

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## BY THE WAY

By Uncle Billie

The medical physician practices in his profession because he is not sure of his position; and the layman sends for a physician because he has a degree of faith in the physician's theories leading up to his position.

### A Struggle to Hold Zion

Zion Presbyterian church, Charleston, was organized about 1859 by Flinn Presbyterian church, of this city, for the Negroes of Charleston regardless as to whose slaves they were; and the great man, Rev. John L. Girardeau, D. D., LL. D., of Charleston, was the faithful pastor. But space forbids us to say more than to mention the name of Dr. Girardeau; suffice it to say that before the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., was divided Dr. Girardeau ranked with Alexander, Hodges and Thornwell and other giants of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. In his day Dr. Girardeau ranked as one of the great preachers of the country. But the citizens of Charleston, being suspicious of his attitude toward colored folk, brought influence to bear upon him to get him away from a Negro congregation and out of Charleston Columbia Theological Seminary, where he spent his last days.

### Want a Swimming Pool

Take a look at the map of South Carolina and you will see at once that Charleston is a peninsula; it is not hard up for swimming pools or swimming places of amusement; and yet the city of Charleston wants a swimming pool for white Charleston; and to secure such an envied place of value, it decided unanimously to condemn Zion Presbyterian church as an unsafe place of worship, feeling doubly sure that the congregation, at such a time as this, could not make safe the unsafe in Zion's edifice.

Spurred by this assumed assurance, the city at once proceeded without any notice whatever to the officers of Zion or even to the sexton, to dig a ditch through Zion's yard; and having completed the long, deep ditch, they laid the pipes as an aqueduct to the spot for the swimming pool that was to include Zion.

Zion woke up and notified the attorney for Atlantic Presbyterian—this attorney has served this Presbytery for over twenty years—whose father was an officer in Zion in the days of slavery and afterwards, and was one of the most outstanding citizens of Charleston in wealth, education and character.

This attorney, after elaborating to the congregation how much he loves this sacred spot on account of the family relations and pleasant memories that cluster around Zion, concluded with a desire for this congregation to let the city of Charleston have this church. The congregation was offered a few dollars over nine thousand dollars for this property. But even in these no-money days this valuable piece of property is worth any man's \$75,000, at the least. And Elder A. J. Clement says nobody shall ever sell a church to which he belongs. May God help him.

### Not Out the Hole

Zion is not yet out of the hole, for she still owes the city of Charleston about two thousand dollars for street improvement before Zion's door. And this same lawyer rang Rev. Mr. Henderson up last week on this matter of payment; but the church has one year and a day to settle this amount. This same lawyer wanted to know of Rev. Mr. Henderson, "Where are you going to get the money?" Rev. Henderson replied "I do not

know." That is and was a fine answer. Why tell the world that your powder is out or where the source of supply is, when strong men determined on your undoing are hot on your track?

### Where Is Zion Located?

Zion is only one block from the corner of King and Calhoun Streets, going East; a stone's throw from Charleston's old Citadel; about five hundred feet from Citadel Square; in speaking distance of the largest Baptist (white) congregation in the State of South Carolina; and the ancient, Christian city of Charleston wants it. It is now Naboth's vineyard; and the city wants it at the expense of the Negroes' ignorance; and if this method fails, these Christian citizens of influence and outstanding reputation for making Negroes pay for what they do not possess, and disposing of them of what they do possess, hope to win by default, when the congregation neglects or acknowledges its inability to pay the two thousand dollars street tax one year and a day from now.

Our next article will contain what the Negro Presbyterians of Edisto Island carried in empty pockets to tax collectors before and some years after I came here, February 15, 1916.

### A VOICE FROM NEBRASKA

To the Africo-American Presbyterian:

Permit us to break the silence of the "Golden West" and broadcast a note of cheer from Lincoln, Nebraska, a city named in honor of the Great Emancipator, whose monument stands at the Western end of the finest and most costly State Capital building in the world. This great University center has also given to the world such characters as Hon. William Jennings Bryan and General John J. Pershing, who formerly lived and served here.

But it is the bright outlook for Negro Presbyterianism in this mid-west of which I especially write at this time. Your correspondent was born into a Presbyterian atmosphere and schooled under Dr. Feaster in the Arkadelphia Presbyterian Academy. I can be nothing else. The other denominations can not qualify to my satisfaction. My husband works at the Capitol. We own our home and are rearing a large family. We have a fine group of Presbyterian people here, but they are not officially organized and represented. The white Presbytery here does not want a Negro church.

Four years ago Rev. W. W. Mayle, a man of experience, noted evangelistic gifts and scholarly attainments, settled here to found "The Lincoln Bible Institute and Training School for Christian Workers." The work opened with a Daily Vacation Bible School, the first in this city for our race. We have just closed the fourth year's effort (held in two sections of the city to facilitate transportation) with crowning success.

Our "Lincoln Bible Institute and Training School" has an affiliated program with the University here, and includes the "Bible Institute Church" for all who wish to worship with us. Dr. Mayle broadcasts a Bible study program every Friday at 4 P. M. over Radio Station W. C. A. J.—the voice of Nebraska—Wesleyan University.

In many ways our Presbyterian group leads in Lincoln, Nebraska. The spacious studio was crowded at the commencement of our D. V. B. S. It was the first radio closing exercise presented in this section and consisted of a drama, "The Woman from Missouri Visits Her First D. V. B. S." The characters were: Faithful Mrs. Myrtle Deane;

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## A HUMAN DOCUMENT

By Dr. Kelly Miller

Mr. Kelly Miller,  
Dear Sir:

This is a letter from one of whom you've never heard. I am one of those unfortunates whom life has deceived, a member of the younger generation who tried to know everything. Just one of those kids that the older folks couldn't tell anything. They took care of me through my childhood, sent me to school, tried to make me a clever, intelligent and decent living young man. But I failed that confidence. Bad company was my downfall. Warnings did me no good. The crowd finally were into the meshes of the law, I with them. They all seemed to have alibis. I was left holding the bag. The result was a prison term.

Upon my release from prison I went to work for a Negro minister who owned a printshop. The shop hardly paid the expenses. Because the chances of a Negro printer around New York are very bad. I was paid \$6 a week, my room rent and board were \$9. I made out for a few weeks with the money I received from prison. Then I went broke. I started sleeping in the print shop. I quit the print shop and went to work nights in a cork factory at \$28 per week. I worked two weeks and was laid off. Not enough work.

Walking the streets looking for a job I was picked up by the police. It wasn't any trouble at all for them to pin a crime on me. Although he put up a good plea I was found guilty, altho I pleaded not guilty. I received three years. The man that was robbed was an alderman, so the police department was exceedingly eager to appease. So they needed a goat, and it seems I was elected to fill that position.

I have just reached the age of 21 and I'm tired of being a fool. I want a chance to make good. I have a second year high school education, and I am very eager to improve it. I know the printing trade and shoe repair work, and I have been studying music and can play the cornet. I do not smoke or drink. I have been here in the institution practically half of my time and am now eligible to go before the Honorable Court of Pardons. When I present myself before that august body I must prove to them without a possible doubt that I intend to make good. That I will work and stay out of trouble, that I will be an honest and law-abiding citizen.

Therefore, Mr. Miller, I write to you knowing you are a man of national fame, one who is interested in the progress of the youths of the race, and I am sure you will give your advice and lend a helping hand to one who is earnestly trying to make good. I need advice and help badly and will appreciate any you give me.

Hoping and praying you will answer my letter, I am  
Respectfully yours,

My dear Sir:

Your interesting letter is a human document of great significance. Your case fully illustrates the temptations and vicissitudes which beset our adolescent youth who are crowding our high schools. The gangster spirit is playing havoc with youth as well as adults. I am making public your letter because it portrays a general situation which your particular case exemplifies. I trust that it might result in furnishing a salutary warning to thousands.

I regard your case as fortunate in that, like the portugal

son, you came to yourself before it was too late. You have plenty time ahead of you to make a good and useful citizen out of yourself. But should you have lost an eye or a limb, it would have embarrassed, though it need not defeat your worthy objective. So let it be with this unfortunate experience. Though retarded you need not be defeated.

I advise you to select some trade or pursuit where your unfortunate record will not destroy your chances for success; were it to become known. Do not seek a profession or any public station in which your record might easily embarrass or defeat you. Choose rather some private pursuit where individual effort alone counts for success. I would change my location and get as far away from my early embarrassments as possible. You might consider the advisability of changing your name. But whatever you do, if you decide to get married, take your partner for life fully into your confidence. From now on play the game according to Hoyle.

Yours truly,  
KELLY MILLER.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION AND WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONS OF RENDALL PRESBYTERY

By Helen G. Cousins

Hello, Friends:

We thought you might be interested in a bit of news from the West. We have just attended the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Sunday School Convention and Woman's Home Mission Society of Rendall Presbytery, held at Mt. Moriah church in Oklahoma City, July 21-22. This meeting proved to be the most successful, most inspiring and best attended that Rendall Presbytery has ever had. Watch out, Mr. Depression!

On Friday morning, July 21, after the consecration service and enrollment of delegates, the Convention listened to the following program: President's annual address by Mr. J. H. Crowell, in which he assailed the Sunday school for its failure to successfully compete with the various amusement places in our towns for the interest and attendance of our youths. Then came a series of talks: "The Cradle Roll Department of the Small Sunday School," by Mrs. B. L. Glenn; "Grading the Sunday School" by Rev. H. C. Cousins; "The Work and Possibilities of the Young People's Class," Rev. M. M. Gibson; "Leadership Training," Rev. W. J. Starks.

After the noon recess the following subjects were discussed: "The Adult Bible Class," Dr. A. P. Bethel; and "The How and Why of the Sunday School Institute," Rev. S. J. Onque. You can see from the nature of the subjects stated the wealth of information and inspiration that could have been brought out. And the discussion by the leaders and the forum discussions which followed did not fail to bring out all of these possibilities.

For the twenty-fourth time Mr. J. H. Crowell was elected President of the Convention and Rendall Presbytery is proud of him.

Friday night was given over to a popular meeting by the Woman's Home Missionary Society. After the program the delegates and visitors witnessed the ordination of Rev. M. M. Gibson, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian church, of Oklahoma City.

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## GOODWILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FT. PIERCE, FLA.

By Miss Memolia L. Turner

Out of the noise and clamor in the air comes a still small voice from Goodwill Presbyterian church, Fort Pierce, Fla. Goodwill brings good news to you. Just listen!

May the 5th brought to Goodwill a new pastor, no other than Rev. S. D. Thom, D. D., and his good wife. Just how overjoyed Goodwill was to have them you will see when you read further, and not only the church but outside friends. Rev. Mr. Campbell, the pastor of the white Presbyterian church, was the minister to greet them and welcome them to the city and offer any assistance needed.

A few days after we arrived, one afternoon some of the members were seen from the window setting out trees rather close together. Dr. Thom said: "Oh, we'll have some shade around here after a while." Mrs. Thom thought to go out and offer some suggestions as to how the trees should be set out. Dr. Thom offered to bring them some water to put in the holes they were digging to set the trees in. "Oh, no," was the reply, "we are only making a garden for the garden party we are going to give for the children tomorrow afternoon." The next evening about six o'clock two escorts came to take us for a walk to see the city. As we were all tired out from the drive from Atlanta here and the unpacking, Dr. Thom suggested that we should ride instead of walking. On and on we drove under the direction of Mr. George Muldrow. Turning back we stopped at the home of Mr. Muldrow. We noticed very much rushing. As quick as the batting of your eyes Mrs. H. Toney stepped in with a lovely bud for each. Dr. Thom pulled out his watch and said: "It is time for prayer meeting; we must be going," not thinking anything yet and being a minute man. So we were soon homeward bound with our two escorts, Mr. George Muldrow and Mrs. H. Toney. Bright lights greeted us on the lawn, and tables here and there were elaborately decorated. In the house again, guests began to arrive. Rev. and Mrs. Campbell and daughters in the number. We wondered why so much company. In a few minutes we were escorted on the lawn. And what was on the table and what came after this was eaten and that was eaten. I will not tell you what it was for fear your mouth will water so that you will not be able to read further.

After the surprise reception and speeches were over and we were once more in the house, five cakes were brought in and presented and there was no end to the fruit. A surprise! I say it was.

Every night with the exception of Saturday night Goodwill's doors are open wide for some meeting or service and the doors are not just opened and no one comes in; every one is in his or her place and for the most part on time. There is no pleading to come to prayer meeting, choir practice, etc. Each one knows his and her duty and is right at the post. On Wednesday nights for prayer meeting it is nothing to see forty or fifty present and ready and willing to take a part.

The pastor has started a community Bible class and it is progressing nicely. He began building by going out and soliciting members. The men of this class are lending their support to the church as well as the Sunday school by being constant visitors and helping in the offering.

Under Mrs. Thom's guidance the Woman's Missionary Society is making long strides. For the first time we are using the mission study books and each one

is vitally interested in improvement.

Both the Senior and Junior choirs are doing their parts. The Junior choir has every fourth Sunday to show what it is doing. The Senior choir will have to sing up, or the Junior choir will leave them.

There was once only one Christian Endeavor but now they are divided into two groups. Miss Memolia L. Turner has charge of the Y. P.'s group and Mrs. L. Muldrow the younger group. Mrs. Muldrow is doing a fine piece of work with her group. She once had both groups. The young people are proud of the change and to show it they are all right on the minute and sometimes earlier. Goodwill has good and willing workers.

The first District School of Methods in Knox Presbytery was held in Fessenden, Fla. Goodwill was represented and did its part to make it a success.

The pastor, Dr. Thom, is preaching such wonderful sermons that those who usually stay at home on Sunday nights on account of rheumatism, etc., come out and bring others and say, "I just can't stay at home; I am afraid I am missing something good. Why, Dr. Thom, you just preached me back this morning." As a result Sunday night finds the church almost crowded.

Friday night, July 21, marked the close of a very successful Vacation Church School which ran two weeks. It was not the first Vacation Church School held here but the first held on such a broad scale. The church not being large enough to accomplish what the pastor had in view he secured the use of the public school building of the city from the Superintendent of Education who was only too glad to turn over the building, and the Principal, Prof. Peterson, was there to help in any way he could each day. We had an enrollment of 200. The faculty consisted of ten members: Dr. S. D. Thom, Advisor; Mrs. S. D. Thom, Director; Miss Memolia Turner, Supt.; Mrs. Pauline Muldrow, Registrar; Mrs. Wright, Treasurer; Mrs. H. Toney, Secretary; Mrs. Carolyn Kirby, Pianist; Mrs. E. Muldrow, Mrs. S. Cooper and Mrs. L. Ricks. Each day we had an outside speaker: Dr. Rhodes, dentist; Dr. Benton, physician; Rev. Campbell, Prof. Peterson, and other ministers gave addresses. Each one was amazed at how broad the Presbyterian program is and said he had never before known that it was so inclusive.

A special class was conducted by the pastor for the adults. The subject of study was: "How Jesus Met Life Problems." This class was enjoyed so much that they wanted it to run two weeks longer.

The exhibition was admired by all who attended the closing. On Monday, July 24, a picnic was given for the Vacation Bible School students. In spite of the rain the children had a fine time. We did not forget those who are not fortunate enough to have a Bible School so we put aside a part of our money for that purpose.

We are only sending you a little ocean breeze from away down South to let you know that Goodwill will not rest till its good will is its better will, and its better will its best.

The divine wisdom has given us prayer not as a means whereby to obtain the good things of earth, but as a means whereby we may learn to do without them; not as a means whereby to escape evil, but as means whereby we may become strong enough to meet it.—R. W. Robertson.