

Baptist Informer

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No. 5

One-Day Session Tops All

There is not a word or words, in any language, that could express or portray the setting, atmosphere, and spirit of the One Day Session.

Magnificent, Mammoth, Tremendous, Colossal, Astounding all wrapped into one word might give a tiny inkling of this great experience.

Host Church and Pastor

The St. Stephen First Baptist Church, Chadbourne, was the host church. This church was organized in 1904 and held its meetings in a house.

Today, under the leadership of the energetic, dynamic and youthful pastor, Isaac Horton, there is a new building with its spiral pointing heavenward. Pastor Horton says, "This new church building is the fulfillment of a vision which the Lord showed to me immediately after I became pastor.

The sanctuary is most beautiful. One can feel the presence of the Almighty upon entering. The well appointed decorations, furnishings and stained glass windows attest the sacrifice, self denial and love for the Cause of this membership.

The educational building provides space for offices, recreation, fellowship, meetings as well as class rooms for instruction. A great and beautiful building.

Pastor Horton, his lovely charming wife, Thelma and the members made adequate preparation for our entertainment. Our every need was supplied. The food was well prepared and delicious. Reasonably priced also.

Thanks Pastor Horton for inviting us. Thank you for the inspiration afforded us. Thanks for the fellowship with your members and the good people of your city. Thanks for allowing us to see what God can do when you let Him. Thanks to Mrs. Horton for taking time away from the four lovely children to look after us. Thanks to the members for coming out to greet us.

If we inspired you as you inspired us, our great Convention can be assured of your increased support.

Our Leaders

Team work was the order of the day. Our illustrious President, Dr. R. M. Pitts, was presented by

our most efficient Vice President, Dr. J. A. White. Each of these great men masterfully guided the Convention through its busy and heavy schedule. We need never question or doubt or have fear for our work, it is in good hands.

President Pitts was at his best. He challenged the Convention to unity guided by the Holy Spirit. The massive audience sat spellbound as the president unburdened his heart. This dedicated soul spoke of our Objectives, State Missions, Shaw University, Shaw's Divinity School, Foreign Missions, Oxford Orphanage, and the great need to increase our support to them. He expounded on the debt, high interest and our need to pay up and cast this burden aside. Moved to visible tears, shaken by anxiety, in trembling tones, born out of concern, the president spoke on, what a pity, 300,000 Baptists in North Carolina, have not as yet gotten the vision. When will we arouse from our slumbering and shake ourselves out of our lethargy and respond to the Cause? LET US RISE UP, like soldiers ready for battle, AND PAY THE DEBT NOW.

When President Pitts concluded, he presented cards for pledges and commitments. Pastors and Laymen took them in short order.

If you were not there you can still be a part of the President's appeal. Read carefully the insert

The Call of the President for 100 Men and \$1000.00 From May 8th. 1963 to October 11th. 1963. For the Objectives of the General Baptist State Convention.

R. Mack Pitts, President

"For built we the wall; and all the wall was join together unto the half thereof; for the people had a mind to work". Nehemiah, 4-6. HELP ME SOMEBODY!

Who is Calling? The President.

How many Men does He want? 100. I will be one.

My Name is:

How much money does he want each Captain to raise? \$1000.00 by Oct. 11th. "By the help of God I will try. How must I send the money, and where? Answer: Send all money, each month to Dr. O. L. Sherrill, P. O. Box 287. Raleigh, N. C.

Brethern, This plan was prayerfully studied out by Dr. W. L. Mason and myself. Please work with us. Amen.

(Continued on page 4)

THE BAPTIST INFORMER

ORGAN OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

COLEMON W. KERRY, JR., EDITOR

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General Convention Roster

W. H. Davidson, *President Emeritus*
R. M. Pitts, *President*
J. W. White, *1st Vice President*
J. R. R. McRay, *2nd Vice President*
W. M. Fuller, *3rd Vice President*
J. B. Humphery, *4th Vice President*
J. R. Manley, *Recording Secretary*
O. L. Sherrill, *Executive Secretary*
C. W. Ward, *Assistant Secretary*
C. C. Craig, *Asst. to the Exec. Secretary*
Jerry Drayton, *Historian*
R. Irving Boone, *Statistician*

The President Speaks My Fellow Laborers Together With God



DR. R. M. PITTS

The One Day Session, to my mind was a great success. I am indeed grateful for the manner in which you responded to our appeal. As your president, I personally want you to know how thankful I am for you.

Now those who were there heard what I had to say. And, I asked and told them to tell those who were not there what was said. But in case they forgot or didn't make it clear, I am using this means to tell everybody.

You should know by now that I am all in this work and it's all over me. There are many who started and promised not to turn back but it seems that some have turned off. What we need now is the "won't turn back" and "won't turn off" crowd. "Help Me Somebody."

Wanted, MEN! PASTORS! PREACHERS!

These are wanted to give or raise some much needed funds by October 8.

100 men to give or raise \$1,000.00

100 men to give or raise 500.00

500 men to give or raise 250.00

All the rest do what you will.

This plan was thought out by Dr. W. L. Mason and myself. We gave out cards at the One Day Session and quite a few took them. Yet so many of the pastors were not there.

Now, not having a card is no excuse. Write the Executive Secretary and give him your name and the amount you will be responsible for.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 17-23—National Sunday School Congress, Birmingham, Alabama

July 16-18—State Ushers Convention, Second Calvary, Charlotte, N. C.

August 6-8—State Sunday School and BTU Convention, St. John, New Bern, N. C.

August 13-16—Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Convention, First, Winston-Salem, N. C.

August 27-30—Lott Carey, F. M. Convention, New York City

September 3-8 — National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio

October 28-31—Annual Session of GBSC and Laymen's League, St. Paul, Charlotte, N. C.

Ushers Convention—Charlotte

The State Ushers' Convention will meet in Charlotte with the Second Calvary Baptist Church, July 16-18. President Williams is sending out a clarion call to ushers groups throughout the state, to be present for this all important session.

Reverend J. M. Kennedy, Pastor, Second Calvary, assures us that all things are in readiness to royally entertain the delegation. Meals will be served by the church at reasonable rates. Homes, motels and hotels will be available for your comfort. Scouts, courtesy cars and hospitality groups will be on hand to direct you. Whatever is needed to make this one of the best sessions of the Usher Convention is being prepared.

The Informer will carry complete details in the June issue.

I call on you to respond. Answer the Call and let us go over the top by the time we meet in Charlotte at St. Paul for the Annual Session.

Let us not forget to pray much that God will lead us to victory.

Yours in His Name,
R. M. Pitts, President

Editorially Speaking

The General Baptist State Convention, in its One Day Session, endorsed the sending of telegrams to President Kennedy encouraging his intervention in the turbulent racial situation through the south land. Also to Governor Wallace of Alabama urging Civil Christian action to settle the unrest in the city of Birmingham.

This is what Christian organizations and individuals can and should do everywhere. There is not only silence on the part of many good thinking whites but on the part of too many Negroes also.

One may not agree with race leaders on means of protest. One may not endorse what our youth are doing to call attention to our plight. But we can all agree that America in not fulfilling her obligation to ALL her citizens.

This we can tell to our president, our congressmen, our representatives, our councilmen, our commissioners and all who have a part in leading this great nation.

Telegrams, letters, petitions, cards, nightletters and any other media of communication should flood Washington, the capitals of our various states and the chambers of local governing bodies.

You may never stand in a picket line. You may not be a part of any type sit-in. You may never be seen among those who visibly champion the cause of freedom. But you can speak and be heard by those who are elected to serve and look after your interest.

From the halls of learning. From institutions of good will. From the confines of our homes. From the Church of the living God. Voices should be heard from the printed and written word.

If the "pen is mightier than the sword" use it. Use it to tell the Leaders of America that America must free all her citizens if we ever hope to have a good sound social order and world peace.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rev. Coleman W. Kerry, Jr.
P. O. Box 287
Raleigh, North Carolina
Dear Rev. Kerry,

I received your very kind letter of February 7th and I wish to say in the outset that I have been writing a column in the Baptist Informer since the 30's and you are the first editor that has refused to publish an article of mine.

I indicated this in another letter to you, and I also discussed this matter with you over the telephone while I was in Charlotte, hoping that you would understand my point of view.

I agree with you that my articles seemed to have a negative approach running through them, but it seems that is the way we grow. The condition of the Baptist Church in our age—demands that somebody speak out. Cults and Splinter groups are working hard and fast, according to the press, while we are bragging about the past and continuing in our status quo. I feel that most protestant groups are not meeting the needs of our society and somebody needs to say so. I am trusting that some day you will come to this point and that you will permit people to write what

they think. I feel that freedom of the press is one of the constitutional rights of American citizens. The Black Muslims and other Anti-Christian Groups are saying that they have the need. They are working night and day—writing and talking and teaching. Somebody needs to tell the Baptists of North Carolina that we are pussy-footing around afraid to hurt somebody's feeling.

I feel that this is why my articles were censured by you—afraid to hurt some of your fellow ministers. Some of us need hurting, judging by what we are doing. Remember, I am putting myself into the picture. There is too much laziness, indifference, and plain ignorance among our churches and schools and society is moving on at a fast pace with anti-groups working hard at the same pace.

We can not save this world for Christ until we change ourselves. We must leave the confines of the church and go into "highways and hedges and compel". Old church revivals are fast becoming obsolete and out of date. People have ignored them and we have got to think of a more-dynamic, a more serious attack. Testifying and talking about how we were saved is not helping to solve the world's ills—Somebody needs to say this to the Negro Baptists.

We are facing a restless and restive generation of sit-ins, etc. These people are tired of the old way. We must find new ways of giving the same thing.

I made a trip North and I saw many of my cousins whom I knew from my youth up and who came up with me in the Baptist Church. Today they are Black Muslims, talking strong. They had something to talk about. They were serious, earnest, concerned, smart. While they were Baptists they were ignorant, lazy, indifferent, insincere. The same is still true today with so many Baptists. Somebody needs to tell this and get it over—but you are afraid to publish this in the Baptist Organ—an organ that should be a sounding board, a teaching program.

Hope to see you again soon, some where.

Yours truly,
O. A. Dupree

Mr. Coleman W. Kerry, Jr.
P. O. Box 287
Raleigh, North Carolina
Dear Mr. Coleman Kerry:

Enclosed you will find a check in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the furnishings in the Baptist Informer office. I am sorry that I was unable to send it earlier.

Yours truly,
Reverend G. L. Brown

Enclosure
GLB:jas

CONGRESS

Dr. C. A. W. Clark

There is no need for fear or doubt about our National Congress meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, June 17-23, 1963. Despite rumors and other contrary propoganda, the people of Birmingham are eagerly anticipating the Congress and it delegates.

While Birmingham is portrayed as a center of racial controversy, we must remember it is an industrial center — a city of homes, schools and churches — much like any other American city with a half million people.

Recent incidents in Birmingham have not restricted the possibilities of the city's citizenry; it has enlarged their opportunity. The city is simply trying to harmonize its sociological practices with

(Continued on page 6)

ONE DAY SESSION (Continued from page 1) below and be one of 100 persons who will raise \$1,000.00 for the Cause.

There were quite a few who wanted to pledge but could not pledge \$1,000.00. The President instructed them to cross out \$1,000.00 and write in what they felt they could do.

Everybody can be a part. Why not write Dr. Sherrill today and tell him you can be counted. The need is great! The time is now.

Our Executive Secretary, O. L. Sherrill is a man among men. It's worth going to the meetings to see him greeting the delegates and making them know they are a part of the Convention. Never too busy, always alert and ever selling the Baptist Cause.

In greeting the Convention, Dr. Sherrill never forgets to say thank you for your support. It's not his work. He is not working, running, going and ever on the move for himself as such. It is our work. Yet he never forgets to say thank you for supporting your work.

This he means because of his great compassion and love for the Cause. This is the type man needed in this position.

As always, Mrs. Dunn, Dr. Sherrill's secretary and bookkeeper, was at her smiling best. Greeting and receiving those who brought funds for the work.

Reverend Fleming is our new Book Store Manager. He was on hand and had the store going full force from a table top on the front porch of the church. Rev. Fleming can do no more for the store than we help him do. Order ALL your church supplies from OUR store. Then DON'T FORGET TO PAY. We are still trying to get the names of the folk who owe.

One unique feature of this session was the presence of the women. The Women's Convention was closing out the \$10,000.00 Shaw Drive and the sisters were there to see it well done. (They did it too.) Do come again sisters, this is YOUR Convention.

The President of the Women's Convention, Mrs. M. A. Horne, poised, dignified and charming as always lends inspiration to any meeting. It is small wonder that rapid progress is being made by our Women's Convention with such a leader.

Executive Secretary, Dr. Ellen Alston and her staff were all smiles as the line grew longer and longer with those who brought funds for the Shaw Drive.

Reverend C. C. Craig, assistant to Dr. O. L. Sherrill, is making rapid progress as he moves over the state conducting institutes, filling speaking engagements and promoting the Cause. Brother Craig is a credit to the Convention.

Editor Kerry wishes to express deep appreciation for the support given the Informer. Many renewed their subscription, some answered a special appeal and brought funds for our office equipment, some congratulated, some complained, some criticized and

some promised. Whatever was done, I am grateful. The paper and Editor are yours.

Reverend L. H. Wade, Oxford, instructed the Editor to put some honey in his statement regarding delinquent subscribers. Wade says if you put in a little honey, people will respond better. Alright, Brother Wade. I'll try it.

Honey, many of you, Honey, have allowed your subscription, Honey, to expire. Honey, if you fail to renew, Honey, the Editor, Honey, will be forced, Honey, to cut you off, Honey. Honey, send it today! Box 287, Raleigh, Honey. Baptist Informer, Honey. \$2.00 please, Honey.

Dr. Nelson Harris, Interim President of Shaw University, brought greetings and expressed gratitude to the Convention for the support given the school. Dr. Harris further stated that Shaw can move forward and take her rightful place only as we continue and increase our support.

Convention Speakers:

Reverend S. A. Raper, Pastor, Bethel "A" Baptist Church, Brevard, N. C., brought the first sermon. For the first time in my life, I witnessed people getting happy looking at potatoes, eggs, soft drinks, chewing gum, snuff, cigarettes and many other commonplace items. It happened.

Brother Raper took his text from Malachi 3, "Will a Man Rob God?" This was a sermon on tithing, the stewardship of money. To make his point clear, Bro. Raper rearranged the rostrum, moved the pulpit, set up a table and on the table placed a large and a small container.

While yet preaching and taking the aforementioned items out of another container in quantities of ten each, he placed nine items in the large container and one item in the small. The large container represented what God allows us and the small one represented what God asks for himself.

When all items had been placed he took the small container, with God's ten per cent, held it up for all to see, and proceeded to tell what God could do with his portion and how God would also bless those who would obey His command.

We got the message. The spirit came. Be assured, God has some more tithers as a result. Words, mere words can't describe it. Invite Raper and let him show you and your folk.

Reverend J. B. Humphrey, Pastor, First Baptist, Charlotte, N. C., brought the afternoon message from the book of Jonah. Humphrey is a preacher of preachers. This is now a proven fact. Refreshing interpretation, profound thought, eloquent speech, dynamic delivery, powerful persuasion, theologically sound, homiletically perfect, spirit filled and Humphrey has some music too.

Jonah has been re-read by many preachers since May 8. Points were brought out that had been forgotten or never discovered.

Preaching sweetens any Christian gathering.

(Continued on page 5)



**Personality
of
the
Month**

Howard Leslie Mitchell is a native of Gatesville, North Carolina, the son of the late Rev. and Mrs. C. S. Mitchell.

He is a graduate of Waters Training School, now the C. S. Brown High School, Winton, and Shaw University, Raleigh. He has done further study at Tuskegee and Hampton Institutes; Fellowship Center, Wallingford, Pa., and State College, Raleigh.

On November 16, 1933 he was appointed Agricultural Extension Agent in Gates County and since that time he has worked with rural people and had

ONE DAY SESSION (Continued from page 4)

There is no substitute for the Gospel. Take away preaching, and the Convention will die. Take away preaching, and we'll stay at home. Take away preaching and we'll stop giving. Take away preaching, words again fail, but you cannot imagine what chaos, if you take preaching away.

Leave preaching there. Good, sound, Holy Ghost preaching will aid us on our way.

Financial Report

The Convention's budget is \$226,000.00. Prior to the One Day Session, Dr. Sherrill reported that \$65,000.00 had been raised. One can see what we must do by October 11, 1963.

Reported at One Day Session.....	\$12,882.98
Women's Convention (See Woman's Page).....	\$11,467.51
Total Funds Reported.....	\$24,350.49

It is said that all good things must end. So as the sun slowly faded and night began grawing her curtain about us, we reluctantly gave our farewell greetings, boarded our conveyances and started for home. This being a strawberry center, many of us enjoyed fresh strawberries and ice cream as we relived the day with our families and friends.

No, words can't tell it but your eyes and ears can behold it IF you come to Charlotte in October.

the opportunity to assist them with better farming methods, thereby enabling them to attain a higher standard of living. Much of his work has been with young people in 4-H Clubs where they have been trained to conduct projects and give demonstrations. Many of these young people have won awards for outstanding achievements.

Rev. Mitchell re-organized the Gates County Education Association and led the drive for bus transportation for Negro boys and girls to attend high school. He also helped to organize the Gates County Credit Union. This organization has operated successfully for eighteen years.

As pastor of the Mill Neck, New Hope and Union Branch Baptist Churches, Rev. Mitchell has worked closely with the people that he is blessed to serve. These churches have well developed programs and support the causes of the General Baptist State Convention. They were the first rural churches in his area to use church bulletins and to adopt a systematic way of giving through the use of envelopes.

In 1950, Governor Scott appointed Rev. Mitchell as a delegate to the Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth in Washington, D. C. In the same year he was appointed a trustee of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College and served a four year term.

In 1954, he received Shaw University's Distinguished Service Award. In October 1954 he was appointed a delegate to the National Conference on Rural Education in Washington.

Rev. Mitchell has twice been selected by Dr. Ralph A. Felton, of the Rural Church Department of Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, N. J. as one of the outstanding rural leaders in the state and nation. Dr. Felton's citations appear in his books, "Go Down, Moses" and "Church Bells in Many Tongues".

In November of 1956, Rev. Mitchell was cited for outstanding service by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity of northeastern North Carolina, Franklin and Suffolk, Virginia.

Besides his regular work, Rev. Mitchell is a member of the Board of Trustees of Shaw University and is also a trustee of the General Baptist State Convention. He is a member of the Rural Church Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches; a member of the Executive Committee of CROP; a member of the committee on Children and Youth of the North Carolina Council for Social Service; Treasurer of the Tri-County Shaw Club, which he organized and served as president for over twenty years; Financial Secretary of the Roanoke Baptist Association and Historian of the North Carolina Agricultural Agents Association.

Rev. Mitchell has written a regular column for the Gates County Index, his county news-weekly, for nearly thirty years. He has also written articles for other papers. He is often invited to address groups in and out of the state.



Sisters, we did it. We not only reached our goal, \$10,000.00 we went over and raised \$11,467.51. From the very depths of my heart, I want to thank you. Your untiring efforts, your spirit of unselfish giving, your loyal support of the Cause leaves no doubt in my mind that our work will succeed.

Again, thank you, one and all for putting us over.

Now sisters, we cannot forever bask in the sunshine of past glories and accomplishments. We must move on to keep pace with the demands of our times. For what we have done, be proud and thankful. For what is yet to be done, let us be up and doing.

As you know, our budget for this year is \$70,000.00. Our books close in June in order to have our reports ready for the Annual Session in August. Many of you are not on the books. Too many have not sent any money up for the work. Sisters, this is not our way. Let us hear from you. Make this a Banner Year. Let us not falter. We can. We must. We will accomplish our aim and reach our goal.

CONGRESS (Continued from page 3)

its technological growth. This should never cause fear or panic in the thinking of Christians.

Birmingham is a city with personality and it has shared a portion of that personality with the world. It is a city that laughs and cries, frowns and smiles; it can be profound and it can be silly. It is by no means a perfect city. Like all others it has its problems. But, in spite of its problems, it has been able to make its contributions. It is the city that offers A. G. Gaston to the world. From its fringes sprang Willie Mays. The city is the home of several hundred thousands souls of varying backgrounds. It is a city where people go to church on Sunday to hear good preachers enlarge on Gospel truths. Birmingham is more than newspaper headlines. It is a city where people live.

The Baptist Churches of Birmingham are going all out to have the best entertainment the Congress has ever experienced. They are prepared to be good hosts and anticipating a healthy attendance. The doors of the churches and schools will handle the various assemblies, and the well appointed homes of

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE — GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1963.

Foreign Missions	\$1,212.92
Shaw University	2,989.93
Divinity School	172.50
Oxford Orphanage	314.56
STATE MISSIONS:	
Designated — Unified	2,264.45
Baptist State Convention	250.00
Baptist Informer	22.45
Woman's Convention (bldg. use)	151.45
OTHER RECEIPTS:	
Designated Gifts	694.50

GRAND TOTAL:\$8,072.76

Christians will serve as relaxing abodes for restful nights and other free moments. There is nothing to fear in Birmingham. Prepare to attend the Congress as you have always done and you will be entertained better than you have ever been.

Leadership Training Conference

26TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE, June 3-7, 1963
15TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP, beginning June 3 through 7, 1963

13TH YOUTH BIBLE CAMP AND CHARM CLINIC, June 3-7, 1963

All to be held with Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

We trust you have been thinking and praying with and for us concerning this great program. The Lord has blessed us mightily in the past years and we are looking forward to one of the greatest meetings we've ever had. The program looks that way.

Elect your delegates to Conference and Youth Bible Camp now. Begin sending in names.

FEES

CONFERENCE:

Room and board	\$12.50
Registration	2.50

YOUTH BIBLE CAMP:

Room and Board	12.50
Registration	1.50

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Ellen S. Alston
Conference Chairman

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1963

THROUGH THE OFFICE OF WOMEN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF N. C.

HOME MISSIONS

Undesignated	\$ 441.18
Institutes	334.59
Forsyth Fellowship	10.50
District Conferences	128.56

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Undesignated	632.55
Foreign Scholarship	51.00

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Shaw Year Committees	25.00
Shaw Expansion Special Effort	1,492.42

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Orphanage	60.25
W.M.U. Bible Camp	500.00
Self Denial	5.00
Build Fund	3.50

SALES — SERVICES

Helpers	605.45
Guide—Handbook	8.50
Student Loans	40.00
Memeography work	5.50
Books	37.56
Rent	70.57

TOTAL4,452.13



CHURCH MOVED TO NEW BUILDING

Members of the First Baptist Church, (Fayetteville, N. C.) moved May 19 into their new 700-seat sanctuary, an investment of nearly \$200,000, on Moore Street at Ray Avenue.

The new structure has offices, educational space, a fellowship hall and kitchen.

The pastor, the Rev. C. R. Edwards, delivered the morning message and led the Litany of Consecration. Joint choirs of the church under the direction of Mrs. Susie Currie and Mrs. Olivia Parks rendered the music.

An afternoon service was held at 3:30 o'clock at which Dr. Rudolph Jones, president of Fayetteville State Teachers College, was the speaker and the E. E. Smith High School Chorus under the direction of Hubert Walters sang. This service also included greetings by W. A. Street, Jr., Architect, Richard Player, Jr., contractor, the Rev. Lacy Jones, moderator of the Union Association, the Rev. A. J. Johnson, President of the Ministerial Alliance with responses by L. J. Lockamy, Jr., representing the Deacons, C. W. Newell, chairman of the trustees, Mrs. Lillian Hall, representing the women of the church and Gwenivere Scott, representing the youth of the church.

Services were held each evening during the week with churches of the city sharing in the consecration. On Sunday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. the Rev. Francis Johnson and congregation of St. Joseph Episcopal Church had charge of the services.

The First Baptist Church has been located downtown at Franklin and Maxwell Sts., since its organization in 1868. The congregation has grown from a small beginning to a membership of 750. Former pastors include Dr. E. E. Smith, founder and president of Fayetteville State Teachers College. He also served the U. S. Government as its minister to Liberia, Africa. The senior high school is named in his honor.

For 28 years, Dr. T. H. Dwelle served as pastor of the church, contributing to the total life of the Church and Community.

In connection with the service of consecration on last Sunday, the church gave recognition to its pastor, the Rev. Mr. C. R. Edwards, on his tenth anniversary. Under his leadership progress has been made in the areas of spiritual and material improvement. Along with its regular Church program, the church sponsors an Extension Sunday School at Thompson Rest Home on Greensboro Street and a Mission Bible School at Spring Lake.

From this church, two churches of the city were organized—Friendship Baptist Church located on Campbell Avenue and Mt. Sinai Baptist Church on Murchison Road.

AMONG THE BRETHERN

Dr. C. W. Anderson, Greensboro conducted a most successful revival at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte, Dr. W. H. Davidson, Pastor, May 13-17. We expected nothing more. The Doctor is a great preacher and pastor.

Reverend James Wingate, Pastor, Springfield Baptist Church, Stanley, is an up and coming pastor. Springfield is on the move under his capable leadership. Brother Wingate, along with Reverends N. E. Kerry, J. A. Best, R. D. Lucas and G. W. Wright were at the One Day Session of the State Convention for the first time.

Dr. Jerry Drayton, Winston-Salem, conducted the Spring Revival at First Baptist Church, Raleigh. Reverend C. W. Ward, Pastor, said, "They came through the rain, and groups even stopped protesting to hear Drayton." Some preacher!

The Prince of Reidsville, Dr. Kirby, under the forceful impact of the Holy Spirit, shook Charlotte, upset Second Calvary, won sinners and revived Christians. Pastor Kennedy too.

Reverend J. H. White, Shelby, now at First Baptist, Mooresville, is on the move. Thirty one persons have joined the church during his stork tenure, twenty-seven of these by baptism. Keep at it Reverend.

Reverend L. H. Wade, First Baptist, Oxford, is doing an excellent job as pastor and civic leader. Wade is the first race man to run for public office since Reconstruction Days. Wade didn't win, but he RAN. Run again, victory next time.

Reverend John Gaston, Shady Grove, East Spencer, has wrought wonders to the glory of God. Under his leadership the church has constructed an educational building, second to none, and remodeled the church throughout. Now for the mortgage.

Reverend G. B. Gilchrist, First Baptist, Southern Pines, has things going the Lord's way and his way. First Baptist is up and going. Blessings on you, Sir.

Reverend O. J. Rooks, Greenville, attends and supports the Convention. Now he is pestering the Editor for papers to sell and distribute. Pester on Doctor, they are on the way.

Dr. C. E. Askew, Zebulon, celebrated his 93rd birthday May 8. Dr. Askew, now retired but very active, is one of the finest men I know. He is an inspiration to old and young. Need a good preacher? Invite him. Any belated birthday cards?

Reverend P. H. Warren II, Lumberton, Sandy Grove, is a pastor indeed. Sandy Grove is reported to have one of the best Sunday Schools in the southeast. Don't stop. Keep at it.

The Baptist Informer in Every Home
\$2.00 Per Year

“The Church And It’s Changing Ministry”

PART II—From a recent study release by Robert Clyde Johnson, we want to share with our readers some current opinions. The first in the series will discuss—“THE POSTURE OF THE CHURCH”

b. Most of the charges can be documented by sociological research.

Listen to a “successful” pastor describing not only the “others,” but himself as well:

What shall we say of the prevailing, perverted view of the office of the clergy? The best way to describe this cultural-religious representative is to say that he is a paid gigolo. He is a paid lover of people, and by doing so he clouds their calling to love one another.

This will not be corrected until we discover what the Church is and who we are. The cultural view of the clergy will remain until the clergyman refuses to be what the culture demands, and seeks to be what God has called him to be. Will the laity ever assume their ministry as long as they can pay a clergyman to do it for them?

Traditional images and structures must die if we are to discover our role as servants. Are we ready for this death?

Are we, indeed? The sociological analysis of the Church’s present plight would hardly seem to suggest so. One analysis of the community power structures of “Regional City” (population 500,000) may be cited as an example. The churches and ministers in “Regional City” rated, in summary, exactly one paragraph:

None of the ministers of churches in “Regional City” were chosen as top leaders by the persons interviewed in the study. The idea was expressed several times by interviewees that some minister OUGHT to be on the listings, but under the terms of power definitions used in the study they did not make “top billing.” It is understood, however, that in order to get a project under way it would be important to bring the churches in; but they are not, as institutions, considered crucial in the decision-making process.

It was discovered later, in the analysis of the subcommunities of “Regional City,” that “a minister of one of the larger churches” did play a role within the main currents and decisive structures of community life. This role is described in a single terse sentence: “He is a man who may be characterized as a community gadfly, a person upon whom the policy leaders depend for a certain amount of civic information.”

Another sociologist, who is also a theologian, remarks that the subtlety and uniqueness of the prob-

lem is seldom recognized. We know from history that the Church is always under persecution of one sort or another. Our situation is peculiar, not because there is no persecution, but because the Church is being persecuted by popularity. It is accepted and applauded by the culture. And this is the most subtle and deadly kind of persecution.

For this reason, the sociologist says, “the problem is not first of all that the Church does not understand itself, but that the American society does not understand it BUT THINKS IT DOES.” The Church has allowed itself to be “taken in,” both in the literal and in the figurative sense of these words. It has forgotten that the word “parishioner” really means “sojourner,” and that a parish is a bivouac. It has accepted the cordial invitation of the society to settle down, be naturalized, and go native. The result is that “its self-understanding has become in large part the feedback from a culture that accepts but misunderstands it.” And as this occurs, we must expect that the Church will increasingly misunderstand its true nature, forget its true mission, and become one additional harmless, indigenous cultural institution.

The degree to which some feel that this has already occurred is suggested by the stinging remarks of a third sociologist:

To understand the pivotal decisions of our time, it is not necessary to consider religious institutions or personnel or doctrine as independent forces. Neither preachers nor the religious laity matter; what they do can be readily agreed with and safely ignored. By most of those who do matter, and those who do decide, it is taken as irrelevant Sunday chatter, or it is used as an instrument of their own altogether secular purposes.

The average ministerial output is correctly heard as a parade of worn-out phrases. It is generally unimaginative and often trivial. As public rhetoric, it is boring and irrelevant. As private belief, it is without passion. In the world of the West, religion has become a subordinate part of the overdeveloped society.

(To Be Continued In Next Month’s Issue)

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