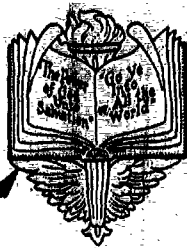


# GOSPEL MERALD



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Number 2

## Oakwood As We Found It

THURSDAY morning, January 2, Professor Howell, General Conference secretary of education, Professor Tucker, secretary of the Southeastern Union, and I arrived at Huntsville for the purpose of inspecting the school. By virtue of the positions held, the above named individuals constitute the inspection committee whose duty it is to review carefully once a year the school work that is being done, the qualifications of the teachers, the equipment of the laboratories and library, and the general appearance of the grounds and buildings. In short, it is the business of this committee to find out if the work done is coming up to the General Conference standard, if not why not, and to make suggestions for doing a high grade of work along all lines.

After spending two days in inspection work, the committee did not feel free to classify this school as one doing standard or accredited work. Not to be accredited does not necessarily mean that a generally inferior grade of work is being done, but rather that the school lacks in one or more points in meeting the standard. Of course to be lacking at all means that some line of study is suffering.

Among other reasons the committee did not feel free to accredit Oakwood was because the school does not have adequate laboratory facilities nor sufficient books in the library for a school offering twelve grades of work. They have practically no physical nor chemical laboratories at all, and only about twelve hundred books instead of the required twenty-five hundred. The books that they have are well chosen for the school's needs and are well arranged, but the number needs to be doubled.

Taken altogether Oakwood is a good school, —well adapted to the

purpose of teaching colored young people. The school has a trained and efficient faculty, even better than many of our white schools have. By means of its farm and industries it is peculiarly adapted for giving an all-round, well-balanced education to its students. It is essentially a manual training school, thus helping to answer the need of the colored race.

Surely the students and patrons of Oakwood should recognize and remember the large amounts of efforts and money that have been expended in interest of this school, — the only one of its kind in the world.

The institution should be buoyed up with the undivided support and united loyalty of our colored people everywhere. Many of the present colored workers have received their education at Oakwood. There are perplexing problems constantly arising at the school that call for wisdom and devotion to service on the part of the faculty. It will be a great help to that faculty if they have the prayers of the constituency, the moral and financial support. With anything else the school cannot function properly.

JOHN C. THOMPSON,  
*Educational Secretary,  
Southern Union.*

## The Influenza

THIS epidemic made its appearance early in the school year, at which time we suspended school for two weeks. Later it reappeared, and a large number of cases developed, until we had over eighty sick at one time. This was such a large part of our school that the care of the sick was a very serious problem, as so few were able to work. However, those who did not have the malady gave their best of time and service and in a few days some were able to care for themselves under the supervision of our nurses. During this time we

were unable to obtain sufficient trained help from our own family. We wired to different points, only to find that trained help was all working over-time every where. Neither could we get a physician, even in Huntsville. One took pity on our plight and called several times at midnight, as this was the only time he could get away from his own patients. Later we succeeded in getting three trained nurses, and the health officer gave us assistance.

Of the one hundred cases, twelve had complications, two dying—William Gray and Carrie Fountain. These were sad days, especially so since the general experience had been that those having complications rarely recovered; but we trusted our sick to Him who doeth all things best, while we worked day and night for their comfort. In every mail letters of sympathy and good cheer would come, telling us that our people everywhere were praying for us. As soon as able some of the most feeble left for their homes, and now for some time there has been no serious sickness at the school.

In all this experience we see the hand of God upholding us in these trying times, when the powers of darkness endeavored to break up the work for the year. Now our school work is progressing very well. Our students, nearly one hundred are working harder than ever to make up the time lost, and a deeper spirit of cooperation and good fellowship is felt than would have been possible but for the time of trouble through which we have passed. In these last days, affliction will draw us closer together, and we must expect to meet these things as the history of this old earth is closing up. New and old students have come in for the work of the second semester, during which we are holding an extra session of school each week.

The teachers are arranging the work so that no student who applies himself will fail to get his grades for the year. We need the prayers of God's people everywhere that our work may be a success.

J. I. BEARDSLEY.

### A Backward Boy

His name in full was that of his uncle, a justice of the supreme bench at that time—a man of brilliant mind and high character. The boy was seventeen, and in a class where the average age was twelve. So, you see, he really was backward, or so he thought. Each day he came slouching into the class-room with a look on his face in which utter recklessness and defiance were mingled. He never had his lesson; he never even pretended to have studied it. Meantime I studied him. By-and-by the day came when we had a talk. After some preliminary skirmishing he began:—

"There's no use in you talking to me, Mrs. Ward. I'm no good. I hate studying, and I never could learn anything, and I don't want to. My father always said I was a fool, and my mother says I'm no good anyhow, and I know it, and I don't care."

He tried to be big, and bluster this out with a great deal of bravado. But the uneasy shifting of his body, his quick, furtive look at my face, all betrayed him. He did care.

"Do you know," I asked with the utmost concern, "I've often wondered how it would feel to be no good and not to care, not really care one bit? Honestly between ourselves, how does it feel? Is it fun?"

He shuffled uneasily as he said, "I dunno."

#### HOW HE WAS FINALLY AWAKENED

I went on as if talking out loud to myself: "You see, it's the caring that hurts. There are such a lot of hard things one might like to get out of, if one didn't really care to amount to anything. Then one would be having all the fun and not paying the piper. Are you really having a good

time? I want to know because I have wondered so often."

The boy turned to me with one look—the look of a dumb, wounded animal who begs for mercy, and in that glance I saw all the tragedy of this child's starved, miserable, hounded life. Not care, indeed! Not care! He was just one great bruise in soul and mind from caring. And nobody understood.

"Suppose," I said, after a pause—"suppose a man thinks he has a disease that is going to kill him, then after long worry he learns from the doctor's examination that he is just as healthy as anybody need be, wouldn't he be a pretty happy man?"

"I suppose so," the boy said thoughtfully.

"Well, now, teachers, you know, sometimes know things about people's minds just as doctors do about people's bodies. Suppose I were to tell you about your mind what the doctor told that man about his body that it is a good mind, a very good one, only you don't know it, and you don't know yet how to use it aright—suppose I should tell you that honest and true, what would you say?"

"Dunno," he muttered, his eyes still down.

"Now look up at me, my boy—look me square in the eyes and believe what I am going to tell you, because it's true," I said.

And, for the first time in all the months I had taught the boy, I looked full into his eyes. Then, with all the force of conviction there was in me, I said slowly:

"Your mind is just as good as any boy's in this class. You can be just as good a scholar and just as great a man as your uncle, if you want to. All you have to do is to learn how to work, and then work. I'll teach you how, if you'll agree to do the work. Just think of the difference—on the one hand

a lazy, shiftless, defiant man whom nobody respects, and who pretends not to care, but who really does care and hates himself and everybody else in consequence, and on the other hand a big, useful, honored man whom everybody admires. You can have which ever you like. It's only a matter

of work—nothing else. I'm telling you the truth. It is for you to say which it shall be."

To cut the story short, we began again, and six months afterward, at the annual commencement time, the boy's father and mother came to, me and said, "Mrs. Ward, we really don't know what has happened to our boy. He is quite another person. We begin to have hopes of him. At one time we thought his case was hopeless."

"So did he," I said. "That was the trouble."

"And I talked to him so much," said the mother with self-approval.

I wanted to say again, "That was the trouble," but forebore.

All that was twenty years ago. The man of thirty-seven is now one of the leading younger lawyers in his State, and his mother's picture appears frequently in periodicals that still set forth the achievements of women's clubs. — Selected.

### Giving

OUR master set the example in giving. He loved first, then gave himself for us. God did not give worthless gold but gave himself for us. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Duty calls us each one into service for our Master, but all this love should prompt us to give ourselves unreservedly to him that he may give Himself again to the world through us.

Let us picture Jesus as he sat over against the treasury and saw the people coming one by one and place in their offerings. He saw the rich out of their abundance give little. Last of all came one poor widow. As she approached near the treasury she hoped to cast in her mite unobserved when Jesus' eyes were lifted to something else, but he who never slumbers nor sleeps, and sees the sparrow fall saw the poor widow cast in her mite and called unto his disciples, saying, "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury, for all they did cast in of their abundance,

but she of her want did cast in all she had, even all her earnings," Mark 12: 43, 44. It was the love that she had for the cause for which she was laboring that constrained her to give all. The smallest of all gifts that were cast into the treasury was the widow's mite. But love prompted the gift, and she gave all. God accepts of such gifts and counts them much.

God's way of giving is illustrated in the story of the prodigal son. The father stood for many long days waiting to see his son return. He had taken his portion of the goods and wandered into a far country and wasted it, but the father's love extended even to the wanderer and he longed for the son's return, and when he at last saw him coming he took the best robe and ran to meet him and placing it around him brought him home. He placed a ring on his finger, killed the fatted calf and made a feast. Only love could have prompted the father to do all this for his wandering boy.

ORA HUTSON.

### Deal Justly With the Children

THERE is oftentimes a great difference between the children in one family. One is quite plain, while the others are fine-looking; or one is dull, while the others are bright. It is so easy to put the pretty child and the bright child in the foreground, and keep the plain child back. Parents have oftentimes shown such partiality in this respect that the lives of the neglected ones have been made most miserable. "For some reason or other she has never seemed to be a favorite with her father," said a friend, in speaking of a child not long ago; "he makes so much more of his other children than he does of her."

Children are quick to see partiality shown by parents; and when the recipients of it are particularly bright or pretty, the child who has not received these gifts thinks them the all-important ones, and grows to be morbid and curious. The pretty child is not always noted for sweet traits of character. Because she is made so much of, she becomes conceited and selfish.

There is a pathetic poem which speaks of a father calling his "pet." The footfalls that fell on his ear were from a child not in such great favor; and as he called, the little one responded, in a sad tone of voice, "It isn't 'pet,' papa. It's only me."

—Susan Teall Perry.

### North Carolina

#### NEWBURN

IMMEDIATELY after our campmeeting I left for a tour among the churches of this conference in the interest of the *Harvest Ingathering* campaign. My first stop was at Newburn, where five days were spent. Here I baptized one believer and left the company in good courage.

#### KINGSTON

I next visited Kingston and remained two days. During this time I baptized five, who had recently accepted the Message. The Lord's supper was also celebrated. I found the church in a good spiritual condition.

#### WILSON

Arriving in Wilson I found some of the members sick but all of good courage in the Lord. I held one service with them, and took one brother into the church. Sister Lucile Long has just opened school here after closing on account of the Spanish Influenza. She has a good attendance and the prospects are encouraging.

#### DURHAM

At this place I found Sister Cora Robinson and her small company keeping the torch of truth burning. Here I spent one day helping and encouraging the company.

#### HIGH POINT

Here I found all churches and schools closed down on account of the epidemic. We were able to meet only in a quiet way, and to attend to some important business in connection with the work. I baptized eleven candidates.

The Lord came near by His Holy Spirit, and all enjoyed the season.

#### WINSTON-SALEM

At this church I found the

church already at work in the *Harvest Ingathering Campaign*. Here I preached once and also met with the workers giving instruction in regard to the use of the papers.

In all these places I found the churches in an excellent spiritual condition and of good courage and anxious to see the work closed up. Surely we are living in stirring times. I was privileged at the close of this tour to return safely home by the way of Charlotte, North Carolina.

J. F. CRICHLAW.

### Workers Together

IN PAUL's letter to the Corinthians he sets forth the argument that all reconciled individuals have become ambassadors for Christ and ministers of reconciliation to those who are in sin. See 2 Cor. 5:19-21. All the members of Christ's church are to be laborers together with God and the active ministry for the saving of the lost. The preaching and expression of the gospel can never be left entirely to a few chosen men, but must be shared by every believer and every individual member of the church. In this way alone can the gospel be carried to every creature and the work of Christ be finished in the earth.

Our people who live in the community where a series of meetings is being carried forward can do much to make the effort a success, but it sometimes happens that instead of being united and having the spirit of cooperation, they are found separated and distracted by some petty difficulty that exists among them. In this way the results of an effort are often destroyed and nothing is accomplished. In Volume 9, page 125, we read, "When a special effort is put forth by laborers of experience in a community where our own people live, there rests upon the believers in that community a most solemn obligation to do all in their power to open the way for the Lord to work. They should search their hearts carefully and clear the King's highway by putting away every sin that would hinder them from cooperating with God and their brethren."

R. H. WATKINS.

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**OBITUARY**

**ROBINSON:** Sister Dorcas Robinson was born at Murray, Alabama, August 16, 1845. She was converted at an early age, and was united with the Baptist church at Sylacauga, Alabama. After emancipation she united with Mount Olive Baptist Church of Sycamore, Alabama. Here she remained a member until the year 1912. During this time she lived a consistent Christian life. In 1912 she heard the Third Angel's Message through Elder J. G. Dasent, accepted it and was baptized January 28, 1913, by Elder R. R. Roberts, and united with the Seventh-day Adventist Church at Sylacauga, Alabama. In 1916, she moved with her family to the state of Illinois. Here she remained until the time of her death, October 30, 1918.

She leaves a husband, six sons, and four daughters, the majority of whom are in the truth, and a host of friends to mourn the loss. Services were conducted by F. C. Phipps, and Elder P. M. Boyd at Sylacauga, Alabama.

S. P. ROBINSON.

**SIMMONS:** Brother H. L. Simmons, member of the Augusta church died December 4, 1918. He was formerly a prominent member of the Baptist church, but has for the past fifteen years believed the Message and its principles. He was sixty-four years of age at the time of his death. Funeral service was conducted by the writer.

H. N. GEMON.

**COLLINS:** Edward Collins, oldest child of Sister Mamie Collins, was born in the month of August, 1907, came to his death December 15, 1918, by accidentally being shot by a fellow playmate, who was handling the weapon. Young Edward was a member of the Junior Division of the Sabbath School. Words of consolation were spoken by the writer. We sorrow with our Sister in the untimely loss of her son.

H. N. GEMON.

Professor O. R. Staines of the Union Conference made us a pleasant visit in the interests of the *Harvest Ingathering Campaign*. He spoke to our students both in the morning and in the afternoon and also one evening. He reports the work of the Southern Union very encouraging, and hoped that every conference would raise its full quota on the *Harvest Ingathering* fund.

Professor W. E. Howell, from Washington, Secretary of the Educational Department; Professor W. A. Tucker, of the Southeastern Union, and Professor John Thompson, of the Southern Union, recently visited Oakwood in the interests of the school. They spent some time here checking up our work. They expressed themselves very much pleased with some of our conditions, but deplored the fact that we were below standard in others. We were glad to have these workers with us, and enjoyed their earnest words spoken to the faculty and students. They promised substantial help for Oakwood in the future.

Elder I. M. Martin passed through Oakwood on his way to Birmingham to begin an extended effort in that city. He spoke to our students in Henderson Hall in a very earnest manner upon the *Signs of the Times*. Oakwood wishes him a successful effort and many souls as a result of his meetings.

**QUARTERLY SERVICES AT OAKWOOD**

As usual quarterly service was held in our Chapel, our entire family of teachers and students being present. A consecration service preceded the celebration of the ordinances, at the close of which Elder Halladay called for those who wished baptism. Eleven arose and came forward, while nineteen asked to join the church by letter. This has been a source of rejoicing to many homes, and was indeed gratifying to us; especially so after our school has had serious experiences hindering its progress. The baptismal service will be held in the near future.

J. I. B.

**The Constituency Meeting**

**T**HE Constituency Meeting of Oakwood Junior College is announced to convene in Birmingham, Alabama, at 8 o'clock, February 10, 1919, in the Seventh-day Adventist church of that place. The Constituency is composed of the executive committees of the Southeastern and Southern Union Conferences, the mission committees of the Southeastern and Southern Union Conferences, the board of directors of Oakwood Junior College, and the members of the faculty.

S. E. WIGHT, *Chairman*.  
 J. I. BEARDSLEY, *Secretary*.

**Workers' Meeting,**

*Southern Union Conference*

**A** MEETING for colored workers of the Southern Union Conference will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, February 12-14, all colored ministers, Bible Workers' and other conference employees are expected to attend.

S. E. WIGHT, *President*.  
 G. H. CURTIS, *Secretary*.

**OAKWOOD NEWS**

Among the visitors at Oakwood since our last report have been the following:

Elder W. H. Green of the department, who spent one day with us looking about the institution and visiting our classes. He seemed to enjoy his short visit, and promised to return again soon.