

THE PLIGHT OF THE RURAL CHURCHES

By C. A. Chick, Instructor in Economics, Fayetteville State Teachers College, Fayetteville, N. C.

One does not need to be an erudité scholar or research worker to be cognizant of what is, and has been for sometime, taking place in Rural America. The automobile, no longer an urban luxury, nor electricity or many of the other modern conveniences and luxuries that formally were thought of as belonging to the urban centers only. The road improvement is also an important factor. The one and two teacher schools are rapidly giving away to the consolidated schools and all the modern conveniences there with, including transportation for students and better trained teachers. Indeed no longer are the rural districts looked upon as places where one learns how to teach and then secures an urban position. Our rural teachers compare favorably with our urban teachers. Many of the states are raising their standards for teachers certification and all teachers are required to conform thereto. There are many other improvements that space will not permit me to mention.

But alas the leaders of many of our rural churches seemingly want improvements in everything rural except the churches. If the rural churches are going to keep pace and hold interest of the younger and more intelligent element in the community, many of them of necessity must consolidate.

It is generally agreed by specialists in Religious Education and church problems that a community must have at least a thousand people in order for a church to have a "worthwhile program." In spite of the "New Deal" efforts from the standpoint of numbers as well as finance.

According to this standpoint how many of our rural churches a "worthwhile" program? Inspite of the efforts of the "New Deal" to rehabilitate people in the rural districts, each year finds more and more people moving to the urban centers.

I suggest, recommend, and urge that our local state and national religious gatherings put forth all the efforts within their powers to influence and educate the rural church leaders to the importance of consolidating many of their churches.

WILLIAM CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH

Rev. R. J. Jefferson, Pastor

It has been a long time since we have witnessed such an occasion as was presented on last Sunday when there stood a large group of candidates for Baptism, between the ages of ten and forty. The consensus of opinion as expressed by the older members of the church, "They never saw the like before." The pastor used as a text St. John 14:23, subject The Love of God. The baptismal rite was administered unto the group, the choir chanted very softly and sweetly "I Am Thine O Lord."

The service was very effective and everyone seemed benefited, persons came forward and united with the church.

At 4:30 a very enthusiastic meeting of the converts was held under the supervision of Miss Odessa L. Joiner. The group was interested by Prof. T. J. Lyles. The same was very much enjoyed. A very interesting League was conducted at 6:30 with the elders and laymen at their post of duty. The effort for the benefit of the pastor going to General conference was quite a success.

DENMARK NEWS

During the Spring revival at Denmark, the meeting was very high. The Rev. N. Benson the pastor of Sweet Home Baptist church conducted the service throughout the week. The subjects were as follows: Wednesday night, United Efforts; Thursday night, The Valuation of a Soul; Friday night, The Church is God's Fire Company.

Sunday morning at the usual hour S.S. opened with Prof. O. S. Riley and others at their post. At 12 o'clock our beloved Pastor Rev. Cummings took the stand, selected for his text Psalm 89:1, subject The Joyful Sound. At 3:30 the ushers rendered a program sponsored by sister Essie Williams. In the mean time the Rev. Benson returned for the afternoon service.

He was presented to the audience by our pastor. He came to us with another soul stirring message, taken from St. Luke 15:18, subject A Wise Resolution. The good people served dinner at the church. At 8 p.m. service began with devotions conducted by the pastor. After which Rev. Benson brought to us a splendid message. The subject The Game of Life. Our services were good throughout the entire day. Our Spring meeting will begin at Bethel Tuesday night and the following ministers will officiate: Prayer service, Tuesday night; Wednesday night Rev. B. T. Martin, Central Bapt. church; Thursday night, Rev. C. L. Anderson, Rome Bapt. church; Friday night, Rev. W. M. Friday, Franklin M. church; Sunday at 11:30 our beloved pastor; 3:30 Rev. C. J. Adams, Capernaum Bapt.; at 7:30 the Rev. Paul L. Wells, of the Graniteville circuit. The public is invited.

HIGHLIGHT OF BAMBERG CO.

Prof. and Mrs. J. D. Marshall were very pleasant callers in the Colston section, Saturday Apr. 20. Mrs. Eula Barton, Mr. Mills and Frank Hamlin of Morris college were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. B. McMillan Sunday, April 21.

The Carvers Mothers' club entertained with a fish fry Sat. 20, they are making big plans for the State Federation.

Mr. and Mrs. George Halyard and Miss Canal Walker were the guests of their mother and father Dr. and Mrs. Mannie Walker on Sunday, April 21.

We are glad to report that Mrs. Alafair Baird is much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Raynor of Greenville were the week end guests of their sister and brother Mrs. Louise G. Douglass also Mr. Sam Hopkins.

Mrs. Daisy Mae Heath had for her guests Mrs. Annie and Mr. Isaac Fisher Saturday evening.

Mrs. Maggie Lewis had for her Saturday night guests Mrs. Mary Burns, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Watts and others as supper guests.

On April 15 Mrs. Minnie Hopkins departed this life. She will be missed very much.

Miss Martha Palmer had for her guest the past week Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Jones and others.

Mrs. Douglass had for her guests Mrs. Holley and others.

Rev. L. R. Hampton and Rev. Flowers were Mr. and Mrs. Boles supper guests Monday night. On Wednesday night they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. McDowell for supper. Thursday night they were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Long, Friday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Weathers.

Ward 18 of the Republican club held a mass meeting April 15 at a new chapter house of which the Rev. H. Smith is pastor. This was their first mass meeting and a splendid program was rendered.

Mrs. Viola Bryant had as her supper guest Rev. T. R. Hampton now 14th, S. C. Mrs. Bryant is a founder member of this conference.

FRIENDSHIP A. M. E. CHURCH

Rev. H. W. Walker, Pastor

Clinton, S. C. Sunday school begins every Sunday morning at

Lake View Junior High School, Clinton, S. C. School will close the 10th. Prof. Castle and teachers have rendered efficient service this term.

The I.E.A. had their meeting April 8th. The meeting was opened in due form. The president presided. A discussion was conducted on the subject: Meeting the Educational Need of Parent and Child of Today. First speaker Prof. Castle; response by Miss E. Gandy; Prof. Carr with evidence; Rev. Mr. Johnson, Rev. J. E. Dixon, Rev. S. J. Johnson, Rev. W. A. Ford and others.

The meeting was turned over to the program committee who worked on a stimulating program.

CLINTON I.E.A. WIN PRIZES IN 1939 CHILEAN NITRATE COTTON AND CORN CONTEST

Rev. H. W. Walker, Rev. L. F. Evans, Bro. Edward Stewart, who spoke on the negative side.

The Moral Condition of the Nation was opened by Rev. S. J. Johnson and Bro. H. B. Butler. A paper on the Requirements of the Sunday school was read by Prof. H. B. Rickard and it will find a full report.

The Financial Ability of the People was reported by the Rev. L. A. Young, the circuit pastor. The conference gave inspiration from this discussion.

Prof. W. M. Brown made an Educational Address, Friday night, that brought to him plaudits and applause.

The Consecration Sermon was delivered by the Rev. S. J. Johnson of the Mt. Hebron circuit. The Annual Sermon was preached by the Rev. C. G. McElwain, S. C. circuit. The Rev. W. S. Young preached a most excellent missionary sermon and the Rev. J. E. Dixon delivered the Educational sermon.

The following choirs concluded most excellent services: Hanning, St. James, Elkhorn and Trinity. The following delegates were elected to the Annual Conference:

Prof. H. B. Rickard, Messrs. H. B. Butler, E. D. Stewart and E. M. Bowers. Alternates: Messrs. S. R. Robinson, J. S. Kennedy, W. P. Reeder and Mrs. M. A. Gallman.

It is said by many it was the best conference held in many years. The impartial ruling and the loving disposition of the presiding elder means no failure on the part of leadership for the district is safe in his care.

The writer preaches a most prosperous and successful administration.

Rev. L. G. Bowman, reporter

BETHLEHEM BAPT. CHURCH

Rev. E. A. Davis, Pastor

Sunday school began at the usual hour with a large group present. The lesson was well reviewed by Rev. Taylor.

1:45 O'clock Rev. S. M. Moss came before a packed church and preached. His text was found in St. Matthew 11:14. The sermon was well enjoyed.

3:30 He also preached. The night service began at 7:45. Rev. S. M. Moss came before the congregation and preached his text was found in 19:3 St. Luke. The pulpit was graced with the following preachers: Rev. Taylor, Rev. J. P. Reeder, Rev. Glover and the Gospel Tornado Rev. W. J. Davis and the brother of Rev. S. M. Moss of Georgia.

BALTIMORE, MD. NEWS

It (Mrs.) Louise G. Douglass On sight here are Mrs. Florine Hood, Mrs. Viola Stokes, Mrs. Orr Maynor, Mrs. Annie Johnson, Mrs. Bertha Palmer, Mrs. May Silas, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Loni Peaks, Mrs. Mattie Howard. They have the sympathy of all.

The Gospel Singers are under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Bachman, 503 N. Arlington Ave., Baltimore, Md. Phone Gilmore 7600.

Mrs. Phyllis Millet is able to be out again after being confined several months.

Mr. Byrd of South Baltimore visited his sister Mrs. W. Pinckney Saturday. Mrs. Sarah Dodds was her guest her brother Mr. Al. M. Gore, Jr., and sister Mrs. Louise G. Douglass also Mr. Sam Hopkins.

Mrs. Daisy Mae Heath had for her guests Mrs. Annie and Mr. Isaac Fisher Saturday evening.

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