

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LIX.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1938.

NO. 12.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL WORKER'S CONFERENCE

Rev. L. B. West, D. D., Secretary

The Twenty-fourth Annual Workers' Conference, under the auspices of the Unit of Work for Colored People of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., met at Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, March 7 to 11. The sessions were held in the beautiful University church of which the Rev. Henry L. McCrorey, D. D., LL.D., is the pastor. King's weather prevailed. The Conference was largely attended. Two hundred and sixty delegates registered from fourteen States. From start to finish the Conference was interesting. The opinion was freely expressed that this was the best Conference we have had.

The opening devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. D. Talmage Murray, of Atlanta, Ga. Rev. Murray expressed the idea that the Conference could not accomplish much without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Rev. John M. Gaston, D. D., LL.D., Secretary of the Unit, presided over the Conference. In his opening remarks Dr. Gaston said that he was glad that God in his providence had brought us to the Twenty-fourth Annual Workers' Conference. He expressed the hope that this Conference would crown them all.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee to the Board of National Missions is made up as follows: Rev. B. R. Smith, D. D., Chairman; Rev. J. B. Barber, Secretary; Rev. F. C. Shirley, D. D., Rev. Chas. H. Shute, D. D., Rev. C. A. Ward, D. D., Rev. W. L. Innes, D. D., Dean L. S. Cozart, Mrs. J. D. Stanback, Mrs. J. G. Porter, Mrs. A. H. George, Rev. A. S. Clark, D. D., Rev. W. J. Nelson, D. D. The Committee held its meetings in the Theological Library. The Rev. Herman N. Morse, D. D., Administrative Secretary of the Board, presented to the Committee matters for consideration. The findings of the Committee were forwarded to the Board.

National Missions Chairmen

The chairmen of the National Missions Committees in Synods and Presbyteries held their meetings in the Y. M. C. A. Hall of the Carnegie Library.

Synodical representatives were Revs. G. W. Long, Atlantic; J. B. Barber, Blue Ridge; F. C. Shirley, Catawba; and G. E. Caesar, Canadian. Presbyterial—Revs. T. C. Boyd, White River; Rev. A. W. Rice, Birmingham; Rev. E. B. Clarkson, LeVerre; Rev. J. H. Hayswood, Cape Fear; Rev. W. J. Nelson, Fairfield; Rev. A. S. Clark, Knox; Prof. R. W. Boulware, McClelland; Rev. J. R. Pearson, Atlantic; Rev. H. C. Miller, Yadkin.

The Larger Parish Plan was considered. A committee, consisting of Revs. A. B. McCoy, T. B. Hargrave and L. B. West, appointed at the last meeting to study and report at this meeting on the Larger Parish Plan, made its report through the Secretary, Rev. Hargrave. The Committee recommended a point in each Synod for parish development.

Staff Members

The Conference was favored with the presence of the following persons from headquarters: Miss R. Marie Preston, District Secretary, Chicago, Illinois; Miss Virginia Ray, Field Representative, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Miss Mabel M. Sheibley, Secretary for Education and Publicity, New York; Rev. Frederick Thorne, D. D., Secretary for Young People's Work, New York; Rev. M. A. Chappel, D. D., Secretary of Promotion, New York. These added much to the Conference with their gracious words of greetings and their inexhaustible store of information.

Bible Hour

The Conference was fortunate in securing the Rev. Louis H.

Evans, D. D., of Pittsburgh, Pa., to conduct the Bible Hour. He is pastor of the Third Presbyterian church of Pittsburgh and President of the Board of National Missions. Dr. Evans is scholarly and evangelical. He captivated the Conference with his masterly presentation of the Word of God. His general theme was, "Bases of Assurance" in Christian living. The First Epistle of John, chapters 1 to 5, was used as the background of his uplifting and inspiring talks.

Memorial Services

Services were conducted in memory of the Reverend W. L. McEwan, D. D., who for years conducted the Bible hour. Dr. McEwan went to his reward last October. Dr. H. L. McCrorey in speaking of Dr. McEwan as a preacher declared he was a great man and a great preacher. His sermons were soul-born and soul-gripping.

Dr. Z. A. Dockery said that the hope in God's word seized the soul of Dr. McEwan and that his life was built-up and confirmed by the Word. He was a man of great spiritual power.

Dr. J. M. Gaston spoke of Dr. McEwan as a friend. He said that in all of his years of intimate friendship with him, he was as near perfection as any man he had known.

The hymn, "It is not death to die," was sung, and Dr. A. S. Clark offered prayer.

Evangelism

A seminar on present-day evangelism was conducted. Rev. L. B. West, Field Representative, read the Scripture, prayed, and presented the speakers as follows: Rev. T. B. Hargrave, Evangelist for Blue Ridge and Canadian Synods. He traced the history of evangelism and said that men needed the gospel today as in other days. Rev. W. E. Houston, Evangelist for Atlantic and Catawba Synods. He said men will be evangelized for Christ in proportion as his followers give themselves to the task.

The Church

Subjects pertaining to the work of the Church were discussed as follows: "More Adequate Church Buildings," by Rev. A. S. Meachem, minister of Pleasant Valley church, Broken Bow, Okla. He showed the necessity for more adequate church buildings, and contended that better buildings would go a long way in advancing our work and developing the Kingdom of God. He told of the new life that has come to the Pleasant Valley church, since the dilapidated building had been replaced by a new building with a seven-room manse nearby.

"Methods of Securing Funds for Church Expenses and Benevolences," Rev. C. J. Baker, D. D., pastor of Miller Memorial church, Birmingham, Ala. Dr. Baker mentioned several outmoded methods, such as Rallies, Fairs, uniform assessments, etc., and then made a stirring appeal for the Every-Member Canvass and the tithe as the best methods for financing the Church.

"How to Make the Rural Church Function More Efficiently," Rev. M. J. Jackson, D. D., pastor of Ebenezer church, Dalzell, S. C. Dr. Jackson discussed the subject ably from every angle. Among other things he said that the rural church can be of great help in the matter of establishing, and standing for, law and order.

"The Church and Family Life," by Rev. S. A. Downer, D. D., pastor, East Vine Avenue Presbyterian church, Knoxville, Tenn. Dr. Downer in a clear cut and convincing manner showed the relationship between the church and the home. He pictured the benefits that have come to the Church because of godly lives. He deplored the perils which threaten the spiritual life of the

home, and declared that the home needs religion and needs it more than anything else. There is an obligation resting upon the home which cannot be transferred.

"Co-operation Between Church and School," by Dean L. S. Cozart, of Barber-Scotia Jr. College, Concord. In a very comprehensive manner Dean Cozart showed how the church and school had co-operated in the past. He said that to some extent they had gotten apart. He contended that the church and school need to stop pointing the accusing finger at each other and co-operate for the benefit of humanity.

Larger Parish Plan

The Rev. G. W. Long, D. D., is the minister in charge of the Larger Parish Plan in connection with the Second church, Cheraw, S. C. What this plan is accomplishing was told to the Conference in an interesting manner. There was a display of charts and pictures. Seated on the rostrum with Dr. Long were the staff of workers. Different phases of the work were presented as follows: The Laney Mission, Mrs. W. F. Robinson; the McDonald Mission and other Sunday schools, Mrs. Olethia Counts; the Powe Mission, Miss Elmora James; Evangelism, Rev. H. L. Counts; Education, Prof. Henry Marshall; Recreation, Prof. Jack Benson; Health, Miss Blanche Sowell; Social Service, Mrs. G. W. Long. Dr. Long said that from a small beginning the parish had steadily grown from year to year.

Community Center

The Rev. Jesse B. Barber, pastor of Leonard Street church at Chattanooga, Tenn., in his inimitable and characteristic manner showed what the church can do toward community betterment. He said the church should analyze the needs of the community, and utilize all the available resources in meeting those needs. Rev. Barber punctuated his talk with illustrations of what the Newton Community Center at Chattanooga had done for the betterment of that community, along the lines of health, recreation, better living conditions, interracial work, etc.

Young People's Forum

A Young People's Forum was conducted by the Rev. Frederick Thorne, D. D., Secretary for Young People's Work. Dr. Thorne said that there were several hindrances which were interfering with the development of spiritual life among the young people. He mentioned several hindrances. He declared that in spite of these hindrances many young people were pressing on to something greater and better. Dr. Thorne called upon the following persons to speak of the work in Sunday schools and among young people as they had observed it: Miss Ethel Goines, worker among young people in Blue Ridge Synod; Miss Naomi Freeman, worker among young people, Catawba Synod; Rev. R. L. Jeans, Sabbath School Missionary, Cape Fear Presbytery, and Rev. T. A. Jenkins, pastor of Shiloh church, Knoxville, Tenn.

The Schools

"Recent Developments at Mary Allen Junior College," was the subject of an illuminating address of Dean E. H. Steele, of Crockett, Texas. Dean Steele showed how the school had moved forward along all lines, until today it is a recognized institution in the educational and religious life of Texas.

The Rev. H. S. Davis, Principal of Mary Potter school, Oxford, gave an historical review of Mary Potter's contribution to human welfare. Rev. Davis delighted the Conference as he called the roster of men and women here and there in the different walks of life, in positions of leadership and responsibility, who had graduated from Mary Potter school.

Mrs. A. S. Clark, of Cordele, Ga., traced the founding, and steady development of the Gillespie-Selden Institute. She said the school began with 27 pupils and 2 teachers. It now has 450 pupils with 27 teachers. Mrs. Clark declared that the Gilles-

pie school had been spoken of by some of the State authorities as the most outstanding school of its kind in the State of Georgia. She spoke of the hospital in connection with the school, and the fine work that it had done. She was more than pleased to tell of the new administration building and hospital which now adorn the campus.

"The Value of the Teacher Training Department at Mary Holmes" was told captivantly by Dean Mary E. Foresman, of West Point, Miss. Dean Foresman presented facts and figures indicating the very fine piece of work which Mary Holmes is doing for the educational life of Mississippi.

Dean T. E. McKinney, of Johnson C. Smith University, in a scholarly and pointed paper told the Conference that the emphasis in University Education today should be placed on the production of good, strong character.

The Sunday School

The Rev. A. B. McCoy, D. D., of Atlanta, Ga., Superintendent of Sabbath School Missions, spoke on the subject, "The Sunday School Parish." He said that there were 47 parishes under the Unit of Sabbath School Work in the four colored Synods. In 18 of these parishes special work was being done; 5 of them had full-time paid workers. Dr. McCoy drew a vivid picture of what was being done in leadership training classes, Daily Vacation Bible schools, week day religious instruction, young people's leagues and conferences and evangelistic services.

Women's Night

On Women's Night a popular program was rendered. Mrs. G. W. Long, president of Atlantic Synodical, presided. The principal address was made by Mrs. Agnes B. Snively of Pittsburgh, Pa. She referred to her 18 years of service in the work and the pleasure she had received in working in the four Synodicals. She was thankful for what had been accomplished and was hopeful the years ahead were full of blessings.

At the conclusion of her address Mrs. Long in a simple but impressive manner presented Mrs. Snively with a ring and a radio, gifts from the four Synodicals in token of their appreciation of Mrs. Snively's services. Mrs. Snively most graciously accepted the gifts, in well chosen words. The Conference was delighted to know that although Mrs. Snively was retired officially, she would still be active in the work.

Men's Night

The Rev. Dr. Louis H. Evans spoke on Men's Night on "Old Ironsides." He gave the history surrounding the ship Ironsides. He vividly told of how Old Ironsides cleared the seas of pirates. He likened the Church to the ship, and showed how the Church is engaged in clearing the world of sin. He challenged the men to get on board the ship of the Church and work for the redemption of mankind.

Promotional Conference

A Promotional Conference, full of information and inspiration, on the matters of stewardship, the budget, the every member canvass, etc., was conducted by Rev. Arthur H. Limouze, D. D., Secretary of Promotion of the Board of National Missions, and Rev. H. C. Weber, D. D., of the Promotion Department of the General Council. This Conference came to a close in the College Chapel with motion pictures by Dr. Limouze.

Committees

The following committees were appointed:

Findings—Revs. C. J. Baker, G. E. Caesar, H. S. Davis, G. W. Long.

Resolutions of Thanks—Revs. J. E. McMillan, C. A. Edington, D. T. Murray, Mrs. J. D. Stanback.

Necrology—Revs. W. L. Metz, A. W. Rice, T. C. Boyd and Z. A. Dockery.

The reports of these committees will be published later.

(Continued on Page 3)

LET'S FACE FACTS

By Rev. H. W. Givens

In the great struggle for advancement in Presbyterianism in the South here are some facts that might be well for us to consider before we set our minds either for or against consolidation. In Catawba Synod, according to the minutes of the General Assembly for 1937, here are some facts.

We find that in Cape Fear Presbytery there are 3 churches whose membership ranges from 150 to 326; 4 from 100 to 145; 16 from 30 to 80, and 16 below 16.

In Catawba, there are three churches whose membership ranges from 302 to 329; 3 from 152 to 216; 6 from 102 to 152; 9 from 59 to 96; 23 from 40 to 60, and 6 whose membership is less than 40. And, more significant than all these, there is only one self-supporting church in our bounds.

Southern Virginia has 3 churches whose membership is from 100 to 125; 3 from 70 to 99; 9 from 40 to 69, and 16 below 40.

Yadkin has 2 churches whose membership is from 217 to 228; 6 from 100 to 150; 8 from 70 to 90; 9 from 40 to 69, and the rest below 13.

These are some facts that should cause us to get busy and do something about it since we have been on the battle field something like seventy years. For seventy years we have been laboring and these are the facts that confront us after these many years. Perhaps some of us have not thought much about the matter, but to me it is worth serious thought.

Then, too, we might remind ourselves that some of these churches in the lower brackets are some of the oldest ones. I firmly believe that small membership is not the fault of the minister nor of the congregation, but because of the conditions under which they are forced to labor. In many of these cases the members have moved to other places and there are none to take their places. Shifts in population are among the greatest causes of small, dying churches. And because of that the people are being taxed to the very limit of their strength to try to carry on.

One more fact that might be called to our attention, is that in the Catawba Synod with its 174 churches 58 of these have an enrollment of less than 40 members; or to be more exact, one-third of the churches in the Catawba Synod have less than 40 members. While some may use this as an excuse for no fear, I think this is a great challenge for better work. This is not only a challenge to those of us who preach the gospel, but a challenge to those who sit in the pews. While I do not for once contend that we can eradicate all the evils that have stolen into our folds over night, I do think that the time has come when we should begin to lay the foundation for the coming generation to build in the future.

All over the Southern field one can easily come across a struggling congregation that holds on only because they were planted there long ago. Their intentions may be good and their contribution to the great Church may be sincere, but how much better work could they do if they were transplanted into better soil where they could bloom in the way God intended? A flower might be ever so beautiful, and its fragrance ever so sweet, but if it is planted out of reach of human habitation its sweetness will be wasted.

In order for us to recapture the youth of our day and stimulate the interest of the old and at the same time save our churches from themselves, we have got to consolidate them in places where the people are. Some Churches use the method of Zoning, perhaps it would work among Presbyterians. Sometime in the future I hope

to present some more facts concerning Catawba Synod and the Church at large. I am convinced that by facing facts we can be inspired to greater work. By facing facts we are able to find our mistakes and make them stepping-stones to future activities.

MANNING DISTRICT OF FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAL

By Mrs. Katie E. Cain, Secretary

The Missionary Societies of this district held their meeting Saturday, March 12, in Friendship church, at Alcolu, Clarendon Co., S. C. Six churches are in this district, namely: Goodwill, Melina, Friendship, Westminster, Harmony Elizabeth and Mt. Carmel (Manning).

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. W. J. Nelson, of Goodwill, and the following program carried out: Devotional period was led by Mesdames Rosa Johnson, of Goodwill, and Queen Collins, of Friendship; singing, "I Am Thine, O Lord," Scripture reading, Gen. 18:1-10; prayer by Mrs. Collins; singing, "Take the Name of Jesus With You," prayer by Mrs. Johnson; welcome address, Mrs. A. E. Coaker; response, Mrs. Eliza White, of Melina; reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

Expressions were given by the President of the various societies about their work during the year. Then the hymn, "Work for the Night Is Coming" was sung.

The theme of the meeting was "The Christian Home." I. What Should Our Church Do to Help Build Christian Homes? Papers were read on this subject by Mrs. M. A. Tomlin, of Westminster church, and Mesdames Annie E. Cain and Rosa Johnson, of Goodwill.

2. What Should Our Church Do to Prepare the Young People and Adults for Christian Home-Making? This question was discussed by Mrs. Ruth Cain, of Goodwill, and Miss Ethel Neeley, of the faculty of Goodwill Academy.

3. What Should Our Church Do to Help Parents to Become Effective Teachers of their Children? This was discussed by Mrs. Wilma Davis, of Harmony church, and Miss Beatrice Byne, a teacher of the public school of Friendship.

The following named ministers gave very timely talks on the subject: Rev. Mr. Cannon, Rev. Dr. Nelson and Rev. Dr. Pogue. Extracts about mission work and a letter published in "Women and Missions" by Miss Elizabeth Taylor were read by Mrs. W. J. Nelson.

A solo, "My Task," was sung by Mrs. Susan Milton, of Friendship. Rev. Dr. I. P. Pogue, the guest speaker, spoke on the subject, "Helping God at His Job," based on I Cor. 3:9: "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, were benefitted and encouraged by this splendid address.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Stinson, pastor of Friendship.

A collection was lifted by Elder Collins, of Friendship, and Mr. McKinley Muldrow, of Goodwill church. The collection amounted to \$6.10.

We adjourned to meet at Melina on the first Saturday in August.

A bountiful dinner was served. We thank Rev. Stinson and his good people for their hospitality, and congratulate them on their nice, clean church and surroundings. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Nelson.

Miss Nannie Burroughs, in a pre-convention message at Los Angeles, told the members of the National Baptist Convention that "we are always talking about being Negroes—Forget it. I do not believe anybody can keep anybody from advancing and I do not believe that anybody is trying." Miss Burroughs declared in the same message, "We have discovered America, we must now discover ourselves. The Negro needs to secure a new way to live and a new way to live."—The Sunday School Informer.