

# Africo-American Presbyterian

AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE. -- John 8:32

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## OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATION FOR THE NEGRO

By Dr. R. R. Wright, Jr.

Dr. R. R. Wright, Jr., President of Wilberforce University, at Wilberforce, Ohio, recently delivered a notable address at Flint, Michigan. President Wright spoke on the objective of education for the Negro and the peculiar duty of the Negro college to work out that objective. He said:

"No group in America needs education as does the Negro. Not only does he need education for the purpose of information and technical training, but more so does he need education for his own spiritual development of self-confidence and self-help. And that is the particular duty and should be the objective of the Negro college.

"A Negro boy or girl goes out into a different world from college to a boy or girl of almost any other nationality in America. He goes out into a world in which there are barriers that obstruct his entrance into almost every field except that of menial labor, it matters not how skilled or trained he may be. The educated Negro's plight in America at present is one of the most pathetic of any group in that he is educated for and thrown into contact with positions on every side from which he is barred from aspiring.

"In the so-called public schools they are constantly reminded that they are not to be American and barriers are thrown up everywhere to prevent them from full participation in school life. The Negro child is impressed with the fact that he is a Negro and that he is apart from the great American society, and that he must not expect to be an American in all that term implies.

"For instance we say the one great purpose of education is to fit people for citizenship, and the State and nation spend billions of dollars annually to fit people for citizenship by teaching them to understand and to vote intelligently. Yet there are eleven million Negroes in America and only about one million of them are permitted to vote.

"The result of all of this has been to kill race pride in the Negro and to stultify group ambition; and so the educated Negro as a group has contributed very little to his race of a permanent nature since emancipation.

"In the last seventy years illiteracy of the Negro has been cut to nearly 10 per cent. There were seventy years ago less than half a million Negroes who could read and write; today there are eight million who can read and write. There are less Negroes, however, in the State legislatures today than there were sixty years ago; there are less Negroes in Congress today, and less Negroes holding elective public office of any sort; and it may be (though we have not adequate statistics on the facts) that there are less Negroes actually voting when the Negro illiteracy is 10 per cent than when it was 50 per cent.

The second thing is that education is to aid people in making a living and in developing their resources. The colleges of the country turn out men to make the country grow. Originally when the churches dominated the colleges, they turned out preachers and the church became the center of every community, its largest institution and its greatest influence. Then it was the great objective to develop Christian character. Later when the States and private philanthropy started to develop the industry of the country, the agriculture, finance, etc., and took over education, the great objective of education changed to that of "making good citizens and de-

veloping the resources of our country." Around the colleges and the churches came up great institutions and commercial institutions, railroads and steamship companies. In these communities the school was the feeder for industry and the professions. Thus in the past seventy years the white South has grown tremendously. Billions of dollars have been accumulated in wealth.

"But Negro education does not seem to have penetrated industry and business. Around many of our Negro colleges are slums and very few business organizations. The Negro masses have not been organized, Negro finance today is out of the hands of Negroes. In spite of all that is said today about industrial education, there is not a Negro factory of any large proportion run by the graduates of Negro industrial schools. Millions have been put into this kind of education, but we do not see any great results. All over the South we have Negro industrial colleges, and yet in this section the agriculturist's condition is the most backward and pathetic of any in America.

"In an artistic way, education is also supposed to contribute. If we should ask original contribution the Negro's has been that of the slaves in the music of the old slave plantations which is now called the "Spirituals."

"Almost the only organization which the Negro has is that rooted in his simple life of religion—the organization of the church. Education has failed to organize business, industry and politics up to this minute. When we say a great deal about Negro education we merely refer to the fact that so many Negroes have graduated and turned back to teaching school, etc., but when it comes to developing the resources of America, very little has been done.

"It is my belief that the objective of education must be studied in the light of facts, and that the first objective must be the overcoming of racial prejudice; and, second, that the Negro college must strive to develop resources within the Negro himself by inspiring faith and confidence in himself and in his race by thinking of himself as wholly American and having the courage to insist upon the rights that go with American citizenship.

"I know this can not be done in a month or a year or perhaps ten years, but it should become the objective of Negro education. It should be that of raising the group and not an individualistic affair, for it is only as the group advances that individuals may be assured of any permanent security. The better trained people of this generation are too individualistic. The idea of doing something for the race has been too largely supplanted with the idea of doing something for self. The idea of exploitation of their people is almost as great among the young educated Negroes as among the whites, and too many young Negro college graduates look upon the mass of Negroes as their prey for exploitation. I think an honest study of Negro business will reveal that much of the failure of Negro business is the attitude of the Negroes at its head who have forgotten the old missionary motto, "Not for ourselves, but for others." The great missionary spirit must be brought to the college as well as to the church and that is the peculiar duty of the Negro college. The Negro youth must not only be trained in the trades and professions, but also inspired to use this special training for the best interest of his group rather than to exploit them; and also how to

(Continued on page 4)

## JOINT SCOTTSBORO DEFENSE ARRANGED

New York, Dec. 27.— Defense of the nine Scottsboro boys charged with attacking two white women on a freight train in Alabama in 1931, will henceforth be conducted by a joint defense committee, it was announced here today. New trials following the reversal of the Alabama courts last April by the United States Supreme Court are scheduled to begin on Monday, January 13. New indictments were returned by a new grand jury in November.

Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, distinguished churchman of the Broadway Tabernacle in New York City, will serve as chairman. Dr. Chalmers is speaking Sunday at Memphis, Tenn., to five thousand youth people of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Colonel William J. Shieffelin, of New York, is treasurer. Colonel Shieffelin formerly commanded the famous 369th Infantry, is President of the American Church Missionary Society and of the Citizens' Union of New York City, and is a trustee of numerous associations and schools, among them Tuskegee and Hampton Institutes.

Direction of the legal defense, and exclusive control of the raising of funds and of publicity and technique of the cooperating organizations are vested under the new agreement in an executive committee. Invitations have been extended to and are now being considered by the executive committees of other national organizations inviting them to join in the joint defense. Among those to whom invitations have been extended are several Southern Church and other groups. The names of these organizations and of the national sponsoring committee, membership upon which has already been accepted by a number of distinguished citizens, will be made public shortly by the committee.

The full text of the statement issued by the participating organizations, which include the Methodist Association for Social Service, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union, the International Labor Defense and the League for Industrial Democracy, follows:

"The undersigned have entered into an agreement to combine the efforts of these and all other organizations and persons who wish to aid in the defense of the nine Negro boys of the Scottsboro case. Under the agreement, each organization is pledged to co-operate to secure the best possible legal defense, and to do everything possible to counteract prejudices which have thus far made a fair trial for these boys impossible. All differences as to trial counsel have been removed. Alabama attorneys of high standing will participate in the trial, together with other eminent counsel long connected with the case.

"All or some of the nine boys, eight of whom have at one time been under death sentence and whose convictions were twice set aside by the United States Supreme Court, will be tried on January 13, 1936.

"These defendants were all minors, one of them being 13 years of age, another 14, and the eldest 20 at the time of their arrest in March, 1931, on charges of rape alleged to have been committed on two white women on a freight train in Northern Alabama. One of the women testified at the second trial that there was no rape committed, nor any assault of any kind against either herself or the other complaining witness. She explained that her testimony in the first trial was extorted through fear. Her testimony, the physical facts and the medical evidence were ana-

lyzed by Judge James Horton at the conclusion of the second trial, and Judge Horton set aside the conviction as unsupported by the evidence.

"The organizations here understood represent men and women of all 48 States of our country, including many thousands in the South. These citizens are determined to see that these victims of injustice are given the best defense that it is possible to give them. We believe that all fair-minded citizens of Alabama will share this determination. We believe firmly in the innocence of the defendants and call on citizens of the South and North alike to help to remove an injustice which can bring only injury to the entire nation.

"We appeal for moral and financial support, confident that the conscience of our country will respond."

The statement is signed by the following representatives: Walter White, Executive Secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Roger N. Baldwin, Director American Civil Liberties Union; Robert Minor, for the International Labor Defense; Norman Thomas, for the League for Industrial Democracy; and Bishop Francis J. McConnell, of the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

In announcing the N. A. A. C. P.'s entering into the joint defense, Walter White, Executive Secretary, today made the following statement:

"The cases of the Scottsboro defendants were so involved with sectional, political and racial prejudices that the defense in the new trial is a matter of grave concern. The Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has considered the question at two special call and one regular Board meetings. Representatives of the Association, including Arthur B. Spingarn, Chairman of the National Legal Committee, Charles H. Houston, Special Counsel, and the Association's Secretary have participated in numerous conferences for the purpose of working out the details of an effective defense. We believe the arrangement which has been perfected is about as good as one as could be achieved under the circumstances. The memorandum of agreement, which has been signed to date by five participating organizations and which we hope will be signed by several other organizations to which invitations to participate have been extended, contains, among others, the following provisions:

"All activities will be directed by an executive committee composed of one representative from each of the signatory organizations. A sponsoring committee, consisting of individuals and organizations who desire to join in the defense, is provided for. The executive committee shall be supreme in all matters, including the addition of representative organizations to its membership; and shall have full power to arrange for employment of counsel subject to the wishes of the defendants and their relatives; to raise funds; to obtain all services of such other persons as may be necessary for successful defense; and to organize and direct the campaign for public support. All such campaigns conducted by participating organizations shall be subject to approval by the executive committee.

"Special care should be taken with regard to the raising and disbursing of funds for defense, this being one of the points upon which the N. A. A. C. P. representatives laid emphasis in the conferences. All participating organizations agreed that all moneys raised shall be transmitted forthwith

to the treasurer of the executive committee and all disbursements shall be made only on order of the executive committee. A full accounting of all such receipts and expenditures by participating organizations shall be made to the executive committee monthly. All expenditures in the case, whether by the executive committee or by the participating organizations, are subject to supervision by the executive committee which is given the power to procure audits of expenses and receipts of each underlying organization in connection with funds for the defense. It is provided that the executive committee shall periodically issue financial statements.

"All participating organizations have agreed in writing that the conduct of the special aspects of the defense work assigned to them shall be carried out in absolute conformity with the policies adopted by the executive committee. They further pledge themselves to cooperate fully in the work of the committee and to refrain in the conduct of their work from all public criticism of the policies and activities of the other participating organizations and individuals connected with this case. All publicity by the participating organizations must first be approved by the executive committee or a duly authorized sub-committee."

## A CALL TO ATLANTIC SYNOD

At the last meeting of our Synod, which met in Anderson in October our collection of Synodical assessment was below the level on account of added obligations of assuming responsibility of a part of our Synodical Evangelist's salary for the year just past. On this account, the Treasurer, Dr. E. J. Gregg and your Stated Clerk were paid only half of their salary for the year just past in order to pay our evangelist in full, as was suggested by Rev. Dr. Long, who said that "the Treasurer and Stated Clerk can wait until next year." This may have been the correct thing to do in order that our Evangelist may not be embarrassed in meeting his obligations; but the Treasurer was left without one cent for the printing of our minutes and docket for 1935. I had to pay for the printing of the docket, \$2.50, out of my own pocket. This means a long step backward into a danger zone, and an overstep of the Assembly's requirement.

There is great danger in sending the old-time manuscript volume, containing the Synod's transactions for years, to the Assembly lest it become lost property. Many unprinted Synod records have been lost by not having those records printed; and, of course, such a calamity means many blank pages in Negro Presbyterian Church history, which, it seems, the average man of our group gives little or no consideration. This serious lack of church record interest means nothing in a matter of comparison in affairs ecclesiastic as they pertain to our group, or of inspiration to our successors. Our coming churchmen should have our church court records as guides upon which to make a more active, soul-winning church.

The last big, bulky manuscript record of our Synod was sent to our Assembly that met at Winona Lake (1921). This record was delivered to the Committee on Synodical Records, and was lost in some unrequented spot. It was accidentally found several years afterwards by some minister who, seeing Rev. G. E. Caesar's name and address in this lost record, mailed it to Rev. Caesar. At that time Rev. Caesar was a member of Atlantic Synod; and he sent it to me as your Stated

Clerk. But this is the exception. These records are seldom found.

Since this loss and recovery, we decided to have our minutes printed, which is one of the Assembly's requirements, like all other progressive Synods that value unbroken history, which is worth much to a church group or to the Church in general.

It was very fortunate for Atlantic Synod, all our old manuscript records and printed records were carefully kept intact and handed down to each succeeding Stated Clerk without the loss of one: the late Drs. Luke Dorland, W. R. Coles, A. S. Gray and A. J. Jefferson, whom I succeeded at our Synod at Harbison College, October, 1916. Since then I have carefully kept the transactions of our Synod without the loss of one, dating back to 1869, when the Synod was set aside at Bidde Institute with Rev. Sydney S. Murkland as Moderator.

Another important matter is, that it is the requirement of the General Assembly to have all Synodical minutes printed, for the Stated Clerk of the Assembly tells you that the Assembly is not responsible for your big, bulky manuscript volumes.

Will the brethren please send in your balance—and those who have paid nothing—to our Treasurer, Dr. J. G. Porter, President of Harbison College, Irmo, S. C., that we may be able to have our minutes printed? When Synod adjourned there was not one tenth of a cent in the treasury. This is something new in Atlantic Synod. Think of it! The oldest Negro Presbyterian Synod known to ecclesiastical records in the world and hasn't the smallest fraction of a cent in its treasury, unless it was sent in after Synod adjourned.

W. L. METZ,  
Stated Clerk, Atlantic Synod.

## IN BEHALF OF CHURCH UNION

Eleven U. S. A. Presbyterians are among the representatives of the World's Evangelical Churches who are announced by the continuation committee of the World Conference on Faith and Order as delegates to the "second world conference" which will meet in Edinburgh in August, 1937. Four are laymen, seven ministers.

The principal points of difference among the communions will be studied by the 450 delegates, as a preparation for eventual reunion. "It is the principle of our movement," said Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins, American Secretary on the continuation committee, in issuing the delegates' list, "that all steps toward reunion must be taken by the Churches themselves." Though the representatives at Edinburgh "will be without authority to commit their Churches in any way, they will set forth their findings and suggestions."

Dr. William Temple, the Archbishop of York, is chairman of the continuation committee, and Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, is the American vice-chairman.

Lay delegate from the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. as listed are Judge John DeWitt, Nashville; Thomas D. McCloskey, Pittsburgh; Dr. Robert E. Speer, New York; and President Charles J. Turck, of Centre College, Danville, Ky.

Ministerial delegates are Drs. Henry Seymour Brown, Chicago; J. Harry Cotton, Columbus, Ohio; Hugh Thomson Kerr, Pittsburgh; William Pierson Merrill, New York; Lewis S. Mudge, Philadelphia; J. Ross Stevenson, of Princeton, New Jersey, and Joseph A. Vance, Detroit.

"The greatest blunder is to live just one life when we might live a thousand."