

THE CHURCH

A DOCTRINAL SERMON PREACHED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION AT STEELTON, PA.

JUNE 5TH, 1924

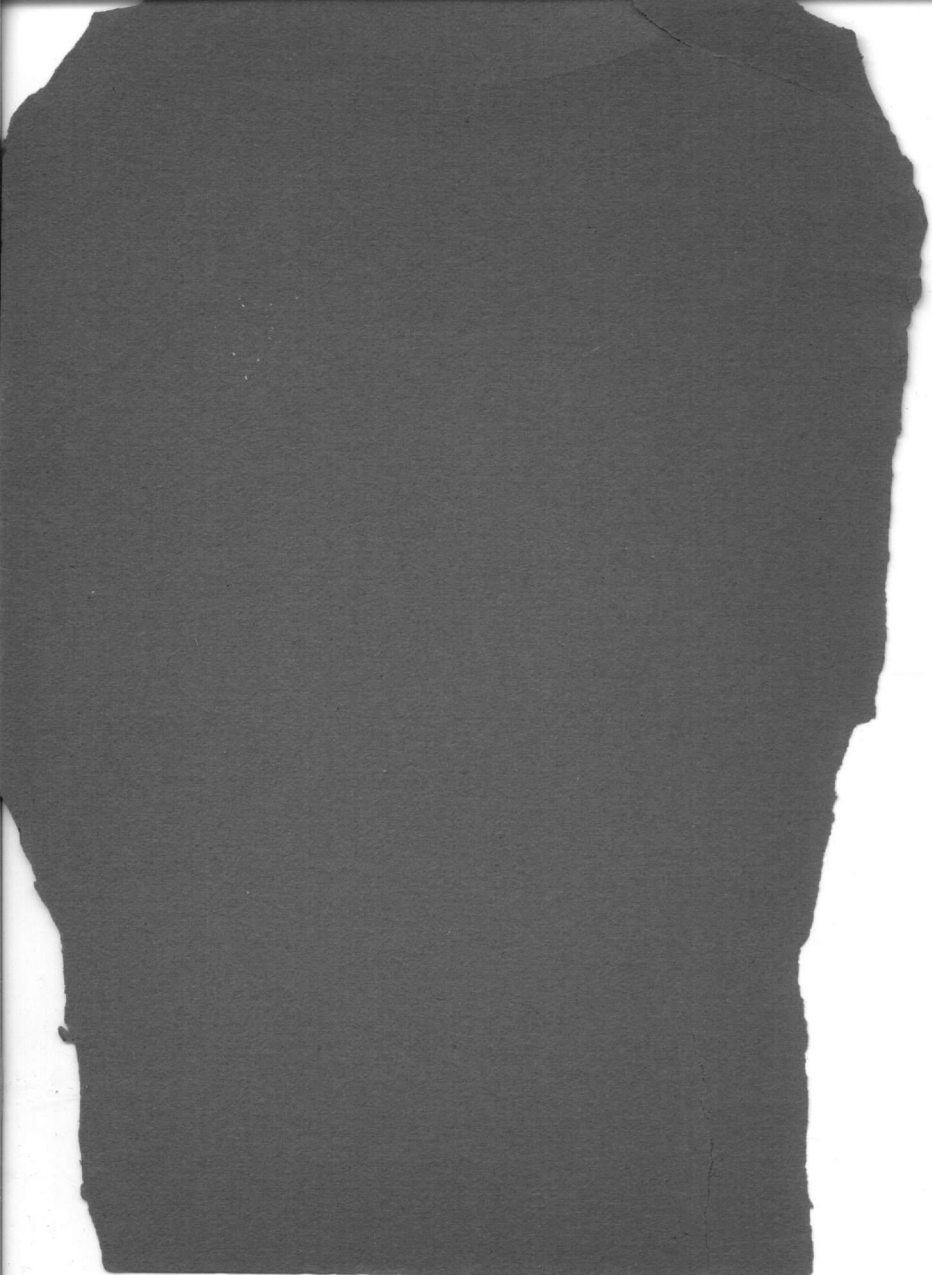
—BY—

REV. G. MCA. SULLIVAN
PASTOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MORTON, PENNA.

*A motion offered by Rev. W. B. Brown, D. D., LL. D.
of Pittsburgh, Pa., prevailed that this sermon be put in
pamphlet form and distributed among the churches.*

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THE SULLIVAN PRINTING CONCERN, MORTON, PA.



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Mills, Edwin Earl

~~Consecration~~
Consecration of the Rev. Edwin Earl
Mills, as Bishop, of the Missionary District of the
Virgin Islands, at Saint James Church,
Balto., Md., April 19, 1963.

14 p.

B Mills, Cedric Earl
1 Mills, Cedric Earl

Consecration of the Rev. Cedric Earl Mills, as
Bishop of the Nunomony District of the Virgians-
lands, at Saint James Church, Ballo. Md. April
19, 1963.

14 p.

K. Church History of Clark Chapel,
Alexandria, Va ?

Church Program 1944

Mr. Koye

HISTORY OF THE PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH AND ITS PASTOR

The church was organized June 14, 1899. Rev. Gray is six months older than the church in ministerial duties.

Rev. Junius Gray, son of the late Thomas and Sarah Gray, was born in Manchester (which is known as South Richmond, Chesterfield Co., Va.), December 16, 1872. He began working in P. H. Mayo's tobacco factory, Seventh and Carey Streets, Richmond, Va., in 1879, and worked there until 1886 when he accepted a job in a brick yard. In 1887 he went to work in the rolling mills and at the cooper's trade.

In 1888, under the preaching of the late Rev. A. Binga, D.D., pastor of the First Baptist Church, Manchester, Va., he confessed faith in Christ and was baptized in the James River, at the Mayor's Bridge, the third Sunday in June of the same year by the late Rev. Russell, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Manchester, Va. Six months after he was baptized he was ordained as a deacon of the above named church.

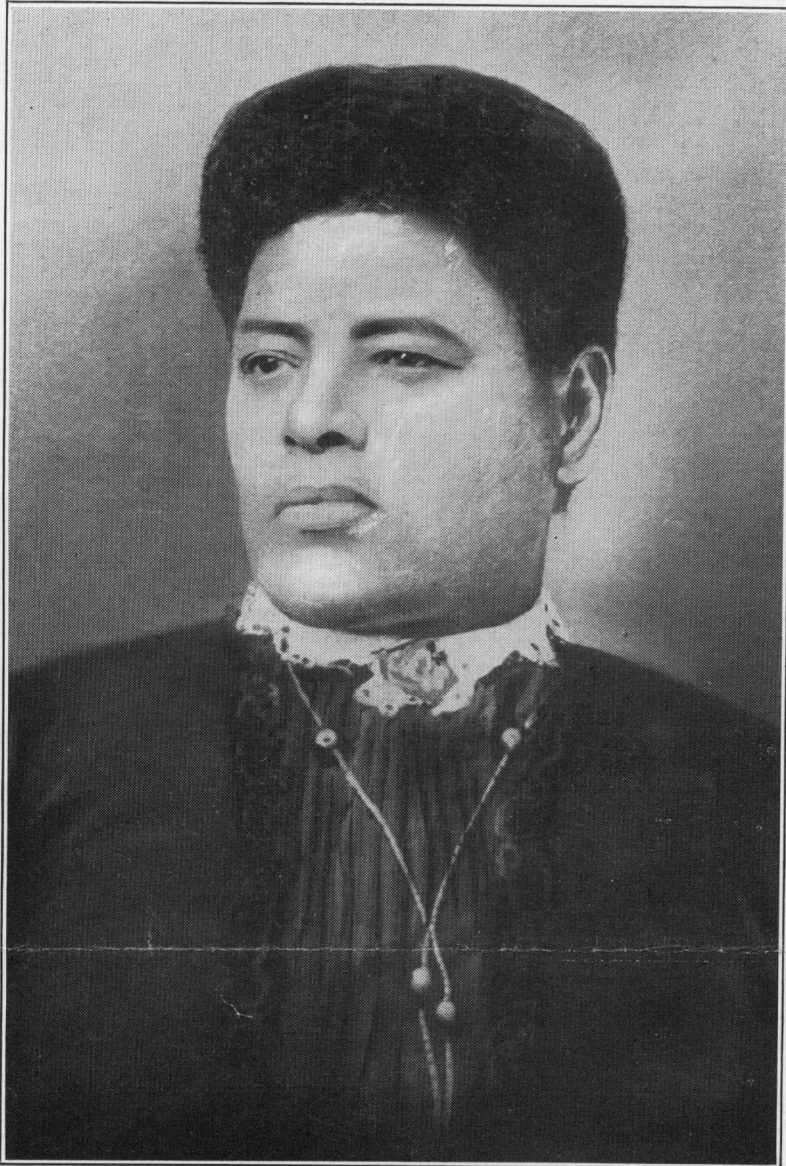
In 1890 he was married to the late Miss Martha Venable, of Cumberland County, Virginia, by the late Rev. Richard Graham. In 1893 he came to Baltimore, Md., and worked on railroads and for contractors until 1899 when he realized that he was called to preach the gospel, and was licensed to preach by the late Rev. Allen Carter, pastor of the Salem Baptist Church, which church he had joined upon coming to Baltimore, Md., located in the 1100 block Vincent Alley. This church came out of the Sharon Baptist Church, of which the late Rev. W. M. Alexander, D.D., was the pastor at that time. After the death of Rev. Carter, he joined the Social Baptist Church, of which the late Rev. C. A. Belt, D.D., was pastor, located on Montgomery Street and Plum Alley. This church came out of the Leadenhall Baptist Church, Rev. A. Brown, D.D., was the pastor, and in the same year Rev. Gray was ordained to the work of a gospel ministry by the late Rev. C. A. Belt, D.D., Rev. C. C. Wainwright, Rev. Joseph Reason and the Rev. Newman.

In 1899 he organized what was known as the R. I. F. B. Church in Russells Terrace 1015, and remained there until 1900, in the basement of a two-story house. This church was started by the following persons: James Lewis, Lucy Stovall, Ida Johnson and the late Robert Hickman.

In 1901 we removed into a two-story house, 1101 Parrish Alley, and remodeled this house. In 1902 we bought the adjoining property, 1103, and built a church house at a cost of \$5,000.00. In 1904 this building was damaged by fire, and we had to move to the 800 block Woodyear Street and worship with the late Rev. John Thomas; then, after four weeks we returned back to our church house in Parrish Alley, which had been repaired.

When Rev. Gray realized that this name did not represent the regular Baptist Church, he set to work to have the name changed, and this was done, the said name being changed to the Psalmist Baptist Church. After which full recognition was given by the Baptist churches, some of which are Sharon Baptist Church, Leadenhall, Perkins Square, First, Macedonia, Fountain and Faith Baptist Churches—and pastors: Revs. Alexander, Brown, Mack, Williams, Lane, Waller, Wormley and Neal. This was after the death of his first wife, Martha Venable, in 1908.

In 1908, Rev. Junius Gray was married to Miss Fannie W. Robinson, the daughter of the late John and Mahalia Robinson, of Lancaster County, Virginia, on March 18, by the late Rev. W. M. Alexander, D.D., pastor of Sharon Baptist Church. At this time the Psalmist Baptist Church moved on nicely for about six months, after which there arose some dissatisfied members, and the following made applications for their letters, and to keep the church from splitting the following members were granted their letters to unite with some other Baptist Church on the same faith and order.



THE LATE SARAH GRAY
MOTHER OF
REV. JUNIUS GRAY



MRS. MATILDA OWENS
MOTHER OF
MRS. FANNIE OWENS
GRAY

BROTHERS

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Morris Burke | Joseph Minor | Isaac Braxton |
| Robert Brown | George Parsley | John Ferrenlo |
| John Hallerberton | Dennis Gross | |

SISTERS

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Jannie Johnson | Emma Hallerberton | Mary Scott |
| Ella Herndon | Sarah Burrell | Bertie Minor |
| Mary Brown | Mamie Pack | Hattie Johnson |
| Lizzi Young | Minnie Marshall | Gertrude Snowden |
| Lula Green | Martha Braxton | Lillie Ferrenlo |
| Margaret Selmon | Henrietta Butler | |
| Emma Walker | Eliza Carsby | |

Nineteen of the twenty-seven joined the Sharon Baptist Church. The same year, 1908, August 21st, a notice was put on the church door from the Sheriff's office, forbidding us to enter even to sing, pray or preach on Sunday, which was August 22, 1908, so we served God on this date with the Rev. A. Young, pastor of the Israel Baptist Church, 1400 block Bruce Street, at 11:00 A. M., and at night we praised God at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Calhoun Street near Mosher Street, Rev. Lloyd Reed, D.D., pastor.

After this smoke had blown away we started a meeting and the results were 89 converts, and 78 of these were baptized and added to our church. We moved on until 1911, when we bought two houses on Riggs Avenue, 1308 and 1310, at a cost of ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars, and in 1922 we remodeled this building at a cost of \$3,700.00. Since that time many have been added to our church.

December 30, 1928, there was a demand made upon the church, and a threat to foreclose. The pastor informed the members of the condition and that we had to raise \$250.00 to save the church. Never in the history of the church did the members respond to the call of the pastor as they did in this instance. The following made loans:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| William Hammond\$25.00 | Lessie Washington 5.00 |
| Ernest Summers 16.00 | Edna Dyer 10.00 |
| Paul Bunday 10.00 | Mary Smith 10.00 |
| Rev. J. Gray 25.00 | Nanny Campbell 10.00 |
| Matthew Veeney 25.00 | Addie Bates 2.00 |
| Celia Carroll 5.00 | Fanny Smallwood 2.00 |
| Jane Shields 2.00 | Mary Williams 5.00 |
| Malisa Ingram 5.00 | Mary Carter 5.00 |
| Lena Forgett 5.00 | Martha Epps 2.00 |
| Ernest Harvey 10.00 | Fred Jones 5.00 |
| Chester Ealey 10.00 | Louisa Nelson 5.00 |
| Mary Peck 8.00 | James Lewis 10.00 |
| Armstead Gatewood 10.00 | Rosa Lewis 5.00 |
| Rev. J. Smith 10.00 | Cornelius Lewis 5.00 |
| Dr. Burnett Hatchett.... 10.00 | Minnie Russel 2.00 |
| Cora Booze 1.00 | Anna Macklin 2.00 |
| Albert Holmes 5.00 | Gertrude Tolbert 2.00 |
| Katie Griffin 5.00 | Ruth Nelson 2.00 |
| | Benjamin Johnson 10.00 |

SOME OF THE WORTHWHILE THINGS DONE BY REV. GRAY FOR THE RACE AND FOR HIMSELF

In 1915 he organized the first prayer meeting in the Workshop for the Blind, then located at Fayette and Paca Streets, and many of the blind inmates confessed faith in Christ and united with different churches.

In 1915 he was appointed as chairman in the Evangelistic Campaign of the Southern Baptist Convention, when more than eleven (1100) hundred confessions of faith in Christ were made and many were united with the Baptist Churches in this city.

In 1922 he was called to the pastorate of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 32nd and Barclay Streets, at which time the congregation

was divided and the church doors closed, but he succeeded in straightening out the affairs of the church, and there he pastored for two years.

Rev. Gray was chairman of the Executive Board of the Cooperative Convention for more than two years. President of the Colored Baptist State Convention for two years. President of the Colored Missionary Convention two years, and president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference for three years.

When there were no Negro nurses in our colored schools, Rev. Gray and his congregation gave the first one hundred (\$100.00) dollars towards paying their salaries.

In 1924 he was appointed by the chairman of the Cooperative Baptist Board, Rev. Beale Elliott, to raise funds for conventional purposes, and he secured the Lyric for this occasion at a cost of \$100.00 an hour for two hours, and after paying all of the expenses, he turned over to the board \$1,681.72.

In 1925 he was appointed chairman of the committee entertaining the National Baptist Convention, held for the first time in Baltimore, and how well this was done the people of this city, both white and colored, can tell as well as I can.

Dr. Gray has been a member of the National Baptist Convention for twenty-five years, and has missed only three sessions.

He has been the corresponding secretary of the Mt. Bethel Baptist Association for twenty years, and a member of that body for twenty-five years.

He has been a member of the St. Luke Executive Board for fourteen years, and has missed only two meetings. He was the first preacher to own and operate an automobile in the city of Baltimore.

He was the first preacher to be appointed to preach from this State the the National Baptist Convention in 1928, at Louisville, Ky., for which he thanks his many friends for making this possible.

From 1913 to 1919 Rev. Gray published a church magazine, and also ran the "Maryland Voice News," a Baptist organ, for two years. For four years he operated an up-to-date job printing plant.

During the World War, Governor Harrington, the "War Governor" of Maryland, appointed Rev. Gray a member of the Colored Division of the Maryland Council for Defense, and upon its organization, with Dr. Ernest Lyon as president, he was unanimously chosen as chairman of the executive committee, and to this committee was referred many of the most important items of the Council, chief of which was the raising of funds for special purposes. For the first time in the history fo Maryland the Fifth Regiment Armory was secured for colored people. He was authorized to raise funds for the entertainment of the returning soldiers from the battlefields of France, and in eleven days Rev. Gray, with his committee, raised \$1,771.00 for this affair and fed twelve hundred soldiers.

The regiment was met at Newport News, on Sunday morning, March 23, 1919, at 9 A. M., and escorted to Baltimore, where the populace gave them a royal reception under the supervision of the Council of the Defense.

He was one of the committee appointed by former Governor Goldsborough, now United States Senator, to supervise the selling of Liberty Bonds and War Stamps, of which the colored people of the State purchased \$1,000,000 worth of bonds, \$20,000 worth of war stamps, and contributed to the Red Cross drive \$10,000.

Rev. Gray was one of a committee appointed by Governor Goldsborough to represent the colored citizens at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1913, which was the celebrated emancipation of the fiftieth anniversary of the freedom of the Negro.

He was a member of a committee of five who assisted in breaking the ground, and subsequently in laying the cornerstone of the new Douglass High School; he held the pick until His Honor William F. Broening was ready to break the ground and he then passed the instrument to His Honor.

Rev. Dr. Gray has been foremost in public and civic interest in the city of Baltimore, and especially in those Anti-Negro movements, disfranchisement, segregation, jimcrowism, etc.