

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## BRAINERD INSTITUTE—PAST AND PRESENT

By Rev. J. W. Manoney

The 9th of September, 1936, will mark the opening of the 69th session of Brainerd Institute, Chester, S. C. For the benefit of the patrons, alumni and citizens in general there are some things we wish to say of this school which has played such an important part in the lives of hundreds of men and women, who have been under its influence, and upon this community during its history of over a half century. Some have passed to their reward. Others as doctors, lawyers, preachers, nurses, welfare workers, etc., are scattered all over this country and abroad, still carrying on, having received their early inspiration and preparation here. We believe there is no more ideal situation for such a work as has been carried on here, especially because of the unusually fine community of people in general, and of the white people in particular.

Two years ago when the Board of National Missions, under whose auspices the school operates, decided to close Brainerd because of the lack of funds for operation and other local conditions which are not necessary to discuss at this time, not only the representative colored people without regard to denominations, but also the white citizens, representing as fine a type as can be found anywhere, came forward, with their moral and financial support, that the doors of Brainerd might remain open. A Central Committee, headed by Dr. J. S. Allen, a successful physician, assisted by Mr. C. E. Leathers, District Manager of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, did great work in the raising of funds—some three thousand dollars—to meet the requirements for the reopening of the school.

When the Board decided to give the school another chance, it was essential to secure some suitable person to take charge of the work. Prof. L. S. Brown, A. B., A. M., Johnson C. Smith and Columbia Universities, respectively, who also had had quite a few years of experience as teacher in the school, was called to the field. Together with his good wife, Mrs. L. J. Brown, graduate of Barber-Scotia Seminary, he has done not only a wonderful work, but almost the impossible since their appointment, August 1, 1934.

The enrollment has increased from about fifty to two hundred and thirty. Forty-six were graduated at the last commencement—twenty-five from the High School Division, and twenty-one from the Normal College Division. The Normal College being a new department under the administration of President Brown, is designed to prepare those who may wish to teach before completing four years of college preparation; to meet the needs of those who do not plan to go beyond the Normal College; and for others who because of a lack of finance would not be able to meet the expenses of four years of college work, but would do two years of collegiate preparation here which would give them entrance to the Junior class of such colleges as Allen, Benedict, Morgan, Johnson C. Smith and others. A very broad curriculum has been carefully worked out to meet these ends. This department is chartered under the laws of the State of South Carolina and has been approved by the State Board of Education. The graduates of this department are granted the First Grade Elementary Certificate, Supt. J. E. Nunneberry, of Chester County Schools, has been an outspoken friend of the work done at Brainerd and fully endorses the Normal College. Prof. M. E. Brockman, Supt. of Chester City Schools, has always given liberal and worthwhile support to the

school. Our sincere appreciation and gratitude is extended to all who have in any way given assistance to the work we are endeavoring to do not only for our own group, but for the community at large.

Another new department in the school is the Kindergarten. This is indeed a worthwhile community project, for it not only relieves parents of much care of their young children during the morning hours, but also brings the children under influences that will surely tell in their after years. To those of the Normal College who take courses in psychology, and especially those of the Teacher-Training Division, this department is of great help. This was tried out last school term with much success and satisfaction. All children between the ages of three and six are admitted free of charge.

We come now to the urgent needs of the school. However, before stating those needs, permit this to be said: We do not believe that any cause or institution ought to be supported solely on the basis of sentiment. If the institution does not fill a place in the community life that makes for the best citizenship, good will and service, that institution does not justify its existence. And the sooner it goes the better. On the other hand, if real good is being done even with some degree of imperfection, it has the right to expect the advice and moral and financial help of all the citizens regardless of denomination, race or sex. In the best order of society we can not afford to be narrow. Brainerd has been a moral and financial asset to the city of Chester and really deserves its hearty cooperation.

The Board of National Missions will continue to assist the work at Brainerd, yet, inasmuch as the Board has carried this work for these many years, and inasmuch as the Christian influence of the school has been and is an asset to the community, and inasmuch as there are so many of her graduates and former students who are now making good because of the training received here, there ought to be some financial contribution made annually toward the work. This could be done without being a burden on any one. There is a great need for an Annual Alumni Scholarship Fund to be used for the benefit of needy and deserving students, who have no hope of being enlightened unless some such fund is provided for them. This is a splendid missionary opportunity to help your brother who is less fortunate than you. We are trusting that the graduates and former students will not be unresponsive and ungrateful to this cause. We are going to continue to count on the Brainerd chapters in various cities such as Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, New York City, Pasadena, California, etc., for their continued support.

What can the citizens of Chester do out of their appreciation for Brainerd? Here is a suggestion made by one: if one hundred citizens make annual subscriptions of ten dollars each, and another hundred citizens make annual subscriptions of five dollars each, this would bring a total of fifteen hundred dollars a year which would be of inestimable help to the success of the work, and no one would be hurt or imposed upon. Some such plan would surely justify being followed up.

The outlook for the coming term is good. Prof. Brown is a hard-working man. He is here and there in the interest of his work. He calls it field work. We understand that he has a list of some one hundred new prospective students for the coming term. Three new persons have

been added to the teaching staff, having received missionary and Christian experience as well as a liberal education. For catalog or any information regarding Brainerd, write Prof. L. S. Brown, Brainerd Institute, Chester, S. C.

## NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA TO MEET AT HAMPTON

Hampton Institute, Va., August 22, 1936.—The second annual convention of the New Farmers of America will be held at Hampton Institute from Sunday, August 30, to Wednesday, September 2nd, inclusive. One hundred and sixteen boys from agricultural departments of Negro high schools in seventeen Southern States are invited to attend. They will be accompanied by seventy-one teachers and there will be seven or eight supervisors from the Board of Education in Washington and from the State Boards of Education in the various Southern States.

The teacher trainers and the supervisors will remain for two days after the convention closes to hold a conference of their own for plans for the coming year's work. The program for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will consist largely of business meetings of the New Farmers of America conducted by the student officers of the organization. There will be livestock and crops judging contest on Tuesday, participated in by the State judging teams from fifteen of the Southern States. On Tuesday night, there will be an essay contest with essays presented in Ogden Hall by six contestants who have already won first place in their several States. Along with this program there will be a sight seeing tour to Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown, and opportunities to visit the agricultural and other departments of the Institute. The program of the Convention will be an interesting one.

The program will be in charge of Mr. S. B. Simmons, Greensboro, North Carolina, Executive Secretary of the New Farmers of America, and Dr. H. B. Swanson, representative of the Vocational Division of Education, Washington, D. C.

## TELLS NUMBER OF BAPTISTS

Nashville, Tenn.—(C)—Dr. W. H. Jernagin, in his address as President of the National Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Congress in Kansas City recently, told of the number of Baptists in the country, as published in the National Baptist Voice, as follows: "Of the 22,000 Negro Baptist churches in this country, 18,755 reported Sunday schools with 1,120,362 scholars and 148,000 teachers and officers. It is needless to remind you that the great mass of these scholars are in our Sunday schools from Virginia to Texas. Alabama claims 135,171 Baptists; Arkansas 62,568; Florida, 44,893; Georgia, 63,622; Kentucky, 130,140; Louisiana, 55,287; Mississippi, 92,839; North Carolina, 77,619; Oklahoma, 22,527; South Carolina, 96,532; Tennessee, 44,212; Texas, 110,452; and Virginia, 103,115. Thus we know the location of our army and how strong it is at definite places."

## SEEK "RACE PURITY" IN ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa—(C)—General Grazzina has received a note from Premier Mussolini laying great emphasis on the necessity of keeping the Italian race pure. To prevent the association of Italian men with native women, the Italians are sending over their own women, which has its dangerous aspects. Ethiopia is not yet fully under Italian control.

America's future will be molded by its teachers than its parents.

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF YADKIN WESTERN DISTRICT

By Miss Inez Correll, Corresponding Secretary

The 29th Annual meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of Yadkin Presbyterian, Western District, was held at Pleasant Grove Presbyterian church, near Statesville, July 30th.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. M. S. Cowan. The theme of our meeting was: "Christ the Foundation." (1 Cor. 3:11.) Motto: "Christ in me that I may know him: Christ through me that they may have life."

The meeting was opened with devotionals led by Mrs. Bessie Waddell and Miss Maggie Morrison. This was a very impressive service and every one seemed to enjoy it. After the service, "How Firm a Foundation" was sung.

The enrollment of the churches was the next order. All of the churches were represented but two—New Center and Pittsburgh. The churches presented good reports which made each of us feel good, after having such a hard year to work. The minutes were read and adopted.

A report was made from the Presbyterian by Mrs. Mabel Waddell. This was very good. She emphasized some of the things that we are to look forward to for the betterment of our churches, especially the church program.

Several papers were read. First, "The Kind of Church We Need," by Mrs. Jennie Cowan; "Stewards and of What Are We Stewards," by Mesdames B. Waddell, Alice Kilpatrick and Charlotte Holt; "Christ in Our Life," by Mrs. Mary Phifer; and "The Duty of a Good Leader," by Miss C. V. Thomas. All of these papers were very good and were commented on by several of the members.

Mrs. Johnson, the wife of Rev. J. P. Johnson, of Salisbury, was introduced to the Convention by Mrs. W. A. Hawkins. Mrs. Johnson stated that she would fall in line with the Presbyterian Church and would work whenever she was called on. She has been a faithful worker and we believe she will be as faithful in her husband's church as she was in her own.

The following officers were elected: Mesdames M. S. Cowan, President; W. A. Hawkins, First Vice-President; Mary Woods, 2nd Vice-President; Mabel Waddell, Secretary; Mrs. J. P. Johnson, Assistant Secretary; Miss Inez Correll, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Estelle Coble, Treasurer.

These officers were installed by Rev. J. P. Johnson. Thursday evening the vespers service was led by Mesdames J. M. Morton and M. J. Hall. This was a very inspiring service.

The annual sermon was preached by Rev. H. N. Sullivan from the text, John 10:4. The theme was: "Have You Heard the Call of Jesus?" In this he pictured to us the sheep and how they know their master's voice and the same applies to us. If we are Christians we will know the Master's voice when he calls us. His sermon will be long remembered by some of the members.

Friday morning the devotionals were led by Mesdames Lina Lucky and Mary Phifer. Bible hour was conducted by Mesdames Waddell and Stockton.

Discussion: "Sabbath Observance: Which Shall We Have—Open or Closed Sabbath?" led by Mrs. B. F. Murray and Mrs. W. A. Hawkins. This subject was fully discussed by Drs. B. F. Murray and L. M. Onque. Rev. Murray said we should ask ourselves the question and see if we could have an open Sabbath and worship God as we should.

The memorial service was very sad as we had lost several members.

The Young People's Hour was conducted by Misses Inez Abernathy and Lillie Mae Rankin. Several young people took part. A pageant, "The Court of Another Chance," by the young people of Statesville, was very good. The offering for the two days was \$12.74.

Mrs. Cowan thanked the good people of Pleasant Grove church for the generosity shown to us during our stay there.

The weather was unfavorable but we had a good meeting and everybody who came was glad and went away feeling good.

"God be with you till we meet again" was sung, and we departed to meet next year with Logan Presbyterian church, the last Thursday and Friday in July.

## NEGRO FARM LEADERS HOLD BIG CONFERENCE IN TEXAS

Prairie View, Texas, Aug.—(ANP)—C. A. Cobb, Director, Southern Division, Agricultural Conservation Program, Doctor F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, and Miss Nannie Burroughs, President of the National Training School for Girls, Washington, D. C., were the three feature speakers at the Regional Conference of Negro Agricultural Leaders and Farmers which opened here August 12. More than 3,000 attended the sessions held on the campus of Prairie View College.

This conference was called to acquaint Negro leaders with the details of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act under which Negro farmers of the Southern States will receive many benefits which will give them added income for their labors. These leaders, in turn, will give the information to the Negro farmers in their respective States. Farmers and extension workers from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas were present. C. H. Waller, Texas State leader, presided.

## Enumerates Benefits

In enumerating some of the benefits which the Negro farmer has realized from the AAA, Mr. Cobb said that one of the objectives of the administration has been "to take the gamble out of cotton growing." It is better to know that you are going to get from ten to twelve cents a pound for your cotton than to get twenty cents one year and five cents another, with all the disastrous effects of such uncertainty. The period from 1920 to 1930 was the period of unequal opportunity for all farmers and a general decline for agriculture. The ten years from 1920 to 1930 witnessed an increase in white tenancy, just as it did an increase in Negro tenancy. They went down together for identical reasons—profitless farming. Such an income can have but far reaching consequences. It is an answer to most of our difficult social problems and is definitely the only answer to the problem of tenancy.

Mr. Cobb concluded his discussion of the relationship between the white farmer and the colored farmer of the cotton belt by saying that "a policy which helps one helps the other. There is no place for race prejudice in any educational program for the welfare of agriculture."

## Dr. Patterson Speaks

Soil Conservation is regarded by Dr. Patterson as the most important feature in that "long range" planning for agriculture, without which "this nation can not prosper." Continuing, Dr. Patterson said: "When we consider the present program of soil conservation, we can but marvel at the shortsightedness which has permitted us to sit complacently by while wind and rain, to say nothing of exhaustive crop methods, have robbed us of our greatest heritage.

"By trial and error we are

coming to know that farming is one of the most complicated businesses into which men can go; and that every step must be carefully guarded lest we bring into play forces that will be our undoing. Mass production of both plant and animal life has proved favorable to ruination from parasitic and infectious diseases. We are now told that the topography or the lay of the land over large areas in this country is such as to make extensive and uninterrupted cultivation undesirable and in recent years has lain the West destitute."

## Proper Education Needed

Both Dr. Patterson and Miss Burroughs emphasized the necessity for a practical education for children of the farm if long range planning is to become effective. Miss Burroughs said: "Our nation is hard pressed and distressed because her economic system is out of order, and has been for a number of years. It can and will be restored when the nation spends as much money for the education of the farmer as it does for the education of the doctor and the scientist. To this end, I would suggest a four-point program:

1. The proper education of farm folk—men, women and children;
2. The Conservation of the soil;
3. The organization of Farmers' Cooperatives, and
4. The beautification of farm surroundings. It is just as essential that we Americanize the farmer who was bred and born here as it is that we Americanize the foreigner who chooses to come here."

Dr. Patterson said: "If I may make any criticism of American education in general and Negro education in particular it would be that it leaves behind the problems of the masses and in so doing it not only fails to lead to growth and elevation in these occupations, but has resulted in slipping backward with the loss of many of the opportunities involving these occupations. This program which starts with the soil on the one hand and with the people who manage it on the other, is absolutely fundamental in its approach to one of, if not the greatest problems involving the American nation."

## Four States Represented

Four States were represented. Negro State leaders in the Extension Service from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas as brought delegations varying from forty to ninety-two who attended the conference. These leaders included J. E. Taylor, of Langston, Okla.; H. C. Ray, of Little Rock; J. E. Jordan, of Scotlandville, La., and C. H. Waller, from Prairie View. The Twenty-Ninth Annual Farmers' Congress and Short Course also in session brought to the Prairie View campus more than 3,000 men, women and children from the rural sections in Texas.

## NEGRO CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND NEGRO AIR PILOTS

The Division of Negro Affairs, Eugene Kinckle Jones, Chief, has made available the study, "Negro Chambers of Commerce," by Joseph R. Houchins, Assistant Business Specialist, Negro Affairs Division, which reveals that at least 51 Negro chambers of commerce are in existence. An analysis of twenty-one questionnaires received from these business groups indicates: (1) the nature of organizations existing among Negro business men; (2) the services rendered by local Negro business groups to their members; (3) the relationship which organizations of business men have with organizations of white business men; and (4) the extent to which Negro business men make use of Federal offices. This study includes a section devoted to re-

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