

CHURCHES PRESENT CAR TO REV. DAVID J. HUNT

Biography of One of Most Prominent Baptist Ministers in County Read At Presentation Ceremony.

Forest City, R-2, Sept. 17.—The four country churches of Rev. D. J. Hunt, Mt. Olivet, Adaville, Holly Springs, all in Rutherford county and Green River church, in Polk county presented their pastor with a new Chevrolet Coach Sunday at Adaville church, following the regular monthly services there Sunday morning. The car was filled up with gas and oil and had a license plate attached, when it was presented to the well-known Baptist minister.

Presents New Car.

Mr. Monroe McDonald, well-known citizen and active worker in the Adaville church was one of the originators of the idea to give the pastor a new car. He was in charge of the program. Green River church was represented by Mr. C. W. Davis; Holly Springs by Mr. G. M. Cole, who spoke briefly; Mt. Olivet by Mr. Clay Blanton who told how easy it was to raise funds in his church for the car. Mr. McDonald spoke for Adaville church. Mr. L. C. Price, well known mail carrier on Hollis, route 1, farmer and active member of Mt. Olivet church presented the keys of the car to Rev. Hunt in a short and appropriate talk. Rev. Hunt responded in a short and pleasing address, stating that he accepted it in love and with the idea of rendering more service for his Master. He stated that his old "Ford" had been a faithful servant to him and that it had carried him to many a funeral, marriage and church service and that he would keep it in his family, as it had about "Seen it's best day."

Editor R. E. Price of the Rutherford County News, Rutherfordton, spoke briefly and read a short sketch

of the life of Rev. Hunt, which was in part as follows:

Born in Tennessee.

Rev. David Jesse Hunt was born on a farm near Jonesboro, Tenn., May 6, 1864. His parents had twelve children and he was the fourth. His father was captured in 1863 by the Federal forces, while he was serving his country in the cause of the Confederacy.

Mr. Hunt went to Sunday school and church from infancy. He attended a four months subscription school when five years old and got impressions from a saintly teacher that are still with him. When Mr. Hunt was 13 years of age his people erected a good school house and employed a college trained teacher. This was the rising, "Star of Hope" for many. Mr. Hunt attended part of three schools. He rang the bell, swept floors and did anything that he could to help pay his expenses in school.

Rev. Hunt expected to teach his first school near Carson college, Tenn., but sickness caused him to lose a year in school. He then joined the church, lined up for service and taught school near home. The next year he taught near the college, where he was so sick the year before. In 1890 he was chosen to represent his society in a joint debate. The next year, while in college he did substitute teaching in English and Science and was elected principal of the city graded school.

In 1893 he took work in the country at Mill Springs. He taught school during the week and preached on Sunday. He enrolled 91 students the first year. From Friday evening thru Sunday night, 47 of the 91 students were saved and joined the church. Within six weeks, 90 of his students were Christians.

In January 1894 Rev. Hunt was ordained and in July of the same year was called as pastor of Limestone church, 80 miles away. In 35 days preceding Christmas of 1894 Mr.

Hunt saw a total of 150 conversions. On July 30, 1896 he was married to Miss Julia S. Livingstone, near Morristown, Tenn., a native of North Carolina. One child, Mary Sue Hunt was born to this union. Mrs. Hunt died January 27, 1902.

Establishes Round Hill.

After some preparatory work at Carson-Newman college, Tenn., Rev. Hunt moved to Union Mills June 23, 1899 and started the erection of what was later Round Hill Academy. With the help of Mr. J. P. Nanney a building was erected and a school started in October 1899 with 60 pupils enrolled. After Mrs. Hunt's health failed, her sister, Miss N. M. Livingstone succeeded her as a teacher. In 1900 Round Hill church gave the Academy to the Green River Association. Rev. C. B. Justice was elected president of the Board of Trustees.

After having taught seven years at Round Hill and having been moderator of the Green River Association for four years, Mr. Hunt resigned to do some special studying at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. When Rev. Hunt entered the Seminary he had saved \$50, but he was not to be discouraged. After leaving the Seminary and holding meetings in Kentucky and Georgia, Mr. Hunt returned to Union Mills. After some hard work there he took up pastoral work at Shiloh and Cliffside Baptist churches.

On December 24, 1914 Mr. Hunt was married to Miss Geneva C. Gardin. Four children were born to this union. On Dec. 29, 1923 Mrs. Hunt passed away. This was another severe blow to Mr. Hunt, but he was not to be discouraged he trusted in God and went forth to do his work.

Pastor at Cliffside.

While at Cliffside Rev. Hunt taught school three years and was also pastor of the Baptist church. He was Associational chairman of the Million Dollar campaign. The quota of Cliffside church was \$23,000 and they raised \$29,000. While at Cliffside the \$75,000,000 campaign was launched.

Cliffside raised its full quota of \$12,000, Sandy Plains, another of

Rev Hunt's churches, raised \$6,000 over her quota while Ellenboro did not quite reach her quota, \$5,000. A total of \$23,000 was pledged by these three churches, thru the efforts of their pastor, Rev. D. J. Hunt.

While at Cliffside the Haynes Memorial church was organized and Rev. Hunt was called as pastor. While at Cliffside, Ellenboro erected a handsome \$17,000 house of worship. While at Cliffside, the Hunt Baraca Class sent their pastor to the Southern Baptist Convention at Washington, D. C. He was appointed to preach in the Capital City on Sunday morning of the convention.

After leaving Cliffside, September 27, 1921, Rev. Hunt spent two years in Spindale. Here much good was accomplished and the work progressed. On September 26, 1923 the family moved to the home of Mrs. Hunt's parents, at Glenwood, near the Rutherford-McDowell line, in McDowell county, where they reside today.

School Teacher.

A summary of the work of Rev. Hunt shows the following: schools taught, 35; churches served, 26; years of service to churches, total 85; churches organized, 3; churches built and helped to build, 5; dedication sermons delivered, 5; educational plants erected, 1; commencement sermons preached 2; commencement addresses, 4; associational sermons, 4. He has conducted hundreds and possibly thousands of funerals, baptized numerous church members and has married many happy couples.

Indeed his life has been one of service. The car was presented by his four churches in a spirit of love and helpfulness. All stated that it was an easy matter to raise funds with which to purchase the car. The Banner Chevrolet Co., made a liberal donation towards the car.

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