

GOSPEL MERALD



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The Tuskegee Idea of Education

—Hampton, Va.,

TWENTY-EIGHT years ago Doctor Booker T. Washington organized the Tuskegee Negro Conference to help men and women, who were living on the land, to find better methods of farming, home-making, and community building.

Dr. Robert R. Moton and his associates have kept developing the Conference in attendance, in scope of discussion, and in effectiveness of organization. The recent attendance of two thousand well-dressed, happy, colored rural folk told the story of Dr. Washington's vision and wisdom in planning for mass education. From Maryland to Texas and from the Atlantic seaboard to the Mississippi and beyond, Tuskegee Conference ideas are successfully being projected and developed.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Those who came to Tuskegee saw interesting and enlightening demonstrations in the feeding and milking of cows; home-canning, poultry management, making of butter, use of farm machinery, tractor plowing, use of labor-saving devices in the home, and feeding of livestock. The mechanical industries were illustrated by demonstrations in farm blacksmithing, carpentry, painting, and leather work.

The girls' demonstrations included shuck and pine-needle work, making of hats, horse collars, door mats, and baskets; mattress making, cooking a meal from home-grown products, and the repairing of clothes.

Others saw what could be done through the use of the "movable school" to convert a dilapidated plantation house, which lacked all conveniences and even the necessary outbuildings for man and beast, into a bright, attractive cottage, conspicuous for its trim poultry house, and its clean backyard.

SPREADING THE TUSKEGEE IDEA

The industrial supervising teachers showed what they could do to make the lives of the farm women and girls more cheery and worthwhile.

Dr. George W. Carver showed several hundred Southern products which have vast commercial possibilities. He has developed unique methods for converting the native materials of Macon County, Ala., for example, into articles which can be commercially developed to the advantage of the entire South.

RACIAL CO-OPERATION

Some of the white representatives who took an active and helpful part in the two-day conference, included Mrs. John H. Hammond, of Madison, Ga., secretary of the Southern Publicity Committee; Mrs. Adele M. Delahay, editor of the woman's department of the *Montgomery Advertiser*; Rev. Dr. Richard Orme Flinn, of Atlanta, Ga., pastor of the North Avenue Presbyterian Church; Dr. B. F. Riley, of Birmingham, welfare worker among Negro troops; Leo M. Farvot, Department of Education, Baton Rouge, La., and Bishop Thomas F. Gailor, of Memphis, Tennessee.

Some of the prominent colored speakers included Charles H. Moore, Raleigh, N. C., state agent for colored schools; A. H. Parker, Birmingham, high school principal; Misses Mary E. Jackson and Adele Ruffin, both of the Y. W. C. A. staff; Miss Lucy Laney, Augusta, Ga., principal of Haines Institute; and Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute.

DECLARATIONS

The Declarations emphasized the constructive work which remains to be done, not only in Alabama, but throughout the South. They were characterized by the spirit of co-operation and racial good-will.

The Declarations were enthusiastically received by the large audience of men and women who knew from first-hand experience that the Tuskegee Negro Conference program through the years had been a safe and reliable one to follow.

W. ANTHONY AERY.

A Visit At Oakwood

I take great pleasure in looking back to the few hours spent in the school and knowing that our boys and girls in the Huntsville school are receiving good training and teaching.

Not only are they being taught the "Word", and studies fitting them for a good citizenship in this world, but in the world to come.

The domestic training is of great value and I hope every one of our Florida boys and girls will improve the precious moments allotted to them there that their talents may be improved and fitted for service in the Lord's work.

Every one is needed in the harvest field. The work is to be brought to a finish soon. What a privilege to have a part in the finishing.

We are having an abundance of rain here in Florida, and a very warm winter. Orange trees are putting out their buds, and in a very few days the air will be filled with their fragrance. It looks as if there would be an abundant crop.

CARRIE L. STRINGER

"Self-criticism is the best kind, and if it were properly practiced, there would be little or no occasion for criticism from others. The more we criticize our own faults, the better. If each one would lay upon himself the responsibility for all blunders and mistakes with which he has any connection, there would be no sharp words or quarrels. Excuse much in others; excuse nothing in self."

School at Devall's Bluff, Ark.

I CAME here from Kansas City, Kans., Nov. 1917, and opened school with an enrollment of ten. I at once went out among the neighbors and solicited students, and succeeded in getting four. This was the first time in the history of the school that it has been patronized by the neighbors. Our enrollment reached nineteen.

This year we have eighteen. We were hindered somewhat by the influenza, but have succeeded in securing the patronage of three of our outside neighbors this year. Also we are pleased to say that we have placed one of our last year's students in the Oakwood Junior College: namely, Robert L. Ryles. We hope by another year to transfer two or three more to the College.

God is calling for the young people to come up to the help of the Lord. We as parents and teachers should do more this year than ever before to encourage the youth to receive a preparation for God's great work.

MRS. K. O. JOHNSON.

Birmingham Union Effort

SINCE January 24, our Union Evangelist, Elder J. H. Lawrence and his corps of workers have been conducting a series of meetings here in an effort to upbuild and strengthen the work among our people. The regular series closed Sunday night, March 30. They still continue to hold meetings every Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday night.

From the very start the devil has done all in his power to discourage us and thwart our efforts, and has even attempted to burn us out, having nearly succeeded in doing so. One Sabbath morning in March a fire caught in the rostrum and destroyed some of the evangelist's best charts and rugs to the amount of \$120.00 before we succeeded in extinguishing the flames. It was a close call and we are indeed grateful to our Heavenly Father for His deliverance. With all the troubles the good work still goes on and prospers.

The former church building not being in a desirable locality, the seating capacity very meagre, and the environment not the best, the effort has been conducted in one of

the up-to-date colored theatre buildings in the heart of the city.

These meetings have created quite a spirit of enquiry upon spiritual things on the part of a large number of the populace, and not a few are reading the good book to find out what is the "Thus saith the Lord." At present over sixty souls have accepted the Sabbath message, and we hope by the time we close out on May 27 to have the church membership increased to one hundred thirty. To God be the glory and praise for the fruitage already borne.

On account of its poor location the church building has been sold, and the church has been meeting in the Chautauque Hall ever since. We hope to secure a lot and erect a suitable edifice to the glory of God and the cause of present truth.

RICHARD I. THOMPSON.

Union Mission News Notes

FROM recent correspondence from Elder J. H. Lawrence we learn that the effort in the city of Birmingham, Ala. is reaping excellent results. Brother Lawrence states that they have at least fifty new Sabbath keepers at the present time; that the total attendance at a recent Sabbath meeting was over one hundred. The effort is still being held in the Pastime Theatre, but they will be obliged to secure a new location some time in May. Brother Lawrence states that over one hundred fifty persons have begun the observance of the Sabbath since last January as the results of the efforts in New Orleans, La. and Birmingham, Ala. We are sure all our brethren and sisters will be deeply interested in knowing the results of these meetings and that they will continue to pray earnestly for the success of the work. Brother Lawrence expects to have baptism soon.

Brother Allison, pastor of the Memphis church, who has been assisting in the meetings in Birmingham for some weeks has returned to his work in Memphis.

Sister Prewitt, one of our faithful Bible workers who has been connected with the effort in Birmingham, Ala., was obliged to return home on account of sickness. She has undergone an operation in

the city of Chicago, but from a recent letter received from her we learn she hopes to soon be able to return to her work.

Brother Lewis who has been assisting Brother J. H. Lawrence in the effort in Birmingham has been called to his home in New Orleans, on account of the illness of his wife who has been obliged to undergo an operation. He hopes to return to Birmingham soon.

Sister Lacotte Green, a trained nurse and Bible worker is connected with the effort being conducted by Brother J. H. Lawrence in Birmingham, Ala. and is doing excellent work. Also Sister Hyman.

Good reports are reaching us from different churches in the Mission throughout the Union and items of news will be sent to the *Gospel Herald* from time to time which we trust will be of interest.

Notice the following: The first colored church of this denomination was organized in 1883, marking the beginning of organized work for our colored people. The membership was ten, and the Sabbath School membership was fifteen. The donation the first Sabbath was twenty-four cents. The first church building erected by this congregation was in 1896 at a cost of \$300.00 and is still standing at Edgefield, Tenn., near Nashville. At the present time in the Southern Union alone there are nineteen churches with a valuation of \$30,980.00 and a seating capacity of 3,350. In 1894 there were only fifty believers in the present territory of the Southeastern, Southern and Southwestern Union Conferences paying a tithe that year of about \$50.00. At the present time in the Southern Union alone there is a membership of 1104. In the year 1909 our offering to foreign missions was about \$209.08 with a per capita rate that year of sixty-four cents. In 1918 our colored believers contributed \$7,411.84 or a per capita rate of \$7.27. This is surely a most encouraging increase. In the year 1913 the believers paid \$7,449.00 tithe, this being increased in the year 1918 to \$19,068.72. The rate per capita on tithe alone increased from \$11.17 to \$18.42. Of still further interest is the report given

regarding the total funds raised including tithe, foreign mission offerings, home missionary work, and local church expenses. The amount for all these purposes in the year 1909 was \$2,884.76 with a per capita rate of \$8.80. In 1918 \$30,232.65 was raised with a per capita rate of \$29.21. From these figures that have been given we surely can see much to encourage us. We hope to secure other interesting items for our readers from time to time.

G. H. CURTIS.

Tennessee River Conference

Sister Susie McGee, one of our faithful colored canvassers at Memphis, writes that she did not have many orders for the past week, but says, "We are to have some disappointments. The Lord is blessing my work just the same." This sister is a very faithful worker; she not only sells books through the day, but canvasses at night as well.

Brother Henry Cheshier, another colored brother who has been working at the railroad shops in Memphis, is going to quit his job and devote all his time to the printed page. He has had very good success selling books during his spare time this winter.

Brother A. N. Allen, our Home Missionary Secretary, tells us that there is quite an interest in the neighborhood of the Kingfield Church, which is located out from Franklin, Tennessee. He is expecting twenty or twenty-five to step out and unite with the church in the near future.

Nashville Church No. 2

The work on this charge is progressing nicely, the outlook very promising. We were pleased to have five souls follow their Master in baptism last Sabbath, April 15th. These dear ones pledged to follow Jesus and be faithful and loyal to the Master to the end.

Among several visitors, were Mrs. S. N. Haskell, who spoke to the candidates; also Brother Lowe of Chicago, who came to attend his mother's funeral. We are courageous and ask your continued prayers for the work in this city among our colored people.

Brother Louis Rayford, one of our colored canvassers, writes that he visited a Baptist Church in the community where he is canvassing. He says the preacher introduced him to the congregation as "an intelligent, God-fearing man." He also spoke highly of the book he was selling—*Daniel and The Revelation*, and told the people that they were keeping the wrong day, and that he had always thought that Saturday was the right day to keep. After introducing him, he gave him a few minutes to speak to the people. Brother Rayford says that he spoke to them on the "Love of God." By meeting the people in this way he was able to place many books in their homes.

We quote the following from a letter just received from Brother Milton Young, the pastor of the Jackson Church No. 2:

"Brother Rayford spent Sabbath with us and he brought with him a young man, about thirty years old, who walked twelve miles Friday in order to attend church Sabbath. Brother Jesse Allen, who now sleeps in France, sold this man a *Bible Readings* in 1917. Since, he has been studying and praying to find a people who were living according to the teaching of that book. He gave a testimony that had a true ring, and in the evening I held a Bible study with him, and he returned home determined never to break the Sabbath again.

Birmingham, Ala.

SABBATH, April 12, was a high day for us. Twenty-nine new believers followed the Saviour in the solemn ordinance of baptism. Thirty more are awaiting a favorable opportunity. The members at Bessimer, a nearby town, decided to join at the city church. These, with our new believers and the members of the church formerly organized, swell our membership to over one hundred.

Following the baptism a real soul-searching testimony meeting was held in which many testified of their determination to live the consecrated life. The ordinances of the church were celebrated and all felt that it was a season long to be remembered. The Lord is blessing the work in this city and many

hearts are made glad on account of the victories won.

Elder Lawrence and his corps of earnest workers are of good courage and hope to see a still larger increase of the church in this great city. We trust that we are remembered at the throne of grace.

RICHARD I. THOMPSON.

Jefferson, Texas

NEW recruits are still enlisting in this part of the field. We have just returned from a long cold ride in the country, where wife and I went to look after some interested ones. We held some cottage meetings with them, and left them with good courage. This visit, in addition to what had been done by a white lady, Mrs. Whitlow, with tracts and papers, resulted in four persons taking their stand. We returned home fifteen miles, in a blinding storm, making one stop in an old school house while the storm was at its height.

The little company here at Jefferson is doing very good work now. We are using twenty-five *Present Truth* weekly among the leading class of people. Some of our Sabbath keepers have moved away during the month. We hope to see others step in and fill the vacancy in the near future. Plans are being laid for a strong tent effort during the coming summer.

E. M. GATES.

Bullock County, Alabama

MY WIFE and I worked here last week and the Lord prepared the way for us as we secured orders for *Great Controversy*, value \$345.00, and sold about \$7.00 worth of helps.

G. W. POWERS.

The Home Study Habit

THAT is the habit to form if you can not go to school. And the Fireside Correspondence School was organized to help you form this habit. The President of the General Conference says, "I believe this school is conferring an unspeakable benefit upon our people."

For full particulars write to-day to the *Principal, C. C. Lewis, Takoma Park, D. C.*

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W. L. BIRD EDITOR
M. C. STRACHAN } EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS
T. B. BUCKNER }

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OBITUARY

Sister Swofford, wife of our farmer, fell a victim to disease and death recently. She had been more or less afflicted during the winter with rheumatism. Doctors, nurses, and kind friends ministered to her needs and prayed for the preservation of her life. We believe that she rests in peace and awaits the coming of the lifegiver. A service was held on the campus in front of the chapel where all could gather comfortably. She was taken, for interment, to her old home in South Carolina. We all sympathize with the bereaved family and point them to the glorious resurrection day.

W. L. BIRD.

Mrs. Julia Price Frazier was born in the city of Montgomery, Ala., April 15, 1879, and departed this life March 23, 1919. She leaves to mourn her loss a devoted and loving husband, nine children, father and mother, four sisters, one brother, and a large number of relatives and friends.

As a wife, she was the true helpmeet that God intended woman should be; as a mother, it is enough to say that her children will rise up and call her blessed; as a friend, she was all that beautiful word implies; as a Christian, we knew that her life was an example worthy of emulation by all who knew her.

Hence to all who knew and loved Sister Frazier, both family and friends, we can but commend you to the care of Him she served so well. Let not your sorrow at this brief parting cause you to forget

the glorious joy of the coming reunion.

In the words of Longfellow we say:

"Be still sad hearts and cease repining;

Behind the cloud the sun is still shining;

Thy fate is the common fate of all;

Into each life some rain must fall
And some days must be dark and dreary."

The funeral service was conducted by our Union Evangelist, J. H. Lawrence, of Birmingham.

MRS. J. A. WESLEY.

Summer School

SUMMER School for our Mission Teachers will be held at Oakwood, beginning June 10th and closing July 22nd. This school has been made permanent, and is now a regular part of the Oakwood school. The conferences of the Southeastern Union are planning to send all who will teach another year. Let those who are planning to teach immediately get in touch with their conference superintendent, and plan for the Summer School.— J. A. TUCKER,

*Educational Secretary,
Southeastern Union.*

Plans for this school are being pushed rapidly. We hope to be able to make all plans public soon. The date is set for June 10 to July 22. All teachers in the Southeastern and Southern Union Conferences should plan to attend. We are planning to do everything possible to make this meeting serve the best interests of our teachers.

Educational Council

About fifty of our leading educators met in Washington, D. C., April 16 to 22, and gave their time to prayerfully considering the problems confronting this denomination in its educational work. The general conviction prevailed that we ought to change many of our present plans if we succeed in the attainment of the ends set forth by the Spirit of Prophecy for our educational work. Some of these were the elimination of nonessential studies; more attention given to practical training in industries and subjects that are of especial use to

our workers; and higher standards in dress, amusements, and recreations. This was partially set forth in the adoption of a much more elastic course of study for all grades of schools, bringing in industrial subjects for definite and required credit.

A firm stand was also taken in regard to our prospective workers taking work in outside schools, since it is being demonstrated that much of the work in these institutions is not of a nature to inspire confidence in God and his word. Practically all decisions were unanimous, and the delegates worked till late each night with an almost perfect attendance.

The sessions were held in the chapel and classrooms of the new school building of Washington Missionary College. The Missionary Volunteer Council is in session as these notes are written, and the general opinion is that these meetings are even better than were those of the last council. God is in this work and it will triumph.
*Tacoma Park, Washington, D. C.,
April 24, 1919.*

J. I. BEARDSLEY.

OAKWOOD NEWS

Professor O. R. Staines recently made us a visit in the interest of the small books and Home Missionary Work. Some of our students hope to earn scholarships in this way.

Elder M. G. Nunes of Oklahoma recently spent a few hours at Oakwood. He reports the work onward in that conference. He came to us with an appeal for workers in the way of canvassers, Bible workers and ministers. The calls for these workers are far beyond our power to answer.

Professor and Mrs. Jacobsen are announcing a new arrival at their home. Robert Edward is the name he bears. All are reported doing well.

As we go to press word comes to us that a new comer has arrived at West Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swofford are the proud parents.