

The Africo-American Presbyterian

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FIGHTING FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Christians in this country, where freedom of religious worship is a principle accepted everywhere, are deeply concerned over the probable fate of the Rev. Martin Niemöller, a German pastor who has persistently protested against the government's restrictions on church organizations in that country. Mr. Niemöller has just undergone a trial for disobedience to government orders. He was convicted and sentenced to seven months' imprisonment, but as he had already been in prison that long he was released. However, he was immediately taken into custody and is now being held in a concentration camp. It is not known except to officials what the government's intentions are, and fear is felt for Rev. Niemöller's safety.

In a statement issued a few days ago President Roosevelt re-affirmed his faith in the soundness of the policies of the New Deal, and said he will continue in the course he has been pursuing. He thinks that if his plans fail it will be due to the opposition of big business interests and to reactionary Congressmen.

LIFE AS WE FIND IT

By John Stuart Churchill for A.N.P.

A mother writes: "I live in the South and am wondering if I should send my son North to school. He has not made good grades, but he has always been able to pass. He has not made up his mind what he wants to be, but wants to enter a school of business."

This question of going North to school is a question which can not be readily answered. First, the writer would like to ask what benefit does this mother expect to gain by sending her son 1000 miles away from home to go to school? Are there no sufficiently competent schools in the South? It is against the policy of this column to recommend any particular institution or product, but I am sure if she will send for the catalogues of several of the larger schools in her part of the country she will find that they offer very good business curricula and that they will be cheaper. Many of these schools promise placement for their graduates.

As to this question of sending a child out of his locality to go to a mixed school: There are several pertinent observations to be made on the matter of going to white schools. At the present there are many good Negro schools which are rated as well as white schools. This is especially true in the field of undergraduate work. Since this is true from a standpoint of efficiency we have a point in favor of the Negro schools. The student who lives in the South is very likely to return to the South to live. If this is the case he will be living with the members of his own race and it is likely that they will be the chief means of his livelihood. A great educator has stated that school is life. If this is so, then the place for this student to get his education is in the South. The North is no Mecca; there are very few schools in which one cannot find many instances of discrimination, and any idea of social equality or even participation is a fallacy. The Negro student in the school is very definitely handicapped. School is more than academic participation, it is an opportunity to make social adjustments, it is a chance to learn to live with one's fellow man, and a chance to develop a sense of moral values. Unless one plans

to live in an environment that is predominantly white the writer believes that it is better that he go to school with those with whom he has to live. The writer will welcome any contradictory ideas or contributions.

NOTE: John Stuart Churchill will answer any questions submitted to him if inquiries are addressed to him in care of the Associated Negro Press, 3507 South Parkway, Chicago, Ill. There is no charge for this service.

S. C. STATE COLLEGE FOUNDERS' DAY

(From The Times and Democrat, Orangeburg, S. C., Friday, March 4)
The period from 1896 to March 3, 1938, 42 years has been one of distinct achievement for State A. & M. College, but today was the first time that the college has formally observed Founders' Day with a special program. Professor Robert L. Douglass, A. M., professor of mathematics, State A. & M. College 1887-1903, now serving in the same capacity at Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N. C., was the main speaker. He spoke on this vital subject: "Education the Hope of a Democracy." In his opening remarks the speaker congratulated the President and the citizens of South Carolina upon the evidence of progress to be found at the institution. Professor Douglass lauded the ideals of Thomas Jefferson and Herbert Spencer who were advocates of universal education at public expense. He cited the small number of vocations taught a half century ago, only 6, as compared with over 150 today. This, he said, was indicative of the spread of knowledge which is a powerful influence for good.

In a brief resume of the historical background of the Morrill Act and Land-Grant Colleges the speaker credited the farmers' movement of the late 80's with the establishment of Clemson College and later State College for Negroes, having as its first president, Dr. Thomas E. Miller, a likeness of whom was unveiled yesterday by his grandson, Willie Earl II.

Professor Douglass concluded by telling of the liberality of South Carolina, citing the fact that the first free school for Negroes was built in Charleston in 1692 and admonished the students and teachers to keep the fires of learning that kindled here over 40 years ago burning and extend them to every corner of our commonwealth from the mountains to the seaboard.

A LESSON IN BREVITY

A beginner in journalism picked up in a Southern town what seemed to him a "big story." He hurried to the telegraph office and "queried" the editor of a New York daily: "Column story on— Shall I send?"

The answer arrived promptly: "Send six hundred words."

This was depressing to the enthusiastic correspondent. "Can't be told in less than twelve hundred," he wired back.

Then came this reply: "Story of creation of world told in six hundred. Try it."—Selected.

TIME EXTENDED TO MARCH 25

Mrs. Hallie Q. Mayberry, President of Catawba Presbyterian, requests us to say that the final date for sending in Presbyterian assessments has been extended from March 10th to March 25th. It is hoped that all our Missionary and Young People's Societies will raise their quotas in full on or before the last date.

NOTICE

The Spring meeting of Yadkin Presbytery will convene in the Grace Presbyterian church, Winston-Salem, N. C., Wednesday, April 13, 1938, and continue through Friday.

All persons planning to attend will notify Rev. A. E. Fortune, 1409 E. 14th St., Winston-Salem, N. C., not later than April 6, 1938.

J. E. McMILLAN,
Stated Clerk.

Presbyterians of Charlotte and their friends are happy hosts to the Workers' Conference this week.

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM TOLD WHAT THE NEGRO WANTS

Chicago, Ill., March 2—(CNS)—The nine colored members of the recently formed Republican Program Committee responded to the call of Dr. Glenn Frank, its chairman, in a two day session at the Palmer House here this week. These representatives took active part in the creation of the basic machinery with which the committee plans to sound out the rank-and-file sentiment throughout the country.

Mrs. Sara Pelham Speaks, of New York City, in an address at the banquet meeting on Monday night "sounded the tocsin" when she declared that "the Negro, like other disaffected groups, will readily return to the party the moment the party shows an understanding of the needs of his people."

The speech, listened to with marked attention, drew great applause at its close; and was reported as voicing the combined views of all colored members of the committee.

Mrs. Speaks spoke as follows: "Mr. Chairman: It is a privilege to stand before you tonight as a member of this fine Program Committee which can mean so much to the Republican party at a time when the party faces the most serious crisis in its history."

"I speak tonight as one of a group of 13 million citizens—the Negro group. These are the citizens who, in addition to the handicaps pertaining to the other underprivileged, have the fatal barrier of a prescribed race. These are the citizens who for years, with little political reward, have cast their solid block of votes for the Republican party. These are the citizens whose loyalty to the Republican party was unquestioned for scores of years."

"Nineteen thirty-six found the majority of these citizens voting the Democratic ticket. Democratic Congressmen from Northern cities and communities were elected to Congress with their votes. Many of you here tonight are wondering why this happened."

"Well, after the Republican party had an illustrious record as regards the Negro; won freedom for him, built for him the War amendments to secure that freedom, and recognized him as entitled to equality in American life,—this party which was founded upon the principle of freedom, began to worship strange gods—to play with that idea which now again rears its evil head; of merging the Bourbon Democrats of the South with the intolerant Republicans in the North. Many gained the general impression that the Republican party was concerned mainly with property rights."

"With the advent of the New Deal, so suspicious had the Negro become of this unholy alliance and its new doctrines, that, as a protest, he supported the New Deal even though this Democratic party introduced the principle of government-fostered segregation, and its wage differentials and relief policies made the Negro an indignant ward of the Nation."

"It has been erroneously stated by certain persons that the Negro vote is lost to the Republican party forever. That idea is shared by many of you present. That is definitely untrue. The Negro, like other disaffected Republican groups, will readily return to the party the moment the party shows an understanding of the needs of his people."

"The idea that the Negro has become enslaved by the Franklin Roosevelt myth is wrong. Negro citizens are aware that the greatest betrayal perpetuated upon them in connection with the defeat of the Anti-lynching bill was the complete silence of Franklin Roosevelt. Also, they are aware that the New Deal seeks to perpetuate for them an inferior status in American life. Negroes would gladly abandon their historic enemy, the Democratic party. But if we would have them return to the Republican party which they once supported so loyally, the Republican party must make radical changes wherever needed to meet the desperate present-day necessities of the Negro."

"This Committee will have an opportunity to say whether the Republican party will correct this injustice and return to its historic and famed champion-

ship of the Negro's rights to equal opportunity in American life.

"It is one of the great opportunities, I believe, of our Committee on Program to evolve the answer for our Party to these pressing problems."

"It can make fateful recommendations as to these questions of grave import to the Negro:

"(1) Isn't it the proper function of the United States government to prevent the segregation and elimination of any minority race either by governmental or private agencies?

"(2) Isn't it the proper function of the United States government to aid the integration of a minority race into all phases of America's productive life?

"(3) Shouldn't the Republican party do all within its power to protect the life of the Negro against mob violence, even at the cost of limiting debate in the United States Senate?

"(4) If business leaders are going to substitute intelligent self-regulation for ignorant governmental meddling shouldn't they hire Negroes as a means of correcting the virtual barring of Negroes from careers in productive occupations?"

"The Negro wants for himself and his family the very same things that the other citizens of America want for themselves and their families. The burden of sickness and ill-health, old age and unemployment, weigh as heavily upon him as upon the other working people of America. They want a safeguard from these dangers, and are unwilling to be satisfied with the present legislation in this direction as long as it excludes from its benefits those tremendously large groups of workers—the farmer, the laborer and the workers in domestic and personal service."

"The Negro wants jobs and is unwilling to accept the dole as synonymous with prosperity. He wants child labor to be abolished; an anti-lynching law enacted; discriminatory practices in civil service done away with. He wants an opportunity to live in decent quarters away from the disease-infested slums."

"It is important that the Republican party recognize the fact that because of his most distressing social and economic situation the Negro will no longer accept the sentimental appeal to reconstruction days as the basis for supporting a party."

"Negro Republicans urge the party to re-establish the ideals that have made the Republican party a great party in the past—to unequivocally and with complete courage dedicate itself to those principles. If the Republican party deserves to win, it will win—with the help of the Negro voters of America," said Mrs. Speaks in closing.

Nine regional sub-committees were set up for active work throughout the country and one of the nine colored members will serve on each sub-committee.

They are as follows: Frederick M. Roberts, Editor, New Age Dispatch, Los Angeles, California; William E. King, State Senator, Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. S. Joe Brown, housewife, civic interests, 1058 Fifth Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa; Joseph S. Mitchell, lawyer, Boston, Massachusetts; John O. Hopkins, Jr., theatrical producer, Detroit, Michigan; Francis F. Rivers, lawyer, New York City; Mrs. Sarah Pelham Speaks, lawyer, New York City; Bishop David N. Sims, clergyman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Thomas G. Nutter, lawyer, Charleston, West Virginia.

KIAMICHI PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Kiamichi will convene with St. Paul Presbyterian church at Eagletown, Oklahoma, April 14, 1938, at 7:30 P. M. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. Allen S. Meachem, retiring Moderator.

All churches are required to pay their full assessments and back dues for General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery. Those expecting to attend from other points please notify Elder Tom Brown so that ample provisions may be made for your entertainment.

Churches are required to send their Sessional Records.

JULIUS W. MALLARD,
Stated Clerk, Kiamichi Presbytery.

HOLBROOK ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DANVILLE, VA.

By E-A-B

Hello, everybody! This is station H. S. P. C. speaking. Holbrook Street Presbyterian church, Danville, Va.

It has been sometime since we've broadcast, but we have been thinking about you, nevertheless. Since you heard from us we have done some worthwhile things and are rather proud of ourselves. Among them is the securing of a pastor, Rev. W. G. Anderson, who came to us from Oxford, N. C. He is a very wide-awake, straight-forward and energetic man who seems to be the person for this field.

Since coming here, Rev. Anderson has organized a Young People's Training class and has been instrumental in securing the services of Miss Naomi Freeman, Special Worker for Young People, to visit here. She certainly impressed our young people and aroused much enthusiasm in our adult leaders. So much so, that under the direction of Miss Vera Bruner a Valentine Party was planned and successfully carried out. About sixty young people and a few parents enjoyed this occasion. Miss Bruner also served some refreshments which surprised as well as pleased every body present.

On January 30 our young people celebrated Young People's Day. We feel that this was a wonderful day. Our Junior choir, under the direction of Mrs. Hattie Henry, sang beautifully. The Primary choir, under the direction of Miss Elvora Reynolds, also rendered beautiful music. The morning message was given by two of our young people, Miss Ardelle Henry and Mr. Edward Wilson. The offering was lifted by Mr. Milwood Motley and Mr. Edward Wilson. A special offering was taken and sent to the Board of Christian Education. Miss Vera Bruner acted as mistress of ceremony for this morning message.

The day's activities ended with a general program and music by the Junior choir at the Christian Endeavor hour. Miss Naomi Freeman was present and gave an inspiring talk. The sponsors of this program were Mrs. Hattie Henry, Misses Ida M. Allen, Vera Bruner, and Elvora Reynolds, under the guidance of the pastor, Rev. Anderson.

Another interesting thing that aroused not only our church but all of Danville was the coming to us of Rev. W. E. Houston, Evangelist for Atlantic and Catawba Synods. Rev. Houston came to us at a most opportune time and brought us forceful, truthful and inspiring messages that we can't soon forget. Rev. Houston is certainly a dynamic person and we hope for him much success. He made us want to be more loyal and of more service to our church. One of the most impressive services was conducted on Thursday night of our revival which was set apart for young people, who filled one whole side of the church. The Junior choir, under the direction of Mrs. Hattie Henry, furnished music. The offering was taken by two Junior boys, Mr. Edward Wilson and Mr. James Finley, who, our pastor said, would be junior deacons or elders in our Junior church, which he plans to organize after Presbytery, which meets here. All of Rev. Houston's services were interesting, but three were most impressive—"The Back to Church Night," on Friday evening; "The Family Day," on Sunday morning, and "The Cure for the World's Ills," Sunday afternoon. Members from all of our sister churches attended.

The Presbytery of Southern Virginia meets with us on April 5th, and we are looking forward to a good attendance. We hope those who plan to attend will send their names to our pastor, Rev. W. G. Anderson, 349 Holbrook St., Danville, Va., in order that we may make ample preparation for their stay.

Au revoir, till we meet again.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Presbytery of Rogersville will meet with the Tabernacle church, Greeneville, Tennessee, Thursday, April 14, at 8 P. M. All planning to attend, notify Rev. J. H. Fort, Greeneville, Tenn.

The churches are also urged to pay up benevolent quotas.

C. A. EDINGTON,
Stated Clerk.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor J. P. Murfree

By Laura Dargan

I
The curtain of life has fallen
On the final act of this play,
But it marks the beginning of another
It is his Commencement Day.

II
He has passed his examination,
Been promoted to another class,
He is now drifting on clouds of rapture,
Sailing the sea of glass.

III
By living the life of an adviser,
By helping both children and men,
God allowed him to reach the margin
Of his three-score-years-and-ten.

IV
He was one who believed a French proverb
That has echoed throughout school halls,
It declares that man is nothing—
It is his work that is all.

V
Think of what he has meant to our High S.
Just think of the struggles he has won.
Fancy him listening to his Master's Well done, worthy servant! well done!

VI
It will grieve us! Oh how we shall miss him!
But God knows that which is best.
He knew when his day's work had ended—
That his soul needed quiet and rest.

VII
The verdict on his life has been rendered,
He is now resigned to his fate.
Let us look up the past chapters of our lives,
Before,—Alas! 'tis to late.

VIII
We pave the way of our future
With loyalty and truth,
He paved his with service
To his fellowman through youth.

IX
The world at large was to him
Just one big, eager school;
His diversion has been the sorting
Of the wise man from the fool.

X
The roads of his students will cross,
Although their range be far;
They all will be gathered together
At the "Crossing of the bar."

(Lovingly dedicated by a student and friend, on behalf of the Fuller Memorial Presbyterian church, Chadbourne, N. C.)

THE TRIBUTE OF A FRIEND

By Rev. W. H. Carroll, D. D.

Mrs. T. J. Smith passed away February 4th at her home, 123 W. 122nd St., New York, N. Y. Mrs. Smith accompanied her husband from British Guiana, S. A., in the year 1896. He entered Biddle University, (now Johnson C. Smith) taking the Theological course. While her husband worked hard to finish his course she was not idle.

Mrs. Smith was talented, musical and a lover of children, and seemed to possess a deep consciousness that these qualities were not hers to keep for self-adornment, but to be used in teaching people how to live in this world as God's children. While her husband came to prosecute his Theological work, her coming was not purposeless. She had high aims to do whatever her hands found to accomplish. Wherever her station might be she felt the urge to find those that needed teaching, that needed help to find their place in life and to show them how to make the best and the highest use of their powers.

Being at the General Assembly in Syracuse, N. Y., 1936, I took advantage of the nearness and went down to New York City to visit and spend some time with the Smith family. Mrs. Smith was ill at the time; but the talents and willingness and readiness to serve had ripened into a meek and sweet submission to the Master's will. On such trying occasions, I always endeavor to think my best and most appropriate thoughts, so while I talked with her there came into my mind the words of the blessed Jesus which he spoke in defense of a woman bent on doing good, "She hath done what she could."

Mrs. Smith leaves to mourn her loss, a loving and devoted husband, Rev. T. J. Smith, M. D., who usually spoke of her

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