

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CINCINNATI, OHIO, MAY 24.

(Report made up from The General Assembly Daily News, and other sources.)

With the dignity and impressiveness that have characterized the opening of the Presbyterian General Assembly each year for nearly a century and a half, the 147th General Assembly began its sessions at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning, May 23, in the Taft Auditorium, Cincinnati. The opening session was a service of worship, of communion and of the preaching of the Word.

The delegates and the visitors began to arrive early at the Auditorium and by 9:00 A. M. the lobby was jammed. Slowly they filtered into the auditorium and when Dr. Covert opened the Assembly at 10:30 A. M., there was scarcely an available seat.

The delegates have come from all parts of the United States and from foreign countries. There are missionaries from Yucatan and the Near and Far East, nurses and doctors from India and other parts of the world.

Preceding a celebration of the Lord's Supper marked by a silence that in itself was an inspiration to the 920 commissioners and the hundreds of visitors, the opening sermon was preached by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. Dr. William Chalmers Covert of the Presbytery of Chicago. Dr. Covert's subject was: "Apostolic Requisites for a Prevailing Church," and the Scripture texts were: "The Word of God grew and multiplied" (Acts 12:24); "And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

### Sacrament Served

On the stage as the Assembly opened, were 80 elders of the Church and almost as many ministers to aid in the solemn Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which followed Dr. Covert's sermon.

At the front of the platform, flanking the speaker's stand, were long tables, glistening in white nappery and with the silvery service of the Sacrament.

The Sacrament was served to the approximately 2,400 persons in the auditorium in half an hour by means of the well-drilled corps of elders. They were stationed at various parts of the auditorium and carried the Sacrament to the communicants.

The audience stilled to an intense quietude as Dr. Covert began his address.

### Obstacles Compared

The obstacles faced by the Church today were compared by Dr. Covert with those faced nearly 2,000 years ago by the Apostles. If they triumphed over their far greater difficulties, he said, there was no excuse for failure of the present Church.

"Why," Dr. Covert asked, "do we see the Church hesitant while millions of unsaved men and women are all around us and unbelief, immorality and intemperance are honeycombing society and undermining the stability and progress of the Church?"

He told his audience to hark back to the methods used by the Apostles if they would overcome these conditions.

"It is in us, not in the Gospel message that we shall find the explanation of that slackness and incompetency and lack of converting power that marks our preaching," he said.

"The secrets of the successes of the early church are far removed from mechanism and programs and budgets. They were not related to fine-spun theories of faith. The Christian movement was the overflow and

contagion of lives saturated with a vital believing in the fact of Christ as a personal Saviour. God's Word for it—when there comes upon our Church in newness of power these apostolic gifts, then will come an apostolic blessing."

### Points to Labor of Old

Today the Church has no right to claim that it faces unconquerable difficulties in the world, Dr. Covert indicated. Preachers never since have met such obstacles as the Apostles vanquished.

"The message never faced a more impenetrable mass of self-complacency and pride than then. It never was heaped upon with such such bitter contempt. Socially, it was never so despicable and mockingly regarded by the elite. It never met such depths of poverty nor such meagerness of personnel and provisions.

"It was hated as blasphemy by the most religiously endowed race the world ever knew, out of whose prophetic hopes and promises it had come. The greatest body of noble literature the pagan world ever produced ignored it. From its spirituality and ideals a haughty world turned to gross sins that darkened the mind, corrupted the heart and marred the manhood of the race. Yet in the face of all this, 'The Word of God grew and multiplied.'"

The Moderator described five characteristics for the Church of 1935 to resurrect in its life today. He outlined them as follows:

"1. There was singing. The dreary world was waiting to be lifted on wings of song to levels of cheer and joy. Here is a great evangelistic potency that the present-day Church, facing a bitter, disillusioned generation, must invoke.

"2. There was sharing. These apostolic men and women never lost their contact with the misery and misfortune around them. It was the moving power of a brotherhood—not the theory or the mode of the code—that made the Apostolic Church the most magnetic unit of human living the world ever saw. This is an hour of strange need in our nation's life. The nobler instincts of our brotherhood never before have had such a chance to convince a desperate world of the sincerity of our faith.

"3. There was healing. It was their sympathies for the sick and suffering that drew to those believing apostolic men and women an unbelieved world. The Master waits to endow with spiritual blessings His people when they lift the falling, support the faint, soothe the suffering and lighten with love and hope the hour of death.

"4. There was corporate prayer. There was an oneness of spirit in that early corporate praying in which apostolic differences were submerged in the great unity of desire for the saving of the world through the power of the risen Christ. The Church today, on her knees in corporate prayer for the saving of the world, must find that same apostolic oneness of spirit.

"5. There was preaching. Such earnest apologetics and passionate pleading men never heard. The fearlessness and joy with which they swept across all the frontiers of a selfish world with the gospel left men dumbfounded."

"Will the Presbyterian Church, through this significant gathering of her servants here," concluded the retiring Moderator,

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## DE-SEGREGATION

By Dr. Kelly Miller

Dr. Benjamin Stolberg in a striking contribution to "The Nation" of May 15th, boldly declares "our first duty is to fight for the complete economic, social and spiritual de-segregation of the American Negro." These are fine words inspired by a noble purpose. Dr. Stolberg is a Jew and belongs to a minority group whose circumscription is somewhat similar, though infinitely less galling, than that of the Negro. He indulges in the counsel of perfection with no means of putting his counsel into effect. He might as well advise the Germans that their first duty is to de-segregate the Jew. This counsel would but make the "Hitlerites" laugh.

From the beginning of the segregation movement until now, the Negro has been the helpless victim with little more resistive power than the Jew had against the Grotto of former days. The dominant white group, consciously or unconsciously, came to the mind that segregation should be the policy of dealing with the Negro in matters of social or semi-social relationship. The attitude is all but universal with but a few daring individual exceptions.

The Negro is merely the recipient with little or no power to determine or resist the nature of the treatment which he is to receive. In this respect, he is befitted precisely as the Jew in Germany under the imperial decree of Hitler. All Negroes want de-segregation as described by Stolberg but are painfully conscious of their feeble resistive capacity against the heaviest of Nordic prejudice. Some Negroes of the more cautious or conservative temperament, have sought to make a virtual necessity and have advocated the acceptance of segregation as the only practical method of racial adjustment under the prevailing circumstances. This is but a modern instance of the fox denouncing the too high-hanging grapes as sour. If the race must needs worship in separate churches, why not regard such churches as the ideal place to develop and practice the beauty of holiness? Theoretically, the Negro has denounced segregation from its incipency with a bitter, though impotent denunciation. The late William Monroe Trotter, the uncompromising champion of Negro equality, nailed to his mast the motto, "Segregation for Colored is the Real Permanent Damning Degradation in the U. S. A.—Fight It." He lived, fought and died under the inspiration of this standard. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a number of years devoted its chief energies against segregation and won a signal victory in the Supreme Court of the United States. Flushed with this legal victory, and with an optimism born of zeal rather than disproportionate understanding, this militant organization declared that if given two million dollars it would destroy segregation completely. Possessing what I regarded as a clearer understanding of the deep-seated forces which lay behind segregation, I at the time declared that this objective could not be accomplished with ten million or even a hundred million dollars. My judgment proved the wiser as revealed by subsequent events. All of the commendable efforts put forth have not made a single deep dent in the side of segregation. The N. A. A. C. P. has desisted from its dramatic opposition and turned its energies into combatting other forms of race prejudice. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, who did more than any single agency in creating the spirit upon which the N. A. A.

C. P. was founded, has at last convinced himself of the hopelessness of the fight and would sensibly utilize segregation since he finds he can not destroy it. After forty years of strenuous endeavor he has given up the quest for the absolute and now seeks more immediate and practical aim. But neither the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People nor Dr. DuBois nor myself, nor even Negroes of more timid principles can ever surrender to segregation in its principle. The lambs segregate themselves from the wolves by a cautionary salutary instinct.

The Communists, as a militant but impotent minority, are dramatizing the evils of segregation in order to win the Negroes to their support. But if by any bad chance this radical minority should find itself in a controlling position, what assurance is there that it would or could assuage the rancor of race prejudice?

All honors to Dr. Stolberg for his noble declaration as to the de-segregation of the Negro. This appeal, however, if it is to be of any effectiveness whatever, must be directed to the white race which is in the controlling position. The Negro hears these things gladly but powerlessly. It is ideally self-evident that if democracy is ever to come to the fulfillment of its high pretensions every vestige of segregation on account of creed, race or color must be done away with. When this nation with or without law, segregates the Negro, it belies the fundamental principle of Democracy. But this is the white man's burden, albeit the Negro bears the heaviest brunt.

Dr. Stolberg advises the American people that, unless they de-segregate the Negro he will become a counter-revolutionary force in the class struggle with which America is threatened. Herein Dr. Stolberg gives away the secret of the Communist who is so solicitous of the Negro's welfare.

### HAYNES SAYS INTEGRATION OF GROUPS IS WAY OUT

Washington, D. C., May 20—There closed here today at Howard University a significant National Conference on "The Position of the Negro in our National Economic Crisis," held under the auspices of the Joint Committee on National Recovery, Dr. Geo. Edmund Haynes, chairman, and John P. Davis, executive secretary, and the Social Science Division of Howard University with direction of Dr. Ralph J. Bunce, of the Department of Political Science. Presiding over the sessions were Dr. Haynes, who gave the welcome address; Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, of Washington; Dr. A. Howard Long, Dr. Alain Locke and President Mordecai Johnson, of Howard University, and Miss Elizabeth Eastman, of the National Board of the Y. W. C. A.

The program comprised papers and addresses surveying the problems of Negroes under the NRA and their relationship to the trade and labor union movements in industry, and three sessions given to discussion of Negroes in the present farming situations especially in the cotton States of the South. An array of facts was presented on farm tenant conditions in the cotton belt by Miss Olive Stone of the University of North Carolina and by representatives of the Federal Government's Departments dealing with subsistence, home-

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## CATAWBA PRESBYTERIAL

By Mrs. R. Z. Beatty, Recording Secretary

Theme: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

The annual meeting of the Women's Presbyterial Society for National and Foreign Missions in the Presbytery of Catawba met with the Mt. Olive Presbyterial church, R. F. D., near Charlotte, N. C., May 2, 1935. The worship period, led by Mrs. A. L. Shute, was the first order. This service was very inspiring. Mrs. Shute stressed the need of a closer relationship with the Heavenly Father, more conscientious songs and prayers that we might gain the needed strength and courage to do the work of the Master. Presbyterial delegates took an active part. The closing prayer was offered by Rev. O. E. Sanders.

The next order of business was called by Mrs. Hallie Q. Mayberry, the president. This was the registration of delegates by the Recording Secretary, Mrs. R. Z. Beatty. Seventy-two delegates were registered at this time.

Hearty greetings from the hostess church were given by Mrs. J. Viola Grier. Response was made by Mrs. P. W. Russell, of Johnson C. Smith University church.

Memories of the 1934 meeting were given by Presbyterial Recording Secretary, Mrs. Beatty. Goals achieved were related by the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Gamble. The goal of the year had been reached. Many had reported as recommended by the Recording Secretary, yet others had not. Send your reports to the Secretary properly filled out, and pay your apportionment quarterly and promptly is the recommendation.

Working With Our Hands. Mrs. Carrie Henry, Secretary of National Missions and Oversea Sewing, said much had been done towards the support of Brainerd Institute during the past year, and for the year 1935 we are to support our own Barber-Scotia in a tangible way.

"Go ye, and whatever your hands find to do, do with all your might" was the admonition of Mrs. Floretta Johnson, Social Service Secretary.

It makes the Secretary of Literature happy when there is an increase in the purchasing of literature. The societies are doing better in this respect, and yet there is much room for improvement.

Mrs. H. L. McCrorey, the Stewardship Secretary, was presented to the Presbyterial. Mrs. McCrorey said that something definite was being done as touching stewardship, as it deals with money and possessions. Many, said she, are sacrificing and giving of their meagre incomes for the furthering of God's kingdom.

The Group Conferences of 30 minutes were led by the Young People's Secretaries: Mrs. O. E. Sanders, Intermediates; Mrs. F. C. Shirley, Children's Secretary; Miss Annie Chresfield, Young People's Secretary; Mrs. A. H. Prince, Secretary of Missionary Education. Each group was well instructed by the leaders and much interest was manifested by individuals.

Mrs. Prince's report on Missionary Education and Studying and Reading Missionary Literature gave us new ideas and courage to work harder. Let the study be a means of prayer. Prayer helps us to grow. She reported forty adult reading classes. Let us have more reading campaigns.

Miss Chresfield, in speaking for Young People's Work, asked the questions: Are we doing our bit by the young people? Are

we giving them the opportunity to show to the world that they can put the job over in a big, fine way? Many churches are failing in this great task.

Mrs. O. E. Sanders made a fine report for the Intermediates and at the same time offered her resignation as Secretary as she is to go to a new field soon. Her resignation was accepted with much regret as she is a very splendid and efficient worker, and Catawba Presbyterial was loath to give her up. But with the best wishes and prayers of the body, we surrendered her to Cape Fear Presbyterial.

Mrs. F. C. Shirley made a fine report on Children's Work. This report will be printed in the Africo.

The next order was the appointment of committees on next place of meeting, on memorial and on nomination of officers.

Visitors were introduced. Dr. H. L. McCrorey was presented. As he had not been with us in several years, he could readily see the progress made by the Presbyterial and spoke in glowing terms of the work and its workers. He also spoke of the growth of Mt. Olive church. He is one of the former supplies of Mt. Olive church.

Dr. L. B. West spoke in behalf of the ministers, and Mrs. Mary M. Jones for the visiting ladies.

Adjournment for dinner.

Thursday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock was the worship period. Reports of local societies were heard. Twenty-two societies reported by delegates or letters \$49.25; fifteen Young People's organizations reported \$16.75; Biennial fee, \$12.50; public offering, \$6.50. Total collection, \$84.50.

Mrs. W. R. Mayberry was unanimously elected by the executive body to represent Catawba Presbyterial which meets at Asheville.

Working Through Our Gifts of Money. The Treasurer's report by Mrs. H. Wilson was satisfactory in every way and was readily adopted.

The President did not deliver her annual address as per schedule. This was missed very much.

The Committee on Next Place of Meeting accepted the invitation from Love's Chapel Society to meet with them next year.

Mrs. N. Bell and Mrs. Esther B. White, who had served long and well as Presbyterial officers until their demise in March, were memorialized in a brief service led by Mrs. R. L. Moore.

The Nominating Committee recommended all officers for reelection with few exceptions. Mrs. Alexander was elected as Secretary of the Division of Missions with Mrs. R. L. Moore as Assistant Secretary. Mrs. Bernice Richardson succeeded Mrs. O. E. Sanders as Secretary of Intermediates. Dr. Wilson, in an impressive way, installed the officers. After this there was adjournment for supper.

Presbyterial Officers  
Honorary President—Mrs. G. E. Davis.  
President—Mrs. Hallie Q. Mayberry.  
1st Vice-President—Mrs. P. W. Russell.  
2nd Vice-President—Mrs. M. L. Harrison.  
3rd Vice-President—Mrs. F. L. Brodie.  
4th Vice-President—Mrs. M. J. Phifer.  
5th Vice-President—Mrs. Irma Grier.  
6th Vice-President—Mrs. Chas. H. Shute.  
Treasurer—Mrs. H. Wilson.  
Recording Secretary—Mrs. R. Z. Beatty.

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