

Field Tidings

The Southeastern Union Conference

VOL. I

GRAYSVILLE TENNESSEE MARCH 31 1909

NO. 5

ORPHANS' SPECIAL

SOUTHEASTERN UNION CONFERENCE DIRECTORY
OFFICE ADDRESS, 75 Ashby Street, Atlanta, Ga.
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Eating our Morsel alone

"If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail; or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;" Job: 16, 17.

Thus did Job reply when charged with selfishness and sin. In the day of our trial, can we call on God to witness that we have divided our morsel with our less favored brethren? In the South are nearly ten millions of colored people, only a generation from slavery, in the hardship of man's unkindness to man in other days. Have not the orphans among them a claim on us as christians? Here is a quotation from a letter received by the writer from sister White dated February 16, 1909.

"Long before I visited Huntsville, the Oakwood school farm was presented to me, both as it then was and as it might be in the future if wisely managed and properly cared for.

The presentation of what the place ought to be, included an orphanage and a sanitarium."

A modest cottage in which may be cared for a family of fifteen to twenty orphans is now planned for on the Oakwood farm. Shall we eat our morsel alone?

C. F. McVAGH.

Orphans and Aged

April Collection

Since the disconnection of our people with the Haskell home of Battle Creek there has been a diminishing of the offerings made to sustain this branch of our work. But while we have no connection with the Battle Creek enterprise, we still have resting upon us a continually increasing responsibility in this regard. On every hand opportunities are before us, to follow in the path of this pure religion, and undefiled before God' the help of the fatherless and the widow.

April 3, has been set aside for the Annual offering for orphans and we trust that the Southeastern Union will come strongly to the rescue of the fund set aside for the above mentioned object. Let every conference president, and every minister, every worker in every capacity, every church officer and every Sabbath-school officer do everything in his power to enlist the hearty support of each member in this offering. Let the isolated ones come to the rescue—send your offerings to the conference treasurer. Then as a Union conference we are doing what we can to establish a home for orphans at Huntsville which belongs as much to this Union as the Southern Union and as the Spirit of Prophecy has called us to definite action along the line of care for the colored orphans in the erection of a home at Huntsville, we trust that there will be a most liberal response so that we can do our part in this needy enterprise. We pray that the Lord will give us liberal hearts and that we shall be enabled to go forth in Jesus' name in harmony with His call.

W. A. WESTWORTH.

An antidote for stinginess,— "Give until you feel it, then give until you don't feel it."

A Gospel for the poor

The poverty of the people to whom we are sent is not to prevent us from working for them. Christ came to this earth to walk and work among the poor and suffering. They received the greatest share of His attention. And to-day, in the person of His children He visits the poor and needy, relieving woe and alleviating suffering.

Take away suffering and need, and we should have no way of understanding the mercy and love of God, no way of knowing the compassionate, sympathetic heavenly Father. Never does the gospel put on an aspect of greater loveliness than when it is brought to the most needy and destitute regions. Then it is that its light shines forth with the clearest radiance and the greatest power. Truth from the word of God enters the hovel of the peasant; rays from the Son of Righteousness light up the rude cottage of the poor, bringing gladness to the sick and suffering. Angels of God are there, and the simple faith shown makes the crust of bread and the cup of water a banquet. The sin-pardoning Savior welcomes the poor, and ignorant, and gives them to eat of the bread that comes down from heaven. They drink of the water of life. Those who have been loathed and abandoned are thru faith and pardon raised to the dignity of sons and daughters of God. Lifted above the world, they sit in heavenly places in Christ. They may have no earthly treasure, but they have found the pearl of great price.

—Mrs. E. G. White.

The Needs of The Colored People

The conditions surrounding our colored Sabbath-keepers are such that there will ever be a much larger percentage of orphan children among them needing homes, than among the families of our white people.

Among our colored people there are very few families in a position to take the orphans into their homes and give them the care and education that they need.

In our colored churches there is not financial ability to raise funds for the support of the orphans in their midst.

Therefore, there is, and probably always will be, a great need for a home for the orphans among our colored people.

During the council of conference presidents and other leading workers in the Southeastern, the Southern, and the Southwestern Union Conferences, held in Nashville last January, the

matter of building this orphans' home and opening up the work and providing for its regular maintenance, was freely discussed, and a board of managers was appointed. Recently this board of managers has met in council at Huntsville, and discussed questions of location, size and character of the building, and methods of operating the institution; and they have requested the Huntsville school board to act for them in the matter of erecting the building.

It is agreed that the most suitable place for this orphanage is on the Oakwood school farm. Some of the advantages to be gained by locating it there, are as follows:

The Oakwood farm supplies provision to the school home at very moderate rates, and it would be a benefit to the orphans' home to be supplied with the products at the same low prices.

The normal department of the Oakwood school has teachers in training. To give them practice, the doors of the school have been thrown open for the attendance of colored children in the neighborhood. The children of the orphanage could be taught in the same way, at very little expense.

The young women at the school who are in training for service as nurses and teachers, could do a large part of the work at the orphanage, under the direction of the orphanage matron, and the physician at the sanitarium who is training the young women to be wise and skilful nurses. This will give the children the best of care, and provide the students in training for nurses, an excellent opportunity to learn how to wisely care for children.

The young men in the school who have done most of the work in the building of the study-hall and the boys' dormitory and other buildings on the school farm, under the direction of Brethren Hal'aday, Leitzman, and Foster, would be pleased to have the work of building the orphanage.

The Maintenance Fund

Those who have had to do with institutional work, know very well that the erection of the building is but one of the principal parts of the work; and that the organization and management of the work, and the securing of funds for its regular maintenance, are the most serious problems.

During the Nashville meeting, a proposition was made that we ask all our conferences in the united states to give twenty-five per cent., of their orphanage collection of April 3, 1909, for

the support of the the orphanage for colored children at Huntsville. This proposition was submitted for consideration of the General Conference Committeemen in Washington, and has been heartily approved. It has also been considered by several of our Union Conference presidents who have spoken heartily in its favor. And when presented to the California Conference in session, February 8, 1909, the following action was taken:

"WHEREAS, The orphanage for colored children is greatly needed, and funds for the erection of a building to the amount of twelve hundred dollars, have been gathered; therefore,—

RESOLVED, That we assist in the raising of a fund for the maintenance of the orphans, and for furnishing the buildings, by a gift from this Conference of one-half of the orphanage fund on hand, and one-quarter of our next orphanage collection."

W. C. WHITE.

S. E. Union notes

The work in Atlanta is showing much progress. We are very busy with two enterprises: the Union conference headquarter's office is assuming shape rapidly and betokens a very acceptable set of offices and accommodations for some of the Union conference employes.

Situated on the vacant lot to the rear of the Sanitarium building it is easy of access to our church and people generally and as it is within one-half block of the street cars, it is very convenient to the center of the city.

At the recent session of the Southern Publishing Association, it was decided, after a very strong and decided request from the members of the S. E. Union Conf. committee, to establish a branch office of the Publishing House here in Atlanta. This will place our canvassers and people generally in touch with a depository where books and all the supplies used by canvassers, churches, and individuals can be had without having to send far away to the main office, and thus we shall be able to supply the needs of the field without long waits. This branch office is being provided for in the new conference office building and we expect that we shall be ready for it by the first of next month. **To this end we are energetically striving.**

The other enterprise which is interesting us here at headquarters is the establishment of a colored sanitarium in connection with the church

and school which has been established.

This building is going up very rapidly and we expect that we shall have it in operation before very long. We are stepping out by faith with this enterprise, walking on the promises of the Lord and believing that when He calls us to the establishment of schools for the colored, and sanitariums in our cities to help this race, that He will furnish the necessary means to do the work. We trust that there will be a response on the part of many of our brethren and sisters to this call for help for this enterprise.

Small amounts which any may feel led of the Lord to send for this colored sanitarium will be thankfully received. Send to Brother Dowsett, the Union Conference treasurer.

The dedication of the colored church and school at Atlanta was a season of rejoicing to this second S. D. A. church. For so long a time have they been struggling against great odds and striving to carry on the work of the Third Angel's Message, that now with a suitable place of worship, said by several who have seen many of our colored churches in the South, to be the best proposition of its kind south of the Mason and Dixon's line, we expect to see this enlarge and souls be led to the Master.

March 1, the writer left Atlanta for a trip to Florida, to attend an important session of the Florida conference committee.

Words of cheer from many parts of the Union come to us to show that the Master is leading the way before us and souls are being led to the light of the truth for this time.

We thank the Lord for all His blessings to us and admonish God's people to unite in constant prayer and steady effort to make this year, 1909, the banner year for the work in this destitute Southland.

W. A. WESTWORTH

C. E. Sutton of Aiken S. C. reports that many of the poor are hungry for the truth and where they are too poor to buy our books, he will supply them with the Gospel Sentinel when making his delivery:

"Objectionable traits of character, whether hereditary or cultivated, should be taken up separately, and compared with the great rule of righteousness; and in the light reflected from the word of God, they should be firmly resisted and overcome, through the strength of Christ."

—Mrs. E. G. White in *C. E.*

FIELD TIDINGS

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M. B. Van Kirk, Editor
Mrs. Mettie S. Lenker, Assistant Editor

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

W. A. Westworth Mrs. Helen, D. Dowsett
V. O. Cole L. A. Hansen

That Colored Orphanage

This is a subject that has come up repeatedly on our Oakwood school board and Union conference committees. Its importance has led to its repeated consideration, but various things have stood in the way of definite action until very recently. It is certainly good that we are finally at a place where something tangible can now be done.

The question is now presented to our people as a whole. The spirit of the Lord has spoken very decidedly about the work. The conditions of need have made most urgent appeals. Committee and board men, and those having the direction of the work, have struggled with the problem into the night hours. Now, everybody can lift.

The practicability of the enterprise presents itself in a material form when viewed from the standpoint of those associated with the conduct of the work at Huntsville. Although it means more burden and perplexity to these, yet the situation in connection with the Oakwood school is such as to make it very evident that an orphanage for the colored people is an imperative need, that in connection with the Oakwood school farm is the consistent location and that in connection with the school work—the successful operation of the Oakwood school is very much assured—and that in turn, in various ways, the orphanage work can be a blessing to the colored work already established at Huntsville.

The strongest committee that was possible was appointed to consider this enterprise. Mature deliberation has been given to it. Practical plans have been laid. Orphans are waiting to be cared for. The time is at hand to begin the enterprise. Now let's help.

L. A. HANSEN.

Tabernacle Training School for colored workers

Seeing the need of trained colored laborers for active field work, we have decided to conduct a Laborers Training School, in connection with our 20 Century Gospel Campaign in the state of South Carolina during the present year. We are in position to take individuals who are aspiring to become workers in the south, into the Tabernacle Training School giving four months of practical field work. The training which will fit one for service in the SOUTHERN FIELD. The instruction will be given in such lines of work which will enable the laborer to meet the conditions in this peculiar field. The instruction will be given in the following branches:—

Canvassing, How to distribute our denominational literature, How to give Bible Readings, How to labor for those in

large cities, How to care for tent and ground, Public Speaking, taking notes. Sacred Music-Anthems and Gospel songs, How to manage tent campaigns, How to finance a tent effort, How to bind off the work after an effort has been made. The class in the above named will be daily. We desire those who wish to secure a field experience, to write for other details. No one need to write who does not intend to become a worker in some branch of the message. Tuition free; Board \$4.00 per month with lodging free. If an individual is industrious board can be made by handling our literature during the campaign, there by gaining the four month's experience free. Write at once before too many applicants are received. The campaign begins at SUMMER, S. C., June 15—

SYDNEY SCOTT.

901 Green Ave., Greenville, S. C.

The Annual Offering for Orphans

The peculiar position in which Seventh-day Adventist find themselves because of their faith, oft times cut off from friends and relatives; oft times because of their desire to spread the message, removed many miles from their old homes; often reduced in the material necessities of life; because of their sacrifices for the Truth which God has given us to carry to the World; these considerations force upon us in a special way the admonition which James gives us in his survey of "pure religion and undefiled before God".

When therefore we are confronted with the call for an offering for our aged and orphans, what a privilege to respond that the worn and aged pilgrims, together with the motherless lambs be made the special token of our love and care.

We have faith in our brethren and sisters whose past record shows such a love for the work of God, and believe that there will be a large response to the offering called for on next Sabbath April 3.

An item of great interest to the Southeastern Union conference is the hearty response which the General conference has made in the effort to help us with the orphanage at Huntsville. As the readers of the TIDINGS know the Huntsville school, while located in the Alabama conference is conjointly owned by the Southern and Southeastern Union conferences and therefore any help given for this enterprise is a direct aid to the great needs of our field. The General Conference has sent out a call inviting the various Unions throughout the country to donate one-fourth of this Offering for Orphans to the orphanage for colored children now being established in connection with the Oakwood school. In our own Union because the institution is our own and because we shall reap the greater benefit therefrom we have asked our conferences to donate one-third to this object and thus far the replies that have come, all favor this distribution of the funds. Thus we hope to be able to soon see this most needy enterprise established and in good running order.

Let us lift brethren and sisters, one and all. If you cannot attend the services for any reason, let each one feel the responsibility of sending his offering, small though it may be, to the church treasurer. The isolated ones can remit to conference treasurers and by every one doing his part we believe that the blessing of our God will follow, and we shall soon see facilities established that will meet the long felt need

W. A. WESTWORTH.