

THE CHOWANIAN

Volume 5 — Number 1

Murfreesboro, N. C., November, 1956

Subscription: \$1.00 a Year

'The Planting Of The Lord'

By Rev. Oscar Creech
Saturday, July 20, 1951, was an important day in the history of Chowan College—it was decision day when the committee was to secure a president for the college. Rev. Lonnie Sasser, Dr. W. R. Parker and Mr. Walter Evans composed the committee to find a president. During the previous week, the fourth man interested in the presidency had met with the committee at Murfreesboro. He was offered the position and promised to send a letter to Mr. Sasser and one to Dr. Parker to reach them by Friday night, July 19th. On Friday night Mr. Sasser had still not received a letter, so he telephoned Dr. Parker to find out if he had heard. Dr. Parker informed him that he had not received a letter from the applicant, but that Mr. Claud Gaddy of Raleigh had called him, saying that Dr. F. Orion Mixon might be available if approached. Mr. Gaddy and a few friends at Caswell Assembly a few days before talking about Dr. Mixon decided he would be a good man for president of Chowan College; but neither of them had mentioned their decision to him. Saturday morning a letter came from the last applicant, stating that it was the hardest question he had ever faced and asked for more time to decide, promising to let the committee hear Monday. It was now near twelve o'clock noon.

Dr. Mixon had been pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Raleigh for about eight years and was convinced it was time to make a change. On this important Saturday, he had promised to give an answer to a church of 2,000 members in Charleston, S. C., which had called him. All the week before he had felt more and more that he should not accept the call, and he was greatly burdened for several days with the uncertainty of what to do or where to go; praying that the will of the Lord might be revealed to him. Friday night was spent in restlessness and prayer. Saturday morning, still troubled, he went to his office at the church, but returned home about eleven o'clock. On his way, a firm assurance suddenly gripped him that he was going to make a change. Immediately the burden was lifted from his shoulders and he went on home with a song in his heart. He hurried to his wife and said to her: "We are not going to stay here, and we are not going to Charleston, but we are going somewhere." He went to his room and fell across his bed, praying for direction from the Lord as to where to go.

About this time, Mr. Sasser in Murfreesboro telephoned Dr. Mixon, saying he was calling him about becoming president of Chowan College. After a brief conversation, the answer was, "I will go, if you want me." That sent a thrill through the heart of Mr. Sasser, for he at once felt that Dr. Mixon was the man for the place. That afternoon at the meeting of his committee, he presented Dr. Mixon's name. Two of the committee members, before going to this meeting, had been influenced to believe that it was too late to try to get a president, that not enough students could be secured to justify opening the college that Fall. Not one paid application was in hand. But when Mr. Sasser announced that Dr. F. O. Mixon of Raleigh would accept if elected, the whole situation changed and the atmosphere of uncertainty cleared away quickly. The committee soon agreed upon him with enthusiasm, and by telephone asked him to meet with the full Board of Trustees on the following Monday night, July 23rd. (Monday a letter came from the other applicant stating that he would not accept.)

At the meeting that Monday night, Dr. Mixon was elected at a See PLANTING, Page 4



By his works we knew him!

He Breathed the Spirit of Life

Editorial from Hertford County Herald

The enduring monument to the memory of F. Orion Mixon is and will be a living Chowan College.

There, where he came to the end of a busy and fruitful career with untimely and shocking suddenness Sunday afternoon, he leaves an institution of hope and usefulness to mankind into which he literally breathed the spirit that raised it from the dead.

Throughout the Roanoke-Chowan section, indeed throughout the state and beyond, the activity and influence of this busy and active man will be sorely missed. Dr. Mixon was more than the president of a small and little-known junior college tucked away in a remote agricultural area of Northeast North Carolina. He was a preacher strong in his convictions, able in the presentation of his views, and strong in the councils of his religious denomination.

He was an affable man with a gift for pleasant companionship and human understanding. With these attributes he combined a deep faith in God, in his fellowmen, and in himself in getting done these things which would serve mankind and do honor to his faith and to his God. He was a preacher who put into action his faith and his conviction.

Out of his faith and his action came the rebirth of Chowan College. His talents of friendship, of persuasion and leadership he gave unremittently to building a solid foundation for the school for which he accepted responsibility and dedicated his life when others with less faith and willingness to serve had given it up for lost. For his faith, his dedication and his action, the people of the Roanoke-Chowan owe him and his memory an everlasting debt of gratitude.

Rev. Creech is Acting President



REV. OSCAR CREECH

The executive Committee of Chowan College has appointed the Rev. Oscar Creech acting president of Chowan until a president is named to succeed Dr. F. O. Mixon.

Mr. Creech was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ahsokie for more than twenty-five years and has been the associate to the president for the past several years.

A special meeting was called by J. Craig Revelle of Murfreesboro, who is chairman of the executive committee. The sole purpose of this meeting was to appoint the acting president.

All members of the executive committee were present and unanimous in their decision.

Before his appointment as acting president, Mr. Creech traveled over much of North Carolina making friends and soliciting funds for the college.

Chowan's Growth Will Live As a Monument To Dr. F. Orion Mixon

Someone said of the famous 17th century English Architect, Sir Christopher Wren: "If you want to know what he has done look around you." Similarly that remark could be fittingly applied to the service rendered Chowan College by the late Dr. F. O. Mixon.

During his administration of five years the main building has been reconditioned and many new modern buildings erected. In 1953 the Graphic Arts Building was completed. Just this past summer an addition brought the building to almost twice its original size. This houses one of the fastest growing departments of Chowan College. With the recent addition of equipment its value has been raised to more than \$75,000.

The same year a Vocational Building was constructed. The following year a boys' dormitory was erected. The same year funds were raised for a new gymnasium with eight classrooms adjoining.

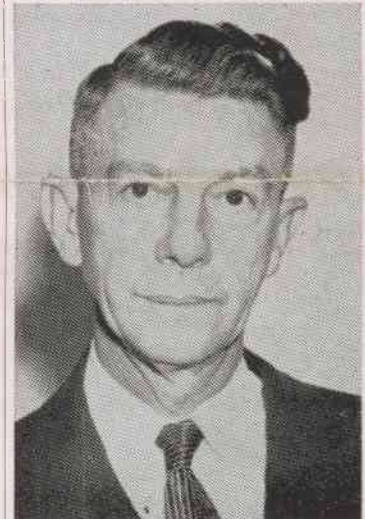
In 1956 a \$75,000 Science Building and a \$17,000 Student Center was completed and ready for use at the opening of school.

When Dr. Mixon became president the institution was tottering under the weight of an embarrassing debt of sixty thousand dollars.

Through a sound program of financing Dr. Mixon had reduced this debt to significant proportions.

One of Dr. Mixon's heart desires was to have the college accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges. Mr. Claude Gaddey, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Council on Christian Education, in a letter to the Presidents of the other Baptist Colleges on November 7 said, "I am very much encouraged with the prospect of favorable report and full accreditation by the association. I wish so very much that all of you might see the many evidences of fine work on the part of Dr. Mixon in assistance in preparation for accreditation."

Vice President Seeks Students



REV. ROSS CADLE

Rev. Ross Cadle, vice president of the college, will continue to represent Chowan at high schools throughout Eastern North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia, seeking to interest Seniors to enroll here.

Since coming to Chowan from the Apex Baptist Church, Mr. Cadle has done an outstanding job in public relations for the college. He is popular with the student body and takes active interest in sports and other activities here.

Mrs. Cadle is assistant librarian at the college and a daughter, Betsy, is a student.

Members of Staff Express Their Regrets

The following statements, made by new staff members of Chowan College, show their appreciation of Dr. F. O. Mixon:

J. Brooks: Chowan College was so very close to Dr. Mixon's heart that he gave himself completely to its future. One soon learned to respect his devotion to this cause and to admire and love him for his sincerity, frankness, and loyalty. We count it a privilege to have known and to have worked with such a devoted servant of the cause of Christian Education.

Dr. McCready: He was a valiant and statesmanlike man, utterly devoted to a great task—aying, with Paul, "This one thing I do and doing it supremely well." Mr. Marable: Although I had not known Dr. F. O. Mixon long, I shall cherish forever the memory of our friendship.

Mrs. Ross: I thought a lot of See MEMBERS, Page 4

Mrs. Mixon to Continue Here

Mrs. F. Orion Mixon, who has been chairman of the Department of Religion during the time her husband was president of the college, will continue her duties here.

"This is where I want to live and work," Mrs. Mixon told a Chowanian reporter.

Since coming to Chowan, Mrs. Mixon has developed the department of Religion into one of the most outstanding divisions of the college through her untiring efforts and devotions to her duties. She has had great influence upon her students and given to them a desire to take a more active part in the programs of their churches.



MRS. F. ORION MIXON