

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LV.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1934.

NO. 10.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AT THE WORKERS' CONFERENCE

(A paper adopted at the Workers' Conference held in the University Church at Johnson C. Smith University, Feb. 6-9.)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Workers' Conference:

In all ages the affairs of the Church have claimed the thought and attention of the leading people of the world. The Church, whatever may be its shortcomings, through its organizations and activities, has been and ever shall be the greatest rectifying and moving power in the world.

Through the missionary operations of the Church, wrecked and lost souls are being constantly sought and brought not only into the visible Church, but the feet of him who gave life for the salvation of mankind.

In these times of unrest, turmoil and uncertainty the Church is being subjected to severe criticism by its opponents; they say it has lost its power, its missionary zeal is on the wane, it no longer speaks with its ancient authority, it deals only in vague generalities. These opponents for the most part are the worshippers of the material and secular life. We must, however, keep in mind that material things are not lasting. Crowns and thrones have perished, kingdoms have risen and waned, but the Church still abides because it is built not upon material but spiritual values which alone are eternal.

In view of the above, we, the members of this Conference, do here and now pledge our renewed allegiance to our Heavenly Father and rededicate and reconsecrate our lives to the common task of pressing forward in our efforts of seeking the lost and building them up in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are grateful to God that he has blessed us with this type of Conference where we are permitted to gather from four Synods, seventeen Presbyteries and hundreds of churches, for the purpose of discussing vital problems in the field of church work that confront us from day to day.

We have been profoundly impressed with this the 20th annual session of the Conference, and express our deepest appreciation to our Executive Head, Dr. J. M. Gaston, and those associated with him in the formulation of such a comprehensive and far reaching program that has engaged our attention during this week.

We give our hearty endorsement to the Parish Plan of Church Extension, which has been discussed at length in this session of the Conference. We believe the plan has real merit and will mean the dawn of a new day in the life of our churches on the Southern field. We express our thanks to Dr. W. J. Nelson and Dr. G. W. Long for the information given from their fields where the plan has been put into operation. Because the plan is new to us and because it will take some time for our present leadership to evolve the idea further, because our educational units will need time to adjust their curricula to provide adequate training for those desiring to render such service, we recommend that the Plan be gradually incorporated by the Department of Missionary Operations on our Southern field.

We have listened with profit to the explanation of the work being done at Newton Community Center in Chattanooga, Tenn., as presented by Rev. J. B. Barber. It is our opinion that the project has proved its worth and that a limited number of community centers should be set up in some of the

more densely populated urban communities within the bounds of our four Synods, as soon as competent leadership can be secured to operate them.

That we may thoroughly integrate these new ideas into our church program we suggest that certain of our educational institutions be permitted to incorporate in their curricula such courses as will give prospective leaders the proper technique to enable them to administer the specialized duties incident to the Parish Plan or Community Center Work.

We further suggest that a sufficient number of Parishes and Community Centers be set up in close proximity to such specialized educational institutions that they may serve as experimental stations or practice centers for students who are in preparation for such types of service.

We give our unqualified endorsement to the Spiritual Advancement Program that has been recommended by the General Council of the General Assembly, and commend most highly the work that is being done by our Evangelist, Rev. T. B. Hargrave, in pushing the Spiritual Recovery Program in Canadian and East Tennessee Synods. We commend him for the graphic and illuminating manner in which he described this work to us.

The Young People's Hour, conducted by Rev. Arthur H. George, was timely and significant. The interest manifested in that period reveals the growing concern about this part of the Church's work and the need on the part of the local leadership studying the program carefully so as to be able to adapt it to their local situations.

The papers and addresses dealing with our Church's educational program and policies as presented by Miss Edna Voss, Mrs. A. S. Clarke, Mrs. M. A. Sanders, President H. S. Davis, Dean L. S. Cozart and President C. E. Tucker, were comprehensive and masterful presentations. That we might be able to further digest and assimilate more of the contents of these papers and addresses we suggest a close and careful study of them as they appear in the Africo-American Presbyterian.

The Conference desires to express itself as follows on the educational policy and program of the Board: While we are mindful of the fact that the extensive educational program of the Board of National Missions which has been curtailed in recent years from 138 schools to 21 at present, was made necessary because of lack of funds and the assumption that State supported schools were adequately meeting the needs of education for our group, it is the opinion of this Conference that the closing of additional schools will seriously hinder the progress of our work. For if we are to have a trained leadership to put into operation the progressive ideas in church work, we must not only have a great University with a limited number of affiliated Junior Colleges, but we must have a system of Secondary Schools strategically located in the most densely populated areas of the South to give the much needed foundation training to boys and girls who desire to give their lives to full time Christian service.

A timely item on the Conference Program was the topic on Interracial Co-operation, led by Mrs. G. W. Long. In these

times of economic, financial, moral and spiritual rehabilitation of the country and the world we sorely need the practical and very prayerful application of the religion of Jesus, especially the practice of the Golden Rule and the principles of the Sermon on the Mount in the matter of Race Relations; for lynching is still prevalent; industrial discrimination is still being practiced, we still face the problem of unequal educational opportunity and lack of justice in the courts.

The Conference is unanimous in its opinion that the rich, ripe, and deeply spiritual messages that have been brought to us by Dr. W. L. McEwan mark the high spot of the Conference. In an age of doubt, and discouragement, in a period of cynicism and pessimism, in an era of skepticism and paganism, these messages have come as a bracing tonic to enable us to press on to the mark of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we come to the close of this Conference, the most significant of all that we have held, we feel that it would not be amiss to make one or two suggestions that we feel will not only conserve the rich heritage of the past years of the Conference but will make it more fruitful and beneficial in the future:

1. That more time be given for discussion of some of the more vital problems related to the work on the various fields.

2. That a Committee on Findings be appointed at each Conference, whose duty it will be to digest and crystallize the thinking of the Conference, and present such findings in a compact form to be used as reference material for the members of the Conference during the year.

3. To prevent a mental lag near the close of the Conference we suggest placing on the program one or two periods during the Conference for social and recreational activity.

In closing we desire to express our sincere thanks to President McCrorey and his very efficient staff of co-workers for the splendid manner in which they have provided for our every need during our stay here.

To the families in the city of Charlotte for their spirit of hospitality in opening their doors for the housing of some of the members of the Conference;

To Dr. L. B. West and Rev. A. H. Prince for the fine manner in which they performed the secretarial duties of the Conference;

To the ladies of the Conference for the program rendered on Wednesday night;

To Dr. H. N. Morse and Dr. J. M. Somerville for the refreshing and timely messages which they delivered to us;

To Dr. J. M. Gaston, our general presiding officer and Secretary of our Unit; Miss Marjorie E. W. Smith, and Mrs. A. B. Snively, his loyal co-workers, for their untiring efforts in making the Conference a success, and for their wise planning in not only keeping the Conference alive during these times of depression, but keeping it on a plane where it is registering a steady increase in attendance;

To any others not mentioned above who have in any way, contributed to the success of the Conference or to our comfort while here.

Finally, "Supreme above all is our desire to render thanks to the Great Head of the Church for His protecting and directing power, for His Spirit of Love which broods over our troubled hearts and minds during these uncertain times and reminds us that we are first of all Brethren of a common Lord. With a

new sense of our dependence upon Him we go forward to the further work which awaits us in the Master's Vineyard."

Most humbly and respectfully submitted,

J. D. MARTIN,  
A. W. RICE,  
MRS. H. M. STINSON,  
H. W. MCNAIR,  
F. C. SHIRLEY, Sec.  
W. I. P. ROSEBOROUGH,  
MRS. L. B. HARRIS,  
H. T. McFADDEN,  
C. J. BAKER, Chairman.

## BY THE WAY

By Uncle Billie

### Things That Look Bad

There are so many things that look bad that it would be, perhaps, better to speak of a few things that look well or attract and hold one's attention of the beautiful. But what may look bad to one group may not be noticed by another. It, no doubt, depends up on the distance one has ascended into the mental and spiritual realm in one's quest for knowledge. So on to the bad.

Things that reflect on one's scholarship look bad and are among some of the most embarrassing of all. But to exhibit one's poor scholarship is to be ignorant of the fact that one does not know that one does not know or that one thinks that one knows that that one does not know. The former is to be pitied, while the latter should be by all means avoided. The one calls on your sympathy and the other worries your patience and vexes your soul.

A few months ago I "dropped" into a college classroom during the period the teacher was lecturing to a large class of young men and women in the subject of geology. This young professor exhibited much ability in this subject; but when he broke loose from the Bible hitching-post and ran off into a theory unsupported by the subject he was given to teach, saying nothing about the Bible teaching, the dash looked bad and it was bad; for in his self-centered dash he told his attentive class that man and everything material came from rock. He declared that God made a rock and everything else came from this petrified material.

Without going into anything that assumes the shape of an argument, it is only necessary to say, if what this teacher in geology says is true, that the English dictionary has one word too many; that word is petrify. It conveys no idea. It should be entirely eliminated from all English lexicons and spelling books as false to its derivative (petra and facio). It has no significance as a borrowed word from the Latin language. This teacher makes rock the antecedent of dust, or all visible and invisible particles and debris from which rock is formed. Science points to rock as an effect produced by an agent; an effect immediately following—though it may be centuries maturing—from an antecedent, or cause in terms of ages. And this cause is governed and controlled by a cause that is divine. In the old hymn of atonement, "Rock of Ages," figuratively one's mind naturally looks back at a rock formed through centuries piled up. The Latin language would rightly place ages as a characteristic genitive to denote some internal or permanent characteristic of person or thing: *vir magnae virtutis* (a man of great virtue). Rock of ages (its mark and nature bespeak ages).

We read in Genesis 2:7: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust (aphar, which means dust) and not of challamish which means flint rock, or rock. But it may be considered an-

## WHY THE NEGRO SHOULD KEEPT AROUND ROOSEVELT

By Dr. Kelly Miller

The Congressional campaign is approaching. Politicians are mending their fences for the coming election which will determine whether they are to retain their seats or remain at home. The majority party confidently expects to retain its hold on power; the minority merely hopes to preserve its skeleton organization and keep its forces in shape for the Presidential election in 1936, if perchance the political winds should veer in a favorable direction by that time. The Grand Old Party of high aims and ideals hardly expects to gain ascendancy in either branch of Congress, but is on the keen alert to capitalize upon whatever blunders the administration may make. The party of ancient glory and achievements, the party that saved the union, abolished slavery and set the nation in the path of prosperity has become a political bankrupt and is sitting on the stool of do nothing watchfully waiting to snare the adversary if caught off guard. The picture presents a pitiable and pathetic spectacle.

During the last presidential campaign I harangued the Negro voters through the columns of the Negro press to the point of weariness, urging them to throw off the ancient yoke of subserviency which the race has borne for two voting generations, and face the living issues of the day and hour. They were not voting for Lincoln and Grant, but for Hoover and Roosevelt. Roosevelt won with perhaps a reinforcement of a majority of the Negro vote. Both of the old political parties and their traditions are dead and buried in the same grave. The ancient rivals have swapped issues and exchanged patron saints. Jefferson with his rugged individuality has been adopted by the Republicans, while the centralized power of Hamilton has become the Democratic method—if not its slogan. The Republican party rose to power and glorious achievement on the platform of human rights and protective tariff. It has cowardly abandoned the former while time and events have outmoded the latter. Free trade and State sovereignty—the ancient Democratic strongholds—are merely curious survivals in the estimation of Roosevelt and the powers now in control of its fortune. There are no longer any hard and fast party lines or party issues. The economic emergency has put a new face on the political front. Partisan politics has failed lamentably to meet the requirements of the day and the issue. Not only in America but all over the world the same condition is apparent. Dictatorship has succeeded partisan government both in Europe and America. In England, France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Russia, and America, dictators are in charge of their respective governments either by assumed or conferred power. No patriot in any land is thinking about a change, not until the emergency is passed. In time of stress and storm, the captain must command the ship; the others must obey. The only practical question is whether there can be found a better dictator than Roosevelt. This certainly can not be accomplished by a shift of parties.

Franklin Roosevelt, like Abraham Lincoln, came to the Presidency with no great preliminary preparation. In this respect they were both far inferior to their rivals for rulership. And yet Lincoln made the greatest in our list of chief ex-

ecutives, exhibiting unsuspected ability and resourcefulness in handling the most trying and puzzling problems of state. A ready Roosevelt has exhibited an unsuspected courage, ability and resourcefulness in quelling the snap of state through troubled and uncharted waters, with astounding courage and statesmanlike grip and grasp he has grappled with economic, industrial, political, financial and business factors, whether domestic or international, with a mastery that fills the world with admiration and surprise. His whole program is tentative and experimental. Something, and something drastic, had to be done. In his own words the situation "calls for action, and action now." Suppose he has made some mistakes. All experiments are wasteful. A wise executive is one who decides quickly, acts promptly and is right half of the time. Where is the man who among the one hundred and twenty millions among us could have done better? Why waste while in sky gazing in quest of flaws on the face of the moon or spots on the sun instead of following the lead of their beneficent and kindly light?

The Negro has not been singled out in Roosevelt's New Deal, but his clear and declared purpose is that it shall apply equally to all American citizens without regard to race or color.

Mr. Roosevelt, we are sure, will not repeat the political mistake of Woodrow Wilson and ask the country for a partisan Congress to uphold and support his policies. But the people of their own good sense and judgment will thrust down all reactionaries and obstructionists, under whatever partisan guise, and select a crew that will cheerfully and patriotically uphold the hand of the captain who guides the ship of state so skillfully amidst the troubled waters. In this patriotic and nationwide support no element should be more wholehearted and enthusiastic than the Afro-American contingent.

## TO OFFER MEMORIAL TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Jacksonville, Fla., March—(By the Associated Negro Press)—A National Race acknowledgement of esteem for President Franklin D. Roosevelt has taken form and is being carried out in a memorial to be presented to the President at an early date. The memorial was drafted by a committee of citizens, themselves nationally known and in full knowledge of the good part President Roosevelt is playing in the Negro's behalf.

The memorial sets forth the general approval and appreciation of colored Americans throughout the land in respect to the President's personal and administrative accomplishments, especially as they affect the man lowest down in colored America.

Says Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President of Bethune-Cookman College, at Daytona Beach, Fla., and among the nation's fifty most prominent women: "President Roosevelt deserves the tribute you have in mind. May I thank you for the privilege of participating in this splendid effort."

S. D. McGill, nationally known Jacksonville attorney, writes: "I have read the draft of the memorial to be addressed to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and am thoroughly in accord

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