

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## EVANGELISTIC CONVENTION OF THE LE VERE PRESBYTERY AND THE SYNOD OF EAST TENNESSEE

By "The Scribe"

The Evangelistic Convention of the Synod of East Tennessee which was held in the Shiloh Presbyterian church, Knoxville, May 1 and 2, was a means of spiritual revival to all who attended it, and we hope to all who shall come under the influence of those who were fortunate in being present. The convention was formally opened Friday morning by Dr. Wm. F. Klein, Director of the Division of Evangelism, Board of National Missions, New York City. Devotions were led by Dr. Samuel A. Downer, of East Vine Avenue church. Rev. A. H. George, of the Shiloh church, extended welcome to the delegates in behalf of the church.

Dr. Klein stated the objects of this convention were: 1. To be with Christ ourselves. 2. To win others for Him. He said that in the Presbytery of Le Vere there were only 77 Christians who brought another to Christ during the year. This left 689 who either had nothing to share with others, or had lost their influence. The membership of the Presbytery is actually 13 per cent smaller than it was 5 years ago. If we keep the pace we have set in the last five years it won't be long before Le Vere Presbytery will go out of existence. The pertinent question is: "Did you bring anyone into the kingdom during the last 365 days; if not, what did you do?"

Dr. Harvey Klaer, associate director, had charge of the courses in Personal Work. There were three lectures on Personal Work and one on Prayer and Revival. These were definitely outlined with illustrations from the Bible and from his own rich experience. The courses were compiled by Dr. Klaer, and showed what a wonderful grasp he has on the Scriptures. He used a period for Bible study and during that period many references were read by the delegates to show authority for his writings. Over and back of it all was his deep spiritual power which flowed from him to us all and made us feel that truly this man was possessed with God.

Dr. Charles E. Tucker, President of Swift Memorial College, led the devotions in the afternoon. He brought a vital message as did Dr. Downer in the forenoon. Dr. Klein held a very interesting course on the Sunday School and Young People's Work. There were fifty questions gathered here and there in similar conventions. These were headed: "Someone Wanted to Know." The session was conducted in the forum style, each giving an answer which he thought best for a particular problem. In this way it was possible to form a composite thought of the group.

On Friday evening devotions were conducted by Dr. J. Kelly Giffen, President of Knoxville College. His message on "Christ Above All," was gripping. Dr. Klein delivered a most masterful address on "The Whole Task of the Presbyterian Church." In a very striking way he brought to us the variegated activities of our Boards and Divisions of our Church. The whole message was shot through with a challenge to all of us to go back to our fields and carry on in a bigger way than before. The choir of the Shiloh church furnished music for the evening hour. Dr. Robert I. Gamon, Stated Clerk of Union Presbytery and National Missions Executive for several Presbyteries in East Tennessee, offered the closing prayer.

Saturday morning's theme was: "Stewardship of Life." Rev. A. H. George led devotions. The forum method was again used in the discussion of "Women of the Church," and "Men of the Church," and "Men's Organizations." There were fifty questions on each subject which had been gathered from over a wide section of the country. These questions caused some real soul searching on the part of workers. It is safe to say that every church would be greatly benefited if it would take all four questionnaires and discuss them with a view of carrying the questions into action.

At each session every person in the audience filled out a card with a list of names of individuals for whom special prayers were offered. The cards were laid on the communion table, and the petition was sent up by Dr. Klein. More than three hundred names were placed on the table. All of us pledged to pray daily for these unsaved souls until they were brought to Christ.

Dr. Klein closed the meeting with a passionate appeal to the ministers to fight. In his appeal to the men of the Synod he said: "Why don't you fight, minister, why don't you fight?" Dr. C. E. Tucker offered the closing prayer.

We left that meeting feeling that no more would it be said that more people slipped out of the back door of the Synod than came in at the front door. We are going to get them and hold them by giving them something worthwhile to hold on to. The vicious custom of dropping members in order to escape paying for them is not going to be tolerated. We are going to be honest with ourselves. The spirit of apathy and indifference that has deadened us has been thrown off and we are being gripped by a strong and vigorous spirit, with a fixed and persistent purpose to fight and to fight!

### WOULD REVISE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Dr. Lewis Seymour Mudge, Stated Clerk, of Philadelphia, Pa., announces in the official Blue Book that he will suggest to the Presbyterian General Assembly at Pittsburgh, Pa., May 28-June 3, that he be authorized to submit to the Presbyteries for their careful study a proposed new draft of the Book of Discipline and that they file with the Stated Clerk not later than March 1, 1932, the results of their study of the draft, so that the proposed revision may be presented to the General Assembly in 1932. The Book of Discipline has not been changed in its fundamental principles since the organization of the Assembly in 1789. It underwent an important revision in 1884.

"Almost fifty years have now elapsed," says Dr. Mudge, "since the important revision of 1884. During this time the growth of the Church in size, influence and power has necessitated many alterations and additions to the various sections of the Book of Discipline. The result of such changes at intervals over a long period of time has inevitably meant a lack of unity, clearness and logical consistency in many parts of the Book. While Assembly deliberations from time to time have done much to explain some of these limitations, nevertheless it has become increasingly clear that certain

(Continued on page 3)

## HOOVER URGES BETTER HOMES FOR NEGROES

Washington (CNS)—President Hoover directed Friday to the Committee on Negro Housing headed by Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, President of the National Training School for Women and Girls, a message encouraging them to seek higher living standards among the colored people of the Nation. The Chief Executive later received the Committee of seven prominent Negroes at the White House.

The President's message, read by Robert P. Lamont, Secretary of Commerce, as the Committee opened its organization meeting in the Commerce Department Building, urged the need of improving the design, construction and conditions of ownership of Negro housing. It appealed for a program of self-help and government co-operation looking to higher standards of sanitation, convenience and wholesomeness.

The President said: "Prompted by a fine spirit of public service, you have assembled here today to consider what program may be devised to improve conditions of housing for our colored citizens. This committee is one of many special committees, each of which is charged with some important phase of the broad problem of home building and home ownership. Since the health and welfare of all citizens, and particularly of children, are vitally affected by conditions of housing and home life, your committee has unselfishly undertaken to give careful consideration to urgent questions which affect directly the welfare of more than 10,000,000 persons.

"Your studies will lead you into the consideration of problems of the design, construction and financing of houses, of conditions of ownership and tenancy, of remodeling, equipping and furnishing of homes in city and country. Thoughtful consideration is needed in order to determine what can be accomplished by the Negroes themselves in the improvement of conditions of housing and home life and of what can be done by public authorities or other agencies to aid them in bringing housing conditions to higher standards of sanitation and wholesomeness. Wherever conditions are found to be below a reasonable standard the problem is one of determining what next steps can be best taken in improving the conditions and how information and service can be mobilized to prevent future recurrence of conditions of housing that may impair health or character.

"Many of you will doubtless be asked to help in the work of other committees, but I feel that a judicious consideration of the special problems assigned to this committee may lead to a service of unusual value to your country. Self-help is a primary principle of progress, but self-help involves wise stimulation and thoughtful leadership. It is my hope that you, who are among the acknowledged leaders of your race, may find in the work of this committee an opportunity to carry the study of this subject farther than it has been carried before, and that your recommendations may help to co-ordinate and direct the forces which will lead to a more rapid solution of the important problems of housing with which you are concerned."

The committee is one of about thirty committees of the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership, Secretary Lamont said in ad-

ressing the group. Each committee is charged with making a study of some part of the housing problem in order to make a report to the general conference next fall, he added. "Without a committee such as yours there is the obvious possibility that some significant phases of the problems of Negro housing might fail to receive the attention they deserve," Mr. Lamont said.

The committee members later organized to consider in detail urban and rural housing and other factors in the situation of Negro communities.

### HOW UNEMPLOYMENT AFFECTS NEGROES

Extracts from Bulletin Published by the National Urban League

In every instance where figures are available, the percentage of Negroes among the unemployed is higher than their population percentage warrants, sometimes running as high as four times the proportionate amount, and in some instances, five and six times as high.

"Needless to say that wages have been cut—races competing with each other in order to gain favor with employers. There are cases of whites underbidding Negroes, as well as Negroes underbidding whites. There are instances of one Negro doing the work of two whites at the wage of one."

Replies from these sources (State government officials) and from others who are in a position to influence the employment of workers on public construction, indicate that to a very limited degree Negroes are being used in public work created for the purpose of making jobs for unemployed people.

"The condition of astounding unemployment disclosed in the various city reports—seven per cent of the population constituting 25 per cent of the unemployed, 9 per cent of the population constituting 66 per cent of the unemployed; or 4 per cent of the population constituting 25 per cent of the relief cases, or 18 per cent of the population constituting 92 per cent of the relief cases—is an economic problem that far transcends racial significance. It is usually assumed that economic systems make no deference to race. Academically this assumption holds, but practical cognizance should be taken of a situation which is degrading and pauperizing so large a part of the nation's population.

The factor of race presents an economic question which must find place in programs of regularization and relief. No program to prevent or limit unemployment yet announced has recognized the problem presented by hordes of unemployed Negroes whose low standards of living should be the concern of business as well as of social workers."

The bulletin reaches the following conclusions:

"That measures for relief are confined almost entirely to charity;

"That Negroes get more relief but fewer jobs than others from agencies established to aid the unemployed;

"That Negroes continue, and unless provision is made to the contrary, will continue to contribute more than their share of the burden of relief agencies;

"That the economic structure of the entire Negro race is in an alarming state of disrepair, with dire effect upon business and professional interests dependent upon the patronage of Negro wage-earners; and

"That restlessness is evident from one end of the country to the other; for unquestionably Negroes have lost jobs to which they will not return even when normal times come again."

## WHITE RIVER PRESBYTERY, ARKANSAS

The White River Presbytery met with Harris chapel at Brinkley, Ark., on Wednesday, April 8, 1931, 7:30 P. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Rev. C. N. Shropshire; after which the Presbytery was constituted with prayer by Rev. G. E. Caesar.

Then the roll was called and a quorum being present, the Presbytery proceeded in the election of officers. Rev. R. J. Christmas, of Forrest City, Ark., was elected Moderator, and Revs. T. C. Boyd and C. N. Shropshire, of Pine Bluff and Texarkana, respectively, were elected Temporary and Assistant Temporary Clerks.

The docket of the Presbytery was read and approved. Also, the minutes of the Presbytery of 1929 were read by the Stated Clerk, Rev. C. S. Mebane, Hot Springs, Ark.

The Rev. N. B. Bynum, Brinkley, Ark., chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements, made a report on behalf of the committee.

The Moderator then announced that Elder A. B. Knight would conduct the devotional service on Thursday at 9 A. M. The Presbytery adjourned to meet at 9:00 A. M., Thursday, and was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Thursday, April 9, at 9:00 A. M., the Presbytery met and the first half hour was devoted to prayer service. Then the Presbytery was opened with prayer by Rev. T. B. Hargrave.

The minutes of the last night's session were read and approved. Then the roll was called; after which the Moderator announced the Standing Committee.

The reports from the churches were called for. The reports were made by the delegates for the various churches, and were discussed at length by the other members of the Presbytery. The reports showed gains in most of the churches.

A call from Camden Second, Camden, Ark., was presented to the Presbytery, asking for the pastoral service of Rev. W. E. Houston, D. D., Springfield, Mo. The call was approved and arrangements were made for his installation.

At this juncture, the Rev. T. B. Hargrave, Synodical Evangelist, preached a soul-stirring sermon to the Presbytery and visitors. A similar sermon was preached by him each day at 11:30 while the Presbytery was in session, which was very timely and edifying.

The Presbytery adjourned after the sermon, with prayer and benediction, to meet at 2 P. M.

Thursday, April 9, 2 P. M. The Presbytery met and was constituted with prayer. The reports of the chairmen of the committees on the different Boards were called for. The reports were made by the said chairmen and were discussed generally.

The reports of the commissioners to the last General Assembly were called for. Rev. S. J. Grier being the commissioner to the last General Assembly, made a very elaborate report, which showed that he was on the alert at the Assembly. A vote of thanks was extended him for such an instructive report. Elder J. H. Thompson, lay commissioner, was not present to make his report because of sickness.

Most of the afternoon was occupied in hearing the reports of chairmen on the Boards. The discussions were interesting; after which the Presbytery adjourned with prayer.

### Popular Meeting Thursday Night

The popular meeting was held on the above date and is held annually at the meeting of the Presbytery. At this meeting some important sub-

jects pertaining to the Presbyterian Church are discussed by members of the Presbytery who may be appointed by the Moderator. Hence, the following subjects were discussed: The Board of National Missions—Rev. W. E. Houston; Christian Education—Rev. G. E. Caesar; Evangelism—Rev. S. J. Grier. The speakers endeavored to show the importance of these subjects from many different angles. The meeting was held in the Baptist church, and a large and appreciative audience was present. The choir rendered inspiring music to the delight of all who were present. We were pleased to have the white minister and a lawyer of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., with us. They expressed themselves in glowing terms respecting the program and the subjects which were discussed, and extended a hearty welcome to the Presbytery on behalf of the citizens of the town.

### Friday, April 10, 9 A. M.

The Presbytery met and devoted the first half hour to devotional service, conducted by Rev. C. N. Shropshire; after which, the Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, and was constituted with prayer. Then the regular order of the docket was announced.

The report on Vacancies and Supply was called for and made by the chairman, Rev. T. C. Boyd.

Rev. G. E. Caesar was elected Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, succeeding the Rev. C. S. Mebane, D. D., who had been Stated Clerk many years, and is "Stated Clerk Emeritus." The Presbytery adjourned with prayer.

### Friday, April 10, 2 P. M.

The Presbytery met on the above date, and was constituted with prayer.

The election of commissioners to the General Assembly, which will meet in Pittsburgh, Pa., May 23, 1931, was called for. Rev. R. J. Christmas and Rev. H. M. Stinson, D. D., were elected principal and alternate commissioners, respectively.

Elders Israel Harrison and A. B. Knight were elected principal and alternate lay commissioners, respectively; after which the Presbytery completed the docket.

The Presbyterian Missionary Society made its report. All the officers of last year were re-elected. The Presbytery adjourned with prayer.

### Friday, April 10, 7:30 P. M.

The Presbyterian Missionary Society rendered the annual program, which always adds spice to the occasion. Mrs. B. Williams, Cotton Plant, presided, assisted by Mrs. A. C. Alexander, Little Rock. The program measured up to the standard of the former programs and the women were congratulated for the zeal with which they carried it out, and for the success they achieved.

Rev. and Mrs. N. B. Bynum are good mixers on the field and have the co-operation of all denominations. They entertained the Presbytery royally, beyond expectation. May the Lord continue to bless them and the good people of Brinkley.

Rev. T. B. Hargrave made an eloquent address, which was a part of the program and which added much inspiration. As the women's night is always the "banner night," the audience was larger Friday night than the night before—Thursday night.

After the program Resolutions of Thanks were read. Then the Presbytery adjourned with prayer to meet with Westminster church, Cotton Plant, Ark., the second Wednesday of April, 1932.

Refreshments were served which made the guests feel that it was good to be present.

G. E. CAESAR,  
Stated Clerk.