We all feel that we have a better grasp of the task before us because of the clear and forceful manner in which he has outlined to us every phase of our work. Not only are we grateful to him for his presence around the Conference table, but also for the inspiring and encouraging messages delivered at the public meetings in St. Paul church.

We thank Dr. Bethel for the splendid service rendered in the Bible study hour. We all feel stronger because of those stimulating messages that have come to us from the depths of his heart. As we go back to the firing line, the messages that have come from him will greatly strengthen us for the task we face.

Words are simply insufficient to express our deep sense of gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Clark, our genial host and hostess. They have left no stone unturned to make our stay here comfortable and happy. The cozy bedrooms, beautiful and tastefully furnished parlors, and the spacious dining room of Gillespie Hall have been thrown open to us, together with the other buildings and grounds of the school, with a welcome that has a deep ring of sincerity in it. We desire to further thank them for caring so splendidly for the "inner man." The meals have been prepared with the utmost care, and served with a cheerful spirit, all of which tended to sharpen our already keen appetites. But there was always enough to satisfy the largest capacity.

We would not forget the student body and faculty who cooperated so willingly with Dr. and Mrs. Clark to make our stay pleasant. Indeed, they all seemed to have imbibed fully the "Clark spirit," for in not a single instance have we noticed an attitude of unwillingness to serve.

To the members of the Workers' Conference of St. Paul Church, we extend thanks for the enjoyable reception given in our honor on Friday evening.

For the cordial welcome extended us by the churches, and to all others of the community who have in any way served us, we desire to express our thanks.

Finally, we are thankful to God, our heavenly Father, for having brought us safely through another year, and for His abiding presence through all the deliberations of the Conference. As we go, we pray that He will help us to keep alive the altar fires that have been set aflame in our hearts because of our presence here.

Respectfully submitted,  
A. A. ADAIR,  
E. E. GOINES,  
F. C. SHIRLEY,  
Cordele, Ga.

There is no excellence without great labor.—William Wirt.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAGUE OF CATAWBA PRESBYTERY

The Young People's League of Catawba Presbytery held its first quarterly meeting for 1930 on February 1st in Concord, N. C., at Westminster church. Although the roads were in bad shape, due to a recent snow, the attendance was splendid.

An enjoyable social hour claimed our attention first. Through Rev. H. Wilson, our pastor, we were able to secure the beautiful Music Hall of Scotia Seminary for this event. During the hour, the group played a number of games, sang several songs from "Banquet Pep" and had several moments of pleasant conversation.

Leaving the Music Hall the delegation went to the auditorium of Westminster church where the discussion and business sessions were held. After an appropriate devotional service, Mr. W. S. Brinkley, the President, made the opening address and then introduced the order of the day. The topic for discussion was: "The Three Most Urgent Needs of the Churches in Catawba Presbytery as Seen by the Young People." Preceding the discussion three excellent papers on the topic were read. The papers were read by James Williams, Marlowe Shute and Ruth Little.

A very profitable discussion followed the reading of the papers. This was conducted by Rev. Frank C. Shirley, the speaker had presented three needs. Some of these overlapped and were merged. In order to get at what was the real thought of the young people, after a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken on the needs listed. The vote revealed that the young people of Catawba Presbytery think the following are the three most urgent needs: 1. A Better Method of Church Finance. 2. A Larger Number of Thoroughly Consecrated Young Men to Offer Themselves for the Ministry, and a Deeper Sense of Loyalty on the Part of the Members in the Local Churches. 3. A More Spiritually Minded Leadership. This applies to ministers, elders, deacons, and all who hold positions of leadership in the church.

The principal business was the report of the Committee on a League Bulletin. The report was a presentation of the Bulletin itself by Rev. A. H. Prince, chairman of the committee, and editor of the Bulletin. The organ is called, "The Voice of Catawba Youth," and contains mimeograph pages of well rotten up material, bound in a nice, orange colored back.

An appetizing dinner was prepared by the ladies of the church and served in the church annex. The League certainly appreciates the genial hospitality of the people of Westminster church. During the dinner hour we were able to have pleasant chats together and express our thanks to the ladies in appropriate songs and vells.

The pastor of the church, Rev. H. Wilson, and his charming wife, with the ladies of the church, were untiring in their efforts to make our stay pleasant. Nor would we forget the young people under the leadership of Mr. Charles Balknight, Jr.

The meeting closed with an impressive worship service, conducted exclusively by the young people, in which several took part. Special music was rendered by the Glee Club of Scotia Seminary.

Among the visitors we were

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