

African American Presbyterian

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

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WEST OF THE FATHER OF WATERS

By Rev. T. B. Hargrave

This article is being written far up in the Blue Ridge Mountains, one block from the cabin where John Fox wrote his fascinating story, "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine." The low-hanging clouds about the towering peaks after a morning shower, with green meadows covered here and there with fragrant flowers lifting their heads skyward, give one a picture of a weeping maiden calling to her lover.

Rogersville Presbytery Takes Off

Like a giant air liner Rogersville Presbytery got off to a fine start in the new Church Year. Dr. Charles Edington, Stated Clerk, called his workers into action and outlined a program for the new Church Year. One of the major points was the raising of the full benevolence quota by the fifteenth of July. Today half of the churches have responded by raising over half of the quota and some have raised all. Dr. Edington is here with me in Big Stone Gap this week and the program is going over in a big way with a crowded house each night.

Kingsport Scores Again

For a number of years St. James church has led the Presbytery in paying the benevolence quota. Last year Calvary was a few days ahead of them. Rev. Whitley said that it would not happen again and his Session and members were with him. Today St. James has paid her full benevolence quota plus General Assembly assessments and all other taxes and has raised \$7 over. The seven dollars over was divided among the Boards as follows: \$3 to National Missions, \$2 to Foreign Missions, \$2 to Pensions. The church has observed Children's Day and has an additional sum to send in. The Ladies' Missionary Society, the Young People's and Sunday school assessments have all been sent in. Monday morning this church opens its Vacation Bible School and a number of well trained teachers are in line. This church is growing numerically and spiritually. Hats off to Rev. and Mrs. Whitley, Elder Preston Collins and a number of workers.

Rev. J. J. Shepperson Reports

I spent some time with Rev. and Mrs. Shepperson on their two fields at Jonesboro, Tenn., and Abingdon, Va. During our revival at Jonesboro we had an overflow of young people. The Junior church that was organized some years ago is still functioning in high order. Our two lady elders, Mrs. Lizzie Brown and Mrs. Grace Bundy, with their co-workers, are carrying on in a big way. While there we held a Vacation Bible School, had three converts in the meeting and raised over half the benevolence quota. Rev. and Mrs. Shepperson then took me to their work in Abingdon, Va. There we found eager souls waiting and at the first request 13 came forward and confessed Christ and 8 were baptized. A Junior church was organized and Mrs. Shepperson, who is an Elder in this church, has personal charge of the Junior church and plans to make white robes for the Junior choir and make Junior officers. The Vacation Church School here, under Miss Rozella White, was a very good success. This church raised over half of the benevolence quota and sent it in. Go to it, Rev. Shepperson, "Psychologically speaking."

Calvary, Asheville

We hear good news from our Asheville church. This church has already raised its full benevolence quota and all assessments for the year. Dr. Edington is full of praise for his people. He is making quite a shout about the work of the various departments of his church. The musical department under the leadership of Prof. Rags-

dale, formerly of the Green Pastures, is rendering a great service. This church plans two Vacation Bible Schools, each of five weeks. The church is growing spiritually and numerically and we predict further gains during the Summer evangelistic campaign which we plan to hold in the open.

Oklahoma City

One of the most beautiful church buildings in the four Synods is nearing completion at Oklahoma City. Rev. Hyland Garnett Lee, one of our youngest ministers, with his good people, is doing a great work. At the close of the church year this church reported all assessments raised and a complete budget of \$6,000. They are paying for the church as they build and expect to dedicate it free of all debt. Dr. Allen Bethel, clerk of Session, says that they plan to break last year's record and they will do just that.

I was highly pleased to hear of the wedding of Mr. Earl Temple to Miss Odessa Eudaily. Earl was converted during one of my meetings at Morristown, Tenn. He is a successful business man and a good Christian and this union of two strong Presbyterians should prove a great life of happiness. Much happiness to you both!

Cotton Plant

Rev. L. W. Davis is hitting a stride that spells results. Although his school is located in a section where machinery has taken the place of the laborer and there is nothing like a pay roll for fifty miles where our people benefit, yet this courageous man, with his workers, marches on. His students make good in other schools after graduation and under his direction learn thrift and industry. We are praying that he will get his work shop that he has been laboring for. He knows what is needed for the future of this section and if this shop could be secured it would prove a blessing to that community. Help us to pray and work for it. Rev. Wm. Sample is making the church go. Church and school in Cotton Plant take the lead. Watch Canadian Young People's Conference when it meets this Summer!

Swift Junior College

Swift Memorial College has just closed one of the most successful school years in its history. This institution is steadily growing and students are finding their way there from all sections of the country, for parents realize their girls and boys are safe at Swift. Dr. W. C. Hargrave is wide awake and seeks to bring people who are inspiring to Swift, and as a result the students are greatly benefited by the number who serve the institution.

Philadelphia

It was mine to attend the celebration of the 131st Anniversary of the First African Presbyterian church during the meeting of the General Assembly at Philadelphia. At Convention Hall about 8000 of our group attended the celebration and heard Drs. A. B. McCoy, J. W. Holley, Wm. Lloyd Imes and F. C. Shirley deliver history-making messages. All eyes were upon Dr. McCoy, our new Secretary of Work with Colored People. It is useless for me to say that he came through with flying colors. Watch the Negro weekly papers for a full account of the work under Dr. McCoy.

The reception at the First African church was of the highest order. Dr. George F. Ellison, pastor of Reeve Memorial, was chairman of the committee, and he proved himself a master mind. Hats off to you, Dr. Ellison! Among the speakers were Dr. Amos, of New York, Dr. John W. Lee, Dr. Colbert, of Baltimore, and Dr. Freeman, of Jersey City, and others. With such a background I am sure the Presby-

terians of Philadelphia have been inspired.

A lovely banquet was given by the Smith-Scotia alumni in honor of Dr. and Mrs. H. L. McCrorey. My old pal and classmate, Dr. T. C. Mitchell, was master of ceremonies. It was a wonderful occasion and Dr. and Mrs. McCrorey were at their best. Mrs. Addie W. Dickerson, outstanding civic leader of the city, introduced Mrs. McCrorey.

Do You Know

Do you know that we have a second member of the Board of National Missions among our group? Yes, Rev. J. B. Barber, of Chattanooga, is the youngest to hold such an important position. Rev. Barber was in demand as a speaker while on his latest trip, making an address at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., and at other important points in the North.

Do you know that we have four Negro Presbyterian churches in the City of New York? Yes, with four strong Presbyterian ministers in charge.

That the ministers and congregations all over the Church have pledged their full support to the administration of Dr. McCoy, and that Rogersville Presbytery is in a drive to become the first to present him with a 100 per cent paid up benevolence by the 31st of July? Yes, they have reached the half-way mark this week.

That Dr. Arthur Rankin, of Philadelphia, has added 207 members to his church in the last year and is still going strong?

That the Rev. Coleman, of Lombard Central Presbyterian church is packing his church every Sunday? Yes, Presbyterianism is growing. Watch Blue Ridge and Canadian!

LET'S FACE FACTS

By Rev. H. W. Givens

Those of us who interest ourselves with the rapidly changing events are aware of the great responsibilities that have thrust themselves upon us as Negro members and ministers of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. Things have been changing so rapidly that it is hard to keep our balance, no matter how hard one tries. There never was a time when such major changes have taken place all at once.

Let us, first, consider the retirement of Dr. Gaston. Upon his shoulders has rested the welfare of this Negro work for more than a quarter of a century. He has been our representative to the Board for lo these many years, but, alas, he has stepped down and a man of our own race has taken the helm. And with his taking Dr. Gaston's place many questions pop into our minds.

One of the first questions that presents itself is this: What is the future of Negro Presbyterianism under a Negro leader? The second question that might follow is: What will be his policies? A third question might be: What changes will take place and how will those changes affect the individual churches?

Only time can answer these questions. Only time is the great revealer of truth. Only time can bring out the merits or demerits of this great change that has come to pass. But if I am allowed to take the role of a prophet I should predict that out of this great change great good will come. After all these many years of hard work and service we as a people have come to the place where we can take the responsibility of men to guide our own ship. We have a chance to prove our worth. I for one believe that under the leadership of Dr. McCoy we are headed for a wider horizon with a new and better Church in the years to come. In fact, I hold and maintain that should he succeed (and I think he will) he will be the means of opening the door for us as a race into more and better positions, in the years to come, in the

Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. in this time of changing events, who knows but that Dr. McCoy, to use his own words, "was drafted" into this position for such a time as this. God has peculiar ways of preparing a man for a job in His own time, and in His own way commands him to "Go." The only words we should have as members and ministers for Dr. McCoy should be the words of King Saul to David: "Go, and the Lord be with thee."

The next fact for our consideration is that Smith University has become independent. For lo! these many years this great institution has been under the Board of National Missions. For seventy years it has been guided and directed by that Board, just as a parent guides and directs his child. "But," to use the words of Dr. McCrorey in his report to the Alumni Association, "the institution has become of age." And upon being asked what about the future of Smith, Dr. McCrorey assured all of us that Smith would not fail. When we remember that it was through Dr. McCrorey that all the good things that Smith now boasts came, we get a new vision and new courage and new consolation that under his leadership Smith cannot fail.

But the fact remains that, now that it is independent, it will need our loyal support. It will need the support of all the churches and all those who claim Smith as their Alma Mater. It not only needs your money but it needs your moral support, your constant boosting.

Yes, Smith has become of age in terms of years, and in a way strong enough to carry on, but the fact remains that it will be able to run much faster if all of us put our shoulders to the wheel and push. Let us organize ourselves in every State where Smith men are found, realizing that there are horizons that have never been explored and friends who have never been reached. And by way of suggestion, would it not be a fine thing if every graduate would make himself responsible for at least five dollars (\$5.00 a year? Smith needs a million dollars for endowment and a half million for buildings. As large as these figures may sound, fellow graduates, it can be done.

PHILADELPHIA EXPECTING A GREAT REVIVAL

The interest in the revival that seems imminent in Philadelphia is most encouraging, according to Dr. E. A. E. Palmquist, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Federation of Churches.

"A special sub-committee of the Federation's Department of Evangelism under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Walter B. Greenway, President of Beaver College, is meeting this month to plan an aggressive, city-wide movement to reawaken the religious interest of our people.

"The Federation is convinced that the time is ripe for a great revival of religious life among our people and Philadelphia with its 1,000 Protestant Churches is the logical place for its birth.

"Standing united in our common devotion to Jesus Christ, our Master and Saviour, we can not only revitalize our Churches but also sweep along in our train the multitude who are not now enrolled in any church body.

"This old city," said Dr. Palmquist, "is just celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the confirmation of the Constitution upon which this great nation has been founded. At this time it is fitting that we reaffirm our faith and devotion to the Gospel of Christ as the only hope of the world."

In India, masses of the people live and die, never having had sufficient food. In China the cry for bread is ceaseless.—Sel.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Excerpts from the report of the Committee on National Missions. Continued from last week.)

The Committee desires to call attention to the retirement, on May 15, 1938, of Dr. John M. Gaston, who served the Board of Missions for Freedmen and the Board of National Missions for twenty-seven years as Secretary in charge of the Negro work. The Committee feels that it is highly appropriate for the Assembly to note the untiring and consecrated service of Dr. Gaston in this field. We wish him many years of service in the less exacting occupations to which his years of retirement will take him.

The Committee would also direct attention to the election by the Board as Field Secretary of the Unit of Work with Colored People of a distinguished Negro minister, Dr. A. B. McCoy, who began his service in this capacity on May 15. Dr. McCoy has served for many years as the Superintendent of Sunday School Mission Work in the four Negro Synods in which his service has been outstanding. He is the first member of his race, so far as the Committee knows, to serve in such a high executive capacity in missionary work and certainly he is the first representative of his race to become a member of the headquarters' staff of our Board.

In the changing world to which the report calls attention, it is interesting to note that the Johnson C. Smith University has decided to assume, with the assent of the Board of National Missions, the status of an independent Presbyterian College, reporting to the General Assembly through the Board of Christian Education as of October 1, 1938.

When the National Board was organized in 1924, it was contemplated that all subsidiary Boards should transfer to it their assets of every character. Certain legal obstacles in Pennsylvania have made it impossible to carry out the order of the General Assembly with regard to all of the assets of the Board of Missions for Freedmen. Through consultation with counsel, however, plans have been made by which this transfer can at last be effected and the Board of Missions for Freedmen, a Pennsylvania corporation, has taken action to turn over to the Board of National Missions, on or about August 31, 1938, all of its property and assets, in accordance with the action of General Assembly, authorizing the said Board of National Missions "to take over, carry on and conduct the work of the Board of Missions for Freedmen," and "to take over, acquire and become possessed or invested with all or any part of the property and assets of every character and description then or thereafter owned by the Board of Missions for Freedmen." In view of this action your Committee on National Missions recommends that the General Assembly authorize the proper officers of the Board of National Missions to execute an indemnity bond in favor of the present members of the Board of Missions for Freedmen in the form submitted by the attorney for the Board and approved by counsel of the Board of National Missions.

Your Committee further recommends that the Board of National Missions, upon the consummation of this transfer, report to the General Assembly for record and final approval all of the steps which have been taken whereby the assets which have formerly been held by the Board of Missions for Freedmen have been transferred to the Board of National Missions (except funds as were held by the Board of Missions for Freedmen in trust for Johnson C. Smith University and for Barber-Scotia College and which were transferred by the Board of Missions for Freedmen to the respective

Boards of Trustees of these two institutions).

The Committee desires to call attention also to the substantial progress that is being made in developing cooperative relationships with the Board of Christian Education through the medium of the Interboard Commission on National Missions and Christian Education.

Whereas the Overture presented by the Presbytery of Denver and referred by the Committee on Bills and Overtures to the Committee on National Missions has to do with an Article in the Report on the Maintenance of the Ministry considered impracticable by the Assembly of 1935, your Committee recommends no action.

The Committee notes with approval the various steps being taken through the National Staff to make closer and more effective the cooperative relationship between the Board and those Synods and Presbyteries which conduct their National Missions work outside of the budget of the Board, with reference to the support of the entire National Missions enterprise of our Church and the carrying into effect of the policies approved by the General Assembly.

In view of the action taken by the General Assembly on Saturday morning upon the report of the General Council looking toward a more adequate maintenance of the ministry, the Committee recommends:

First, that Synods and Presbyteries which do not budget with the Board be urged to cooperate to the utmost with the Board of National Missions in the studies and surveys which the Assembly has directed the Board to pursue.

Second, that in the prosecution of these studies on the part of independent Synods and Presbyteries the uniform report blanks prepared by the Department of Budget and Research of the Board be employed.

Third, that the earnest attention of the Presbyteries of our Church be called to the demoralizing effect of the unwise use of pensions to supplement salaries. There are many churches which are receiving pensions because the funds paid by the Board of Pensions will enable them to establish a pastor upon a lower financial basis. After a few years of this procedure the church is unable or unwilling to return to a satisfactory financial basis, or to one which would make it possible to call a pastor not a recipient of such aid.

The Committee has learned with gratification of the election by the Board of Dr. Henry S. Randolph as Secretary of the Unit of Rural Church Work, succeeding the late Dr. Warren H. Wilson. In Dr. Randolph, who has served for eleven years as Principal of the Asheville Farm School, one of the most distinctive educational enterprises under the Board, this important and difficult phase of National Missions is assured of wise and aggressive leadership.

Evangelism

The Committee has carefully considered the evangelistic work of the Board and has been deeply impressed by the concern of the Unit of Evangelism for the whole evangelistic program of the Presbyterian Church. The work of the Unit of Evangelism can be summarized under five distinctive heads, namely, first, direct contact with the individual churches for stimulation and encouragement in evangelistic work; second, cooperation with the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; third, cooperation with Synods and Presbyteries in the development of programs of evangelism;

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