

SEVENTH ANNUAL ADDRESS

TO THE

Mount Bethel Baptist Association

DELIVERED BY



REV. JUNIUS GRAY, D. D.

MODERATOR

PASTOR PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH

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KING GEORGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

August 28, 1940

Fellow members of the Mount Bethel Baptist Association and its Auxiliaries, I have the honor to deliver my seventh annual address. I first served this body as its Corresponding Secretary for twenty-five years. Now I desire to inform you of our accomplishments during the past year and of our plans for the ensuing year.

I have always felt it an honor as well as a privilege to serve. We hope our coming will be but the making of a greater sacrifice for the objects of this, our association, that will some day produce larger beneficial returns to the Kingdom of Christ.

It was in 1917, when we met with Little Ark Baptist Church, Rev. W. E. Porter, Pastor, at which time, the report of the auxiliaries were as follows:

Women's Auxiliary—\$50.00, Miss Lula Richardson, Pres.

B. Y. P. U.—\$10.00, Mr. B. A. Judkins, Pres.

Sunday School—\$30.00, Emit Preston, Pres.

This was twenty-three years ago.

We met with the Little Ark Baptist Church, at which time the reports were as follows:

Women's Auxiliary—\$550.00, Mrs. Richardson, Pres.

Sunday School—\$125.00, Mr. Emit, Pres.

B. Y. P. U.—\$50.00

Rev. A. Lewis was the Pastor at this time.

Since the annual meeting of the Association in 1939, the board has held its quarterly meetings to the best of their ability, the members of the board looked out for the unfinished business of the Association and were in full accord as to the program to be carried out. You will learn from the report of the Board just what has been done.

Every Baptist Church is a dynasty in itself and the Pastor is the king. We have no presiding elders, no bishops, no oligarchies to dictate to us in our deliberation. Over the door of every Baptist Church is emblazed in gilded letters, "No trespassing except upon the consent of the pastor and members," hence we cannot levy any assessments upon the churches beyond the annual membership fee of \$5.00. But we prayerfully ask this year every Baptist church to contribute according to its numerical strength in order that the Trustees may meet the obligations of the Association.

FRATERNAL VISITS: The Moderator has visited other associations and conventions in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. He has made two or three trips during the year to the Old Folks

Home. Twice accompanied with the Trustees and once alone. We are hoping that every member of the association will visit the Old Folks Home before returning.

There is no organization in this country whose name means as much to them as the Mount Bethel Association name means to us. The name Mount Bethel Association is a historic name and the territory that it embraces, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Virginia is a historic territory.

The name Mount Bethel is an inspiring name as many of the greatest events in the Bible occurred on the mountain. Moses went up to Mount Sinai to receive the ten commandment. On Mount Nebo he saw the Promised Land from afar.

Jesus went up into a mountain to fast and pray for forty days to be thrice tempted by Satan and to thrice triumph over the Arch Enemy of Mankind. Jesus, with Peter, James and John, went to the Mount of Transfiguration, where the spirits of Moses and Elias appeared and three dispensations were represented.

And, then, in the final crisis of His career, when He was about to pass through the vale of sorrow with soldiers pressing the crown of thorns on His brow and a purple robe around Him, with trembling steps, bearing a heavy cross up Calvary, with mobs mocking, jeering at Him and rebuking him as He hung between two thieves, suspended from a cross with blood streaming through the nails which were ruthlessly driven through His feet and hands, with His body suffering untold agonies and racked with pain it was to the Mount of Olives that He went and knelt in prayer to draw strength from His communion with His Heavenly Father.

Now, my friends of the Mount Bethel Baptist Association, may I say great Biblical events have had as their background, mountains where one can get a wide view of the surrounding territory.

As the word, Baptist, carries us back to the days of John the Baptist, who was clothed with camel hair and ate locusts and wild honey, who cried out "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed baptize you with water; but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost."

The word Baptist carries us back to that scene described by St. Mark who said, "And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized of John in Jordan, and straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened,

and the spirit like a dove descending upon Him, and there came a voice from heaven, saying, "Thou art My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

And the name Association means that the churches forming the parent body with its three auxiliaries, the Baptist Young People's Union, the Sunday School Convention and the Women's Auxiliary, will join themselves together not to inaugurate a series of joy rides and jazz parties, but to unfurl the banners of Jesus of Nazareth before the morning breeze and to march from victory to victory, redeeming the world from sin and shame, with the triple declaration, "One Lord, one faith, and one Baptism."

It is pleasing to know that our territory embraces Maryland, the home of Benjamin Banneker, our first mathematician, the publisher of an almanac, the inventor of the first clock that told time in America and the surveyor of the District of Columbia; Maryland, the home of the immortal Frederick Douglass, who rose from the depth of slavery to the pinnacle of honor and fame. It embraces the District of Columbia, the seat of the greatest republic known to mankind.

Our territory also embraces Virginia, the mother of the presidents; Virginia whence sprang Patrick Henry, the Revolutionary orator; Thomas Jefferson, the writer of the Declaration of Independence; George Washington, the Commander of the Colonial Army and the first president of the United States; John Marshall, the legal genius, who interpreted the Constitution and handed down legal decisions, which have served as precedents. Virginia, too, is the place where John Jasper first preached his famous "Sun Do Move" sermon. Virginia, too, is the place where Lott Carey started out for his missionary work in Africa.

With a name conjuring up historical Biblical scenes, and a territory that has witnessed historical modern scenes, we have tidal waves of a mighty inspiration behind us and a glorious field of opportunity before us.

HOME MISSION

With a teeming millions in Africa to be saved we should loyally cooperate with Dr. Randolph, the man with a vision who is the progressive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, of the Lott Carey Convention, in redeeming the heathens and Dr. Jackson of the National Baptist Convention. They have a number of missionaries who have forsaken their home and faced unclimatic conditions in Africa, and laid their lives on the altar in order that two hundred and fifty thousands of heathens who kneeled before idols of wood and stone

should forsake the worship of idols and bow down to the lowly nazarene.

Now if they risk their health, and their lives we at least ought to risk our dollars. The call is to go out and preach the gospel and call sinners to repentance.

Our Association should touch every phase and aspect of Home and Foreign Mission work. Rev. B. H. Whiting has always represented our foreign Mission Board in this association and whenever the call is made every Baptist in the Association should say here am I, send me. Our Home Mission Board has been represented by Rev. Leon Wormley for the past years. He has done very fine work in the past and we are hoping for him a great success.

OUR SCHOOLS OF EDUCATION

We should support all of our schools, Northern University, whose president is that wonderful educator, Professor Winston, who is a loyal member of our Association. The Washington Seminary whose president is Rev. J. L. S. Holloman. This school has given us some of the most stalwart men whom we need never be ashamed. These men have taught other men to think, they knew when men think right, civilization moves on.

It was thinking men that harnessed the wind and made it propel our boats; who released steam and made it drive our engine. It was thinking men that pulled lightning from its burning scabbard in the sky brought it down to serve mankind and made it subservient to our will. It was thinking men that invented the aeroplanes which can out speed eagles in their swiftest flight.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

In my travels over the country I found that there is a loss of old time fire in so many of our churches. Worldliness is creeping into the churches at the present day. So many things are being done in our churches which are demoralizing and are dampening the ardor of the church and are bringing our sacred institutions into disrepute.

In a great many communities the churches are unable to have a decent prayer meeting, seemingly thinking that they have outgrown the need for prayer. But our battles are not yet fought; our victories not yet won. Racial prejudice like a black-mail is spreading over the country. Political enfranchisement, congress and presidents will not do all that we want done. God must take hand.

If we expect God to fight our battles, we must pray now as we have never prayed before. When Israel prayed, God heard their prayers. He came down to the mountains and set a bush on fire. He told Moses I've heard the prayers of my people and have come down to deliver them. We need to be delivered too.

EDUCATION

For the past two years our educational board has been represented by the Rev. J. P. Nicholas. We are looking forward to his report to-day.

This Association has been blessed with some of the strongest outstanding ministers in the United States of America, and some of the largest church buildings in the country. It goes without saying that the men of this Association are equal to any task and masters of any situation.

Mrs. John Robinson, President of the B. Y. P. U. Auxiliary, Bro. W. P. Watkins, President of the Sunday School Auxiliary, Miss Frances Nelson, President of the Women's Auxiliary all have been doing all in their power to aid the work of the Mount Bethel Baptist Association. I believe they have all done what they could do under the circumstances. Notwithstanding, there are quite a number of Pastors, members of the Association and members of the Board who have not as yet seen the necessity of giving their auxiliaries to be a part of the Mount Bethel Association.

SOME OF THE INTERESTING HAPPENINGS DURING THE YEAR 1940

The Psalmist Baptist Church: The interior was destroyed by fire February 22nd and an appeal was made to Washington ministers and they responded in a very complimentary way. They sent all told from Washington \$52.23.

Baltimore ministers and friends contributed \$235.36. Georgia \$1.00. Richmond \$5.00. Tennessee \$5.00. Chicago \$2.50. Newark, New Jersey \$5.00. Total \$18.50.

We might mention that Rev. W. J. Winston, president of the Northern University, Pastor of the Walem Baptist Church for thirty years, has been called to the New Metropolitan Baptist Church, McCulloh and Mosher Streets. We believe that this is a Providential call and feel sure that Professor Winston will not go wrong in accepting the call. We pray God's blessing and pledge our cooperation to Dr. Winston.

Dr. W. H. Gernagin, chairman of the Trustee Board of the Old Folks Home has not left any screws unturned during the year. He has succeeded in securing a thousand dollars to do the necessary repairs at this Home.

He, with his board, was successful after more than ten years to get this property leased out for four years at four hundred dollars a year. Dr. Gernagin was determined, with the cooperation of the

Trustees, that this property would be an asset rather than a liability. Therefore, we are appealing to every pastor of this Association to donate \$5.00 that the trustees may be able to meet their obligations.

Another year the income from the Home will be sufficient to take care of all of the expenses. The tenants in the Home have done and are doing everything in their power to beautify and make this place one of the finest resorts on the Potomac River.

It was very pleasing to the Moderator to be present in Philadelphia on July 29th at the First Union of Ministers held at the Much More Baptist Church, 18th and Montgomery Avenue. It was a great meeting.

The Mount Bethel Baptist Preachers from Baltimore and Washington were there to give their endorsement and cooperation. Brethren, the outlook for a greater day is not far hence.

Where as the Trustees find that there are three rooms available at the Old Folks Home, be it resolved that the Sunday School Auxiliary, B. Y. P. U. Auxiliary, and the Women's Auxiliary will go on record and take the responsibility of furnishing these rooms. Each Auxiliary may decide what room it will furnish.

Be it further resolved that if any members of the Association who have furniture that is not in use and can be used will contribute whatever they have to one of these Auxiliaries.



THIS IS A PARTIAL REPORT OF MEETING PLACES
OF THE ASSOCIATION

Year	Church	Place	Pastors—Revs
1901	Vermont Ave.....	Washington, D. C.....	George Lee
1903	Enon	Baltimore, Md.....	Jones Watkins
1907	Met in Virginia	Virginia	
1908	Enon	Baltimore, Md.....	Jones, Watkins
1912	Cosmopolitan	Washington, D. C.....	S. P. W. Drew
1913	Fulton	Baltimore, Md.....	Samuel Ward
1914	Jerusalem	Washington, D. C.....	George Harris
1915	Mt. Olive	Towson, Md.....	D. R. Powell
1916	First	S.W. Washington, D. C.....	Rev. Robinson
1917	Little Ark.....	Virginia.....	Rev. Poter
1918	Mt. Carmel	Washington, D. C.....	W. H. Jernagin
1919	Fulton	Baltimore, Md.....	Samuel Ward
1920	Zion	Arlington, Va.....	J. E. Green
1921	Rehoboth	Washington, D. C.....	John Richards
1922	Fulton	Baltimore, Md.....	Samuel Ward
1923	A'exander Memorial	Wash., D. C.....	F. R. Frazier
1924	Little Ark	Virginia.....	August Lewis
1925	Metropolitan	Washington, D. C. M. W. D.	Norman
1926	Shiloh	Baltimore, Md.....	W. W. Allen
1927	Friendship	Washington, D. C.....	A. Wilbanks
1928	Metropolitan.....	Washington, D. C. ..M. W. D.	Norman
1929	Gethsemane	Washington, D. C.....	J. T. Harvey
1930	Mt. Airy	Washington, D. C.....	A. Taylor
1931	Mt. Zion	Arlington, Va.....	J. E. Green
1932	Tenth Street	Washington, D. C.....	A. Wilbanks
1933	Fulton	Baltimore, Md.....	B. F. Jackson
1934	Jerusalem	Washington, D. C.....	August Lewis
1935	Shiloh	Baltimore, Md.....	W. W. Allen
1936	Mt. Horeb	Washington, D. C.....	C. H. Fox
1937	Metropolitan	Washington, D. C.....	E. C. Smith
1938	Shiloh	Baltimore, Md.....	W. W. Allen
1939	First	S.W. Washington, D. C.....	R. P. Gainey
1940	St. Steven.....	King George County, Va.....	Rev. Watts

THESE ARE SOME OF THE SIGN POSTS
OF THE MT. BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Rev. S. J. Lampkins	Rev. K. W. Roy	Rev. J. S. Brooks
Rev. D. Washington	Rev. G. W. Brent	Rev. W. J. Winston
Rev. W. A. Jores	Rev. W. H. Jernagin	Rev. E. T. Broadus
Rev. G. Hunter	Rev. C. H. Fox	Rev. B. H. Whiting
Rev. J. E. Green	Rev. M. Bushrood	Rev. L. R. Frazier
	Rev. J. T. Harvey	

Rev. Junius Gray	Moderator
Rev. R. Anderson	Vice Moderator
Rev. George Carter	Second Vice Moderator
Rev. B. F. Jackson	Third Vice Moderator
Rev. A. Lewis	Executive Secretary
Rev. J. E. Green	Chairman, Finance Committee
Mr. Wm. P. Watkins	President, Sunday School Convention
Mrs. John Robinson	President, B. Y. P. U.
Miss Frances Nelson	President, Women's Auxiliary
Rev. B. H. Whiting	Chairman, Foreign Mission Board
Rev. Leon Wormley	Chairman, Home Mission Board
Educational Board	Rev. J. P. Nicholas, Chairman
	J. L. Henry, Corresponding Secretary
	Bro. H. I. Smith, Recording Secretary
	Bro. J. S. Brooks, Treasurer

