

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## ANNUAL MEETING OF SABBATH SCHOOL MISSIONARIES

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

The annual meeting of Sunday School Missionaries in the Synods of Atlantic, Canadian, Catawba and East Tennessee was held March 2 to 4 at Georgia Normal and Agricultural College, Dr. J. W. Holley, President, Albany, Ga. King's weather prevailed—warm sunshine, balmy breezes, starlit nights.

The presiding officer of the Conference was the genial, optimistic and hard-working Director of the Department of Sabbath School Missions of the Board of National Missions, Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., Dr. John M. Somerndike.

All of the missionaries except those who are in school, were present and are as follows: Dr. Albert B. McCoy, Superintendent of Missionaries, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. S. L. Young and Miss Mamie Taylor, Virginia; Mr. G. R. Marsh, North Carolina; Mr. C. N. Cundiff, Mr. J. T. Jones and Miss Aileen Harper, South Carolina; Rev. W. C. Jones, Georgia; Rev. H. M. Scott, Florida; Rev. L. R. Taylor, Alabama; Rev. Van Horn Murray, Mississippi; Mr. Wm. Garner, Misses Ethel E. Goines and Ruby Leabough and Rev. W. D. Edington, Tennessee; Rev. C. N. Shropshire, Arkansas, and Rev. H. C. Cousins, Oklahoma.

### Greetings

Dr. Somerndike in well chosen words expressed gratitude for the privilege of meeting in another annual session.

Dr. Holley, in his easy and pleasant style, told the missionaries how glad he and Mrs. Holley and the faculty and students were to have them hold their sessions in their midst.

Dr. S. D. Thom, Atlantic Synodical Evangelist, brought the greetings of the Workers' Conference, of the Division of Missions for Colored People.

### Devotions

The devotional feature of the Conference stands in the forefront. This year the Conference looked forward with eagerness to the privilege of hearing Dr. S. A. Downer, pastor of East Vine Presbyterian church, Knoxville, Tenn., who was booked to conduct the devotions. But at the last moment Dr. Downer found it impossible to be present because of sickness. He was confined to his bed under the care of a physician. The devotional period was therefore divided between the following brethren: Dr. J. M. Somerndike, Rev. A. S. Clark, D. D., Rev. J. B. Barber, Rev. A. W. Rice, Rev. Franklin Gregg and Rev. L. B. West.

Dr. Somerndike spoke on stirring up the gift within us. Rev. Barber stressed the fact that God can use men to consecrate and inspire other men. Dr. Clark magnified the love of God for us, and challenged us to keep our love warm toward God. Rev. Rice showed the importance of choosing God to lead and help us in all the varied aspects of life. Rev. Gregg called attention to the fact that there is still a vast territory to be conquered for Christ, and urged us to go out and make the conquest under the leadership of the great Captain of our Salvation. Rev. West made a plea for more personal work in the matter of winning souls for Christ.

### Reports and Discussions

Supt. McCoy read his annual report. It was comprehensive and encouraging. The missionaries had set themselves a task for the year 1931, and the report showed that that task had been well done. In almost every case the missionaries had done more than had been planned. New schools had been organized, churches established, Daily Vacation Bible and Week Day schools organized, and there

was a general forward movement in every phase of Sabbath school work. Special mention should be made of the number of conversions which the report showed, also the splendid Religious Educational program as carried out by Missionaries Shirley, Goines and Young. There was only one discordant note in the report and that was with reference to finances. While all the other goals were reached there was a shortage in the amount of money the missionaries planned to raise.

The report was vigorously discussed and new light thrown upon it as the missionaries were called upon to give details relating to their part in the report. There were moments of laughter as well as of deep seriousness as the missionaries told of their experiences in pioneering in the Kingdom of God. The problems confronted during the past year were frankly discussed, and an earnest attempt was made to solve them in the best possible way. The following is a summary:

Schools organized ----- 159  
Schools revived ----- 36  
Cradle Rolls organized -- 134  
Home Depts. organized -- 186  
Teacher Training classes -- 67  
Vacation Bible schools ----- 413  
Week Day Bible schools -- 1538  
Young People's Societies -- 103  
Offerings, Bible schools \$152.90

In addition to the above, the missionaries had traveled 200,185 miles, visited 22,504 families, set up 1,614 family altars, conducted 634 Workers' Conferences, held 95 institutes, either conducted or helped to conduct 14 evangelistic meetings, supervised the programs of 27 Presbyterian and Synodical conventions, established 3 new Presbyterian Leagues, graded in part 33 Sunday schools, made 528 visits to mission schools, and 348 visits to church schools, erected two chapels and developed five churches.

### Presbyterial Chairmen

A new feature of the Conference was the inviting of the Chairmen of the National Missions Committees in the different Presbyteries to "sit in" and take part in the deliberations. The following chairmen were present: Rev. A. W. Rice, Birmingham Presbytery; Rev. P. A. Flack, McClelland Presbytery; Rev. C. A. Edington, Rogersville Presbytery; Rev. A. S. Clark, D. D., Knox Presbytery; Rev. Franklin Gregg, Hodge Presbytery; Rev. G. E. Caesar, White River Presbytery; Rev. J. B. Barber, Le Vere Presbytery, and Rev. L. B. West, D. D., Catawba Presbytery. This proved to be a very profitable and popular feature.

### Board Representative

The Conference was blessed with the presence of the dynamic personality of the Rev. H. N. Morse, D. D., Administrative Secretary of the Board of National Missions. Dr. Morse expressed his pleasure in being able to be present. He spoke of the close relationship he sustained to Dr. Somerndike. He took an active part in the discussions and made several valuable suggestions. Because of the vast unoccupied territory Dr. Morse was of the opinion that an aggressive church extension program should be pushed to help evangelize America for Christ. This program can only be carried out by churches and leaders who are alive with spiritual power.

### New Goals

The missionaries adopted the following goals for 1932:  
New Sunday schools ----- 100  
Cradle Rolls ----- 125

Home Departments ----- 125  
Teacher Training classes -- 70  
Week Day Bible Schools 2,000  
D. V. B. Schools ----- 450  
Young People's Societies -- 50  
Institutes ----- 125  
Offering (D. V. B. S.) ----- \$450

Revs. Murray and Shropshire and Mr. J. T. Jones are to concentrate on a program of development rather than extension.

### New Missionaries

The Rev. Thos. A. Jenkins and Mr. U. L. Brewer joined the staff of missionaries. Rev. Jenkins will serve in Cape Fear Presbytery. Mr. Brewer goes to Atlantic Presbytery. The following shifts were made: Mr. Marsh goes to Yadkin Presbytery, Miss Leabough goes to Florida, Knox Presbytery; Miss Taylor will work independently in Southern Virginia Presbytery, and Mr. Garner will go to Kentucky to work in Lincoln Presbytery.

Definite steps were taken in regard to Presbyterial and Synodical Sabbath School Conventions, announcement of which will be made later.

### Entertainment

The entertainment was all that could be desired. The delegates were comfortably housed and every convenience placed at their disposal. The sessions were held in the commodious auditorium of one of the new buildings of the college. The meals were served in the spacious and beautiful dining hall. The service was excellent under the capable direction of Mrs. MacDonald. The climax of the entertainment came on Friday evening when the Conference and faculty were guests of Dr. and Mrs. Holley at a banquet in the refectory. Covers were laid for about 100 people. It was a happy occasion. Music was furnished by a quartet from the school. Dr. Holley was not only glad to have the missionaries present, but wanted them to come again. He said that when the new library goes up a room would be dedicated to the missionaries. Mrs. Holley in a most gracious and charming manner assured the missionaries that their presence was a benediction to the school. She, too, hoped that they would come again.

Dr. Somerndike expressed his heartfelt appreciation of what had been done to make the Conference a success. Dr. Morse was delighted with his trip to the Conference, and enjoyed immensely what he had seen and heard. He was glad to be linked with those who are moving forward with faith in God in the midst of these turbulent times.

Dr. McCoy was toastmaster and helped to enliven the occasion with his inimitable wit and humor.

### REVIVAL AT ANNISTON, ALABAMA—GOOD RESULTS

Ever since last year when our evangelist, Rev. T. B. Hargrave, visited this field and conducted such a successful revival which brought 32 conversions and 28 accessions the members and people of the city have been anxious for his return. This year we made our usual preparation by holding a ten days' cottage prayer service prior to the revival. When the meeting opened the session and a special committee of workers were rededicated and each day the workers were busy praying from house to house, and each night they assembled in the church (as the upper room) for special prayer. This year we find it hard to stop the cottage prayer meetings after 24 such meetings and with such good results.

Our beloved pastor, Rev. A. W. Rice, worked untiringly to make the revival a success and to see him and the evangelist working together is to see a

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## IMPEDIMENTS TO CO-OPERATION AMONG NEGROES

By Dr. Carter G. Woodson

In the solution of the problem of enterprise to lift the colored people to the higher economic level the chief difficulty is the lack of co-operation. Potentially the colored people are strong although they are actually weak. They have paid such a little attention to their own possibilities and have preferably spent so much time on trifles that in this respect the outside world considers them a joke. The unwise leadership of the race is responsible for this undesirable situation.

We often say that the greatest need of the Negro is education. If this assertion means teaching or developing in the Negro ordinary common sense there is much truth in it. If it connotes mere book learning to pass examinations to get jobs to show others how to do the same thing, the assertion has no particular significance, for our so-called most highly educated Negroes in the United States show less common sense than the illiterates.

Co-operation, the most essential thing in the development of a people socially and economically, is all but impossible among our miseducated, highly educated Negroes. They do more to keep the race in a state of turmoil and to prevent it from serious community efforts than all the other elements combined. The one has a job that the other wants; or the one is a leader of a successful faction, and the other is struggling to supplant him. Everything in the community, then, must yield ground to this periculous contest. The present state of affairs in Washington, D. C., is a case in evidence. The teamsters and hod-carriers of the city have paid no attention to the throat-cutting bout, but practically all college-bred Negroes in the District of Columbia are hot in the collar and clamoring for the war on their superiors.

Recently I have visited various parts of the country, where I find this same condition obtaining. In one city of a few thousand Negroes there is no chance for community co-operation because of the antagonism of the Methodist and Baptist preachers in charge of the two largest churches. The one is determined to dictate the appointment of the teaching corps and the social welfare workers; the other is persistently struggling to undo everything accomplished by his opponent. The one is up today and the other in ascendancy tomorrow. Several efforts have been made to start business enterprises there, but none have succeeded because one faction tears down what the other builds up.

In another city the cleavage is along political lines. Preachers are there, but a lawyer and a professional man plunging into politics has dispossessed the clergy of the stage. The leader of one faction is so bitterly opposed to the other that he even warns strangers against going to the home of his adversary. To present a sane proposition to the community through one of these leaders means local warfare rather than an effort to work together for the common good. Consequently, although there are thousands of Negroes living together in one quarter they have no grocery, no drug store, no haberdashery, no theatre, and no other enterprise of worth. The selfish struggle for personal aggrandizement which has not yet brought either faction more than an appointment on the police force or a clerkship in one of the city offices, this blocks the social and economic progress of thousands of unoffending people.

In another State I found that the ambition of the highly educated Negro is restricted to becoming principals of the high schools. The neglected State school has not developed sufficiently to become attractive. The warring area, then, is in the cities. In one of them, where several Negroes own considerable wealth, which if pooled and properly used, would produce all but wonderful results, the petty strife has been most disastrous. Little thought is given to social uplift, and economic effort is crushed by economic uplift is crushed by factional wrangling. Before I had been in one of the towns an hour a stalwart of one faction sounded me on becoming a candidate for the position held by the principal of the high school. A few minutes thereafter another approached me for advice as to how "to get him out."

The high cost of this insanity to the community can be estimated only by taking into consideration the fact that this strife is all but endless. If it were a matter that developed now and then only to be forgotten by people directing their attention thereafter to more important things it would not do much harm; but this confusion continues for years. Sometimes it grips a community for a whole generation, vitiating the entire life of the people. The ruling classes have set aside such a few positions for the Negroes to aspire to that the competition is too often cruel and vicious; and this very state of affairs is the chief reason why Negroes have not made larger opportunities for themselves.

"I wonder if a systematic drive to make the chronic knocker unpopular would not be a solution of this problem," said a friend to me the other day. "Of what value is a Negro who is too disagreeable to work with or under some other Negro? If one Negro can not subordinate himself to another, the race is doomed. The run-or-rain Negro must be silenced. We must do something to prevent these agents of disorder from blocking the path of our progress. We few who know better have stood by watching these men destroy us when we should have been exposing them as the worst enemies of the race. The people who follow them will listen to reason; but, having overestimated their influence, we have not had the courage to call them down."

Evidently something must be done, for in this foolhardy procedure lies the explanation of the failure of the Negro to develop toward social and economic efficiency. This is the thing which keeps the Negro dependent and accounts for his tendency to become delinquent. He is thereby impeding his own progress and must bear the blame for the disproportionate number of the race now in the bread line. The remote cause, to be sure, is slavery and the persistent influence of the regime in the present day education of the Negro; but three generations of freedom have been long enough for the American Negro to learn better. If he does not improve, the world will be justified in turning its back on him.

### FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Fairfield will convene with the Westminster Presbyterian church, Alcolu, S. C., March 23rd, 1932, at 8 o'clock P. M. All Sessional Records are required.  
M. J. JACKSON, S. C.

## LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RIDGEWAY, S. C.

Lebanon church activities during the month of February have been quite brisk despite the fact that inclement weather has interfered to some extent. At no time has there been any slacking in efforts to put over the church's program.

On Sunday, February 7, all services were well attended and highly enjoyed. These services included Sabbath school, two preaching services, Women's Missionary Society meeting and the meeting of the Young People's Christian Endeavor Society. At the morning preaching hour the pastor, Rev. J. R. Dungee, delivered an able sermon from two texts: Matt. 18:3, and Matt. 5:20. The sermon presented contrasting pictures, showing what one must be like if he would gain admittance to the kingdom of heaven. He must divest himself of the false pride, the cynicism, suspicions, doubts, prejudices and hardness of heart which he has acquired through his worldly experiences, and which characterized the Pharisee, and must become again as a simple, credulous, guileless and unsophisticated child ere he can attain the faith essential to salvation.

At night the pastor chose as his text, Luke 7:5, "For he loveth our nation and he hath built us a synagogue." The message paid a glowing tribute to the life of the late Julius Rosenwald. A similarity was shown between the philanthropy of the gentile centurion and that of Mr. Rosenwald, the Jew. Each showed generosity to people other than his own. The gentile showed benevolence to Jews, and the Jew was a benefactor to gentiles. In each case the benefactor received the genuine gratitude of the beneficiaries and was commended by them to the favor of Him who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me."

Sunday morning, February 14, the session visited Mr. Lawrence Boulware who is afflicted at the home of his foster mother, Mrs. Ella Boulware, after which he was received into full membership of the church.

Lincoln Day was observed with appropriate exercises in the afternoon. An interesting program consisting of exercises prepared by the Board of National Missions and local supplements was creditably rendered before a delighted audience. An offering was raised for the Board of National Missions.

The evangelistic services for which the church has been preparing for some time began Tuesday night, February 16, with a fervent prayer service. On Wednesday and Thursday nights the Rev. J. H. Holman, of Columbia, preached most acceptably to splendid audiences who braved the elements to hear him. Friday night, the Rev. H. N. Sullivan, of Cleveland, N. C., preached with such effect that five persons were added to the church. Sunday morning, although the weather was more inclement than it had previously been this winter, a wonderful service was held, in which Rev. Sullivan was at his best. Baptism was administered to Misses Irene Bynum and Ernestine Simon, and to Messrs. W. L. Shannon, Leroy and W. M. Bynum. The remaining services scheduled for the day were rained out, but the campaign was concluded with rejoicing, having netted seven additions to the church at a season of the year when local church activities are usually at their lowest ebb.

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

If you want work well done, select a busy man—the other kind has no time.—Elbert Hubbard