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A Plea for the Colored People

By Mrs. E. G. White

Thankful for the Whole-Hearted Workers

We are thankful that the light of present truth has been shining in the Southern states, and that a few laborers in this field have been working wholeheartedly to communicate the truth to the colored people. Those who have not borne the burden of opening up the work among the colored people, can know comparatively little of the trials, the prayers, and the wrestling of those who have been pioneers in this work.

A Good Beginning Made

In the face of the most trying circumstances, a good beginning has been made in this needy field. The Lord now calls upon us to come up to his help. Again and again he has placed before our people the needs of the work among the colored race, but there are many who have done very little to help. Prejudice has existed in the minds of some against those who have been laboring far beyond their strength to carry forward this work. Those who have given place to unbelief and criticism are under the rebuke of God for every word they have spoken to discourage the workers, and to create prejudice against them. Doing nothing themselves, they have blocked the wheels, so that others could not advance.

The Divine Seal of Approval

The Lord has put the seal of his approval on the work done among the colored people in the South. Mistakes have been made; but have not mistakes been made in every other missionary field? When you watch for mistakes, and put out your hand to discourage where God approves, you are working and talking against the Master. God is very much displeased with every one who has placed any hindrance in the way of the advancement of the work for the colored people.

Not Receiving Too Much Attention

Some may think that the work in the Southern states is already receiving more than its share of attention, more than its proportion

of men and means. But if the South were not a neglected, needy field, if there were not a pressing necessity for more work to be done there in many different lines, why should the Lord keep the question constantly before his people as he has done for so many years? We must redeem the time. Without delay this long-neglected field must be worked.

Must Have the Truth

Few realize the magnitude of the work that must be done among the colored people. In the South there are millions who have never heard the third angel's message. These must be given the light of present truth. For the accomplishment of this, the Lord has provided many agencies. Gospel medical missionaries are to be trained and sent throughout the land.

Work in Crowded Centers

Small sanitariums and well-equipped treatment rooms are to be established near the crowded centers. Colored evangelists are to be educated and sent forth to proclaim the truth in its simplicity to their own race. Canvassers are to carry the printed page into the homes of the people. And in order that this literature may result in good, the people are to be taught to read. How can they become intelligent Christians, unless first they learn to read the Bible? Schools are to be established and maintained; churches are to be built. Throughout the South there are to be erected memorials for God and his truth.

Must Have Help

All this will require self-sacrificing effort on the part of our brethren and sisters in America. Those who live in the South can not bear the burden alone. We must lend them financial assistance.

Objects of Liberality

I present before you, my dear brethren and sisters, the work among the colored people as the object of your liberality. . . . The work must go forward. Every penny that can be spared should be invested in the Lord's cause. . . .

Not Only the Gift, But the Giver

"God loveth a cheerful giver;" and if we with grateful hearts bring our gifts and offerings to him, "not grudgingly or of necessity," his blessing will attend us; for he has promised, "I will open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing." He will accept not only the gift, but the giver. And although it may have cost self-denial on our part, the approval of conscience and the blessing of heaven will fill our hearts with happiness.

AN AWAKENING NEEDED

THE time has come when earnest, energetic work must be done for the colored people of the South. A general awakening is needed now among Seventh-day Adventists everywhere upon this very important subject. We have not yet, as a people, come to realize fully the measure of our responsibility to the negroes in this great Southland.

Too long have we treated the work for the colored people as a side issue; something simply incidental, and subordinate to the various lines of white work. As a denomination we have expended thousands of dollars to give the white people of the South the third angel's message where we have spent only hundreds in our efforts to reach the colored people.

Brethren, this neglect ought not to continue; we ought to realize that the South is the great mission field it is because of the presence here of the negroes. We ought to sense the fact that our brethren and sisters in the North contribute to the work in this field because of the presence here of the colored people, and with the intention of helping to give the truth to that people.

But instead of acting upon this principle it has been assumed, rather, that the work for the white people was the main thing. We mention this, not to find fault, nor to arraign anybody for making mistakes. We believe those

in charge of the work here have done the best they knew how to do, under the circumstances; but, brethren, in the very nature of things there must be a reformation. The time has come when we must advance. To be true to our trust we must now give to the work for the colored people a place and importance that we have not given to it in the past.

We desire in this connection to refer to an article on another page from Sister White, entitled, "A Plea for the Colored People." This was written shortly before the November offering in 1904. We have, for this reason, omitted a few lines in two different places which refer particularly to objects which were at that time demanding special attention. We have indicated these omissions by periods, but we have omitted nothing that affects the facts set forth, in the smallest degree. The situation is practically now what it was then. There has been comparatively little growth in the work since that time. Perhaps two or three new schools have been added, and of course there has been some growth all along the line, but not one tenth part of the work outlined at that time has been accomplished.

We are told in the article referred to that "schools are to be established and maintained;" "throughout the South there are to be erected memorials for God and his truth;" that "small sanitariums and well-equipped treatment rooms are to be established near the crowded centers."

Scarcely any of this work has been done since Sister White's appeal was printed, nearly two years ago. Instead of well-equipped treatment rooms being established "near crowded centers," the one poor, little, struggling colored sanitarium in Nashville, the sole institution of its kind in the world, has been allowed to droop and die, because of lack of funds to maintain it.

It is true, it is proposed to establish treatment rooms in connection with the school at Oakwood, four miles from the small city of Huntsville; this is good; but at the very best this proposed institution can afford sanitarium facilities only for a very few of the more highly favored colored people, and can give a partial training, only, to the students at the school. Being at such a distance from any "crowded center" there will be small opportunity for the training that missionary nurses ought to receive. There will be no opportunity to come into direct contact with any great number of people. The practice and experience gained in the institution must be confined largely to those who are connected with the institution as helpers and students.

Brethren, how long is this state of things to continue? How long ought we to wait before acting upon the counsel given in this important communication printed more than a year and a half ago?

A very urgent call is being made for a church building in the city of Atlanta. Our white brethren have long had a church building in that place. Many of the friends in the North contributed to help provide that building, but the colored brethren cannot enter it; the color

line forbids this. At no place in the South can the two races worship together.

At present the colored believers in Atlanta are worshiping in a small room, to which they cannot invite their neighbors and friends. There is no room for them, and the facilities provided do not appeal to those who have not first learned to appreciate to their full the distinctive truths which we hold as a people.

Our colored brethren and sisters in Atlanta are poor. They are unable to provide themselves a better place of worship. They appeal, therefore, to our white brethren in the North, crying to them for means to provide a modest building to which they can invite the colored people of the city. What shall we do, brethren, with such a plea as this? Shall we turn away and close our hearts to this cry, or shall we respond to it as we believe the Lord would have us respond?

As before stated, we have not presented these facts to find fault, but because we feel that our brethren ought, yea, that they must, understand the real needs of the cause in this field. We do not feel that we could be clear before God were we to fail to place these things before our people.

Neither are we discouraged in the work, because these opportunities, like God's commandments, are promises. The Lord does not set before us open doors without giving us strength to enter them. He is not putting it into the hearts of the people to cry for truth without providing ways and means to send the truth to them, and we believe that we as a people have only to take hold of this matter to see some of the difficulties roll away. The lions will be found to be chained. The waters from above will be cut off when the priests' feet, bearing the ark, actually touch the stream, and not until then.

The Southern Missionary Society has not been idle. Its work has not ceased, nor has it been standing still. Some advancement has been made. Three new schools have been started the past year; one in Nashville, one in Edgefield, and one at Amory, Mississippi.

A mission school teachers' institute is to be held in Vicksburg, Miss., in the near future. This will prepare a number of teachers to enter the work with the opening of another school year; and we must, if possible, find schools for these teachers. There will be no difficulty at all in finding schools, if the proper support can be provided. These persons might work in the public schools, but there they could not teach the truth. They have been trained in the mission schools, and that is the line of work in which they are interested. We hope to be able to employ every one of them with the opening of a new school year.

Our call for donations for a building fund for Greenville, Miss., has not been fruitless, but during the past month only a little has been received to what should have come. That school building should be commenced very soon. It must be ready for the beginning of the next school year, but as yet there is not sufficient money in sight to complete the building; we do not want to run into debt to build it.

These are a few of the demands that are made upon us as a society at present. We can only lay these facts before our brethren and sisters and ask God to impress their hearts and move them to contribute of their means to further the interests of the cause which we all love.

Let not a sense of the magnitude of the work bring discouragement, because every man is to be rewarded according to his work; the more difficult the task, the greater the obstacles, the greater the reward in the end, "for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

A RINGING APPEAL FROM ELDER BUTLER

To the Friends of the Colored Work, and the Readers of the Gospel Herald

IN commencing to write for this little paper it may be proper to present a few words of explanation. The HERALD has recently moved into Nashville, and is connected with the Southern Publishing Association more directly than before. It has heretofore been published at Edgefield, some nine or ten miles away. A closer relation to this paper is perhaps a leading reason for our now becoming a contributor to it. It seems now to become more closely related to the Southern Union Conference family, and an essential part thereof.

Through the changes brought about at the Southern Union Conference anniversary meeting last January, Elder J. E. White, who had been from the commencement of the Southern Missionary Society its president and leading factor in its management, proposed to the Union Conference to place the interests of the society more directly under the conference's control than it had been up to that point, at least for a period of time, hoping that it might be a means of strengthening the interest in the colored work and making it more efficient in some directions.

The conference accepted the offer, in behalf of the Southern Missionary Society, believing that Brother White was actuated by an earnest desire to advance the interests of the colored work as much as possible. As Brother White had other duties and responsibilities resting upon him, he hoped that this step would tend to a stronger degree of union, and enlarge the field of usefulness of the society, and bring others into closer relations to it, thus making it more efficient. The conference accepted this proposition in good faith, with an earnest desire that it might be more helpful to the important colored work in this field. The board of management elected by the conference included the writer of this article, and when the committee met he was elected as chairman of the committee.

This, of course, brought the writer into closer relations to the society, and placed greater obligations upon him to do his utmost to forward the interests of the society as a department of the conference. Though burdened with many other important responsibilities, more it would seem than any man ought to bear, the writer yet hopes to be of some help and assistance in the important interests

of the colored work. He certainly cherishes a strong desire to see this work make great advancement in this most important field, and as the GOSPEL HERALD is the organ of the Society through which to appeal to the friends of this cause, and our colored people in this Southern Union Conference, we hope to be helpful in adding to the interest of our little paper. We now sustain a double relation to this branch of the work in this field, not only as president of the Union Conference, but also as chairman of the committee of the Missionary Society.

According to the last census, there must be, at this time, over six millions of colored people in the bounds of the Southern Union Conference. So we may understand that probably three fourths of the colored people in the

United States are in this Union Conference. It may be seen at a glance that we have ~~therefore~~ a very great field in which to devote our energies for the spiritual enlightenment and upbuilding of the work of this last message to the world.

Most assuredly, as Sister White has said, we have but touched this great mammoth work with the tips of our fingers. The beginning of a work is always the most important part, or at least, the most difficult of accomplishment. Our beginnings may have seemed very feeble thus far, but really a vast amount of good has been accomplished, and the way is now prepared for us to work systematically and encouragingly.

Whatever we may say in regard to our

shortcomings in the past, and our failure to accomplish vastly more than we have, the ground work is laid out, and the work entered upon more or less in every one of the nine great states composing this Union Conference. We have no reason for discouragement, but every reason to thank God and take courage. We shall hope to see great advances in the work in the near future. We feel that the interest is increasing in the Southern Union Conference itself for the carrying forward of this work, and that there will be more of union, more of interest, more of a determination to succeed than there ever has been in the past. Let us all enter into this branch of the work with decided interest.

GEO. I. BUTLER, *Pres. Sou. Union Conf.*

How to Help the Work for the Colored People

You can help the work for the colored people in the South by selling the "Story of Joseph."

A good many of our brethren and sisters can and will donate a portion of their time to this work; selling the books, and returning the full price to the Southern Missionary Society.

Those who are willing to do this should order as many books as they are willing to sell, directly from the society, North Station, Nashville, Tenn.

We will honor all orders for books to be sold in this way, to be paid for when sold, with the understanding, of course, that reasonable diligence be used in disposing of the books.

But there are some, perhaps, who, while disposed to help this society, find it impossible, owing to demands upon them, to donate any considerable portion of their time to this work. This is true of many of the canvassers, who find it necessary to use as a "help" some easy-selling book from which they can realize enough to meet their expenses, either in whole or in part. Such persons can still assist in this work by using the "Story of Joseph" as a help, ordering it through the regular channels with their other books and selling it on a commission of forty per cent. The differ-

ence between that and the usual commission of course comes to the Southern Missionary Society through the publishing houses, and goes directly into the work for the colored people.

In a recent letter to the secretary of the Southern Missionary Society, the president of the General Conference speaks thus of the sale of the "Story of Joseph":—

ELDER C. P. BOLLMAN,
24th Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn.

MY DEAR BROTHER: Your plans for the sale of "Story of Joseph" in behalf of the work among the colored people in the South appeal to me, and I would gladly say or do anything I could to encourage our people to co-operate with you in this good work.

The General Conference is doing everything they can consistently to secure offerings for the work in the South. We know that the colored people are in great need of the message and the help that we as a people can give them, and we are profoundly convinced that our time for helping them is very limited.

The sale of "Story of Joseph" on the plan of turning all the profits over to the work for the colored people, could place in your hands thousands of dollars annually, without being a heavy tax on the funds of our people, if a

small effort were kept up all through our ranks.

Doubtless also there will be a number of canvassers, and possibly some others who cannot see their way clear to assist the work for the colored people by donating their entire time spent in selling the book to that work, but who will be willing to sell it on a commission of forty per cent., ordering the books through the regular channels with other supplies. I would be glad indeed to see our tract society secretaries co-operating in this plan as far as possible by encouraging canvassers to handle "Story of Joseph" as a help.

My duties are many and varied, but I shall endeavor to give this good plan and work what help I can. Your sincere brother,

A. G. DANIELLS.

Please take notice that all copies of "Story of Joseph" to be sold on the missionary basis, the entire profits to be turned over to the Southern Missionary Society to assist in its work, should be ordered direct from the society, North Station, Nashville, Tenn.

All copies of this book sold by canvassers on the basis of a commission should be ordered just as other subscription books are ordered, from the tract societies and publishing houses.

The Vacation Season

VACATION season is here, and, of course, the mission schools are closed for the time being, and the teachers are for the most part engaged in different lines of gospel work among their own people. Several of them are in tent work; others are visiting colored churches and encouraging them in the good way; some are doing Bible work. Two, at least, are taking a much needed rest and medical treatment.

We are looking forward to the beginning of another school year, and planning what we can do to open new schools and to increase the efficiency of those already established.

Our readers know something of our plans for a small building in Greenville to be used for school and church purposes.

We have also told in the past about calls for help from other places. There are Canton and Wilsonia, with doors wide open for our workers to enter.

The Tennessee River Conference is making a very earnest plea for this society to assist in establishing a church and mission school for the colored people in the important and growing city of Memphis.

We mention elsewhere in these columns a

strong appeal that comes to us from Atlanta, Georgia.

Brethren and sisters, it rests with you—the readers of this paper—to say what answer shall be returned to these appeals.

Memphis and Atlanta are both important centers, and each has quite a large colored population. In each of these places the work has been greatly handicapped for want of school and church buildings. It is very difficult, indeed, to do much among the colored people without a church "home," by which

(Concluded on last page.)

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YOU SHOULD READ THIS

A blue cross in the margin here indicates that your subscription has expired, and that you are earnestly requested to renew.

The address label, printed on the wrapper of your paper, will tell you the exact date of the expiration of your subscription. For instance, "John Smith Apr-06" would mean that John Smith's subscription expires April, 1906. "Nov-06" after a name means that the subscription expires November, 1906. In like manner "June-06" after a name would mean that the subscription expires with this month, June, 1906.

We are very anxious for every subscriber who is in arrears to renew. The subscription price—only ten cents a year—places the paper within the reach of all, and no one ought to think of being without the GOSPEL HERALD, as it is the only paper published by our people having for its object the advancement of the third angel's message among the colored people. It stands for this work as no other paper among us can stand, and it is impossible for any one to be intelligent in regard to this branch of the cause without reading the GOSPEL HERALD.

This paper is now the organ, not only of the Southern Missionary Society, but it is the exponent of all the work for the colored people carried on within the bounds of the Southern Union Conference. You will observe that Elder Butler, president of the conference, has several short articles in this number of the paper, and he will continue to write for it, as will probably others, also, who are connected with this important branch of the work.

The regular subscription price is ten cents a year, but we feel that we can afford to send the paper three years for twenty-five cents; or we will club the GOSPEL HERALD with any paper published by our people anywhere, at the regular price of the other paper. For instance, we will send the GOSPEL HERALD and the *Review and Herald* for one year to one address for \$1.50 for both papers; or we will send the GOSPEL HERALD and the *Watchman* to one address one year for one dollar.

In order to avail yourself of this special offer it will be necessary to send all subscriptions direct to this office, Southern Missionary Society, North Station, Nashville, Tenn.

N. B. Please do not put this matter off, but send us your subscription at once. You need the GOSPEL HERALD, and we need your help in publishing this paper and in pushing the work for which it stands. We are doing the best we can where the Lord has placed us, but we shall never reach that place, while probation lasts, where we will be independent of the aid of our brethren. Therefore, we want you to help us.

AN OCCASION OF GREAT REGRET

WE are made sad to hear that Brother O. N. Whetsel, who has labored with great success and encouragement in the Florida Conference for the last two or three years, has been obliged to retire on account of sickness. His labor has been very earnest and faithful, and the work has prospered under his hands, till the colored work has become practically self-supporting in the conference. There are certainly some very devoted believers in Florida. Little companies have been springing up here and there, and additions being made to the churches, and a far better state of things than existed previous to his coming. It is a sad blow, but we do hope the Lord in mercy will restore him again to health. He has labored incessantly, and with an earnest spirit of sacrifice. Let the prayers of our brethren and sisters go up to Heaven in his behalf.

Geo. I. Butler.

CLOSING EXERCISES OF NASHVILLE MISSION SCHOOL

THE closing exercises of our school were held last night, and there was a large and appreciative audience present. Our building was crowded beyond its seating capacity; many stood in the aisle and entrance way. We were congratulated on every side for the appearance we made with our school. The building was festooned and decorated with a profusion of flowers and foliage plants and lace curtains, and the many pretty and bright colored lights added a charm which seemed to greatly please the eyes of our patrons and friends. I feel that an impression was made that will tell greatly in favor of our school when it opens next fall.

M. C. Strachan, Teacher.

THE VACATION SEASON

(Continued from page 23)

they mean a church building, to which to invite them. Such a building need not be expensive, but it must be some place where they feel that they have a right to go—something that gives them some assurance of stability and permanence.

Something ought to be done in the near future to respond favorably to these calls, both at Memphis and at Atlanta. The work must be undertaken in these cities very soon; we can see that nothing can be gained, and are sure that much will be lost, by delay. As before stated, it remains with the readers of this paper to say what kind of a response the officers of the Southern Missionary Society should return to those who ask help for the colored work in these cities. May the Lord guide in sending just such an answer as would be pleasing to him.

ORGAN WANTED

The Colored Mission Church in Nashville is greatly in need of an organ for their chapel. This church is weak in numbers, and entirely unable to procure an instrument of this kind. We can recommend this to our readers as a worthy object. Anyone having an organ, and feeling disposed to donate it to this church is invited to correspond with the Southern Missionary Society, North Station, Nashville, Tenn., about the matter.

COLORED CAMP-MEETINGS

THESE meetings have been demonstrated to be a true success. This is especially so in the Florida Conference. For two years past a colored camp-meeting has been held at the same time the white camp-meeting was, but in a different part of the city. This gave the colored friends the benefit of the reduced rate, enabling them to attend their meeting, and it also gave opportunity for some of our white laborers to preach to the colored people, and thus add to the interest of the occasion. These meetings are of great profit and encouragement to the poor, scattered believers who have but few privileges. The Spirit of God was in these meetings, and the cause was greatly encouraged.

Brother O. N. Whetsel, who has labored there, was the only colored laborer accessible. The last meeting was one of great encouragement, indeed, and it would touch any one's heart to see the tears of gratitude and joy that were manifest at the privileges enjoyed on that occasion. Why should not this plan be adopted generally throughout the Southern Union Conference? If this plan is carried out with the best help obtainable, as our colored interests grow, these meetings will be a great source of strength and encouragement to the cause. The brethren can receive the benefits of the reduction of rates that are obtained by the white attendants on the camp-meeting. Many will come out to a camp-meeting that would not go to a course of lectures, and with the best help obtainable much good could be accomplished. We commend this to the presidents of all our state conferences. If there are sufficient colored laborers to make anything like a fair attendance, we believe that this plan would result in great good. Let us try it, brethren.

Geo. I. Butler.

CHILDREN TEACHING THE TRUTH

ONE of our mission school teachers writes thus of her experiences:—

"The work is still prospering. As best as I can I keep all the meetings going, even if I have to talk myself. As I was on my way to make some visits last Sunday, the father of one of my little boys came to the door and asked me to please show him the ten commandments. He said, 'My little boy worries me so much about them.'

"I went in and showed the law in Ex. 32: 16, and left father, mother, and the little boy searching the Scriptures for themselves. This shows how the children are preaching the truth. We make a special effort to give them the truth in a plain way.

"Yours in the work,

"Cornelia T. Murphy."

"Let the people of God arouse to a sense of their deficiencies, and of the work that they must do. Let them break every yoke. Let them make their prayers practical. It is for the best good of the Lord's people that the sins and the defects caused by the enemy be plainly pointed out."