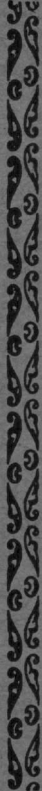
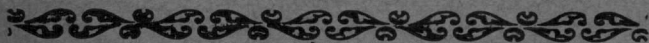


In His Service

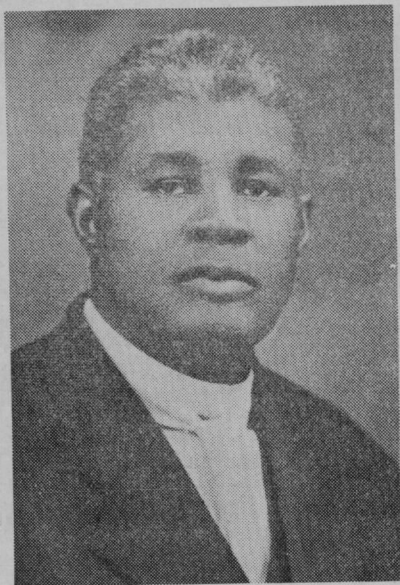


THE LIFE, CALL AND
WORK IN THE
MINISTRY
OF

Rev. J. B. Boddie

A SHORT SKETCH

THE A. B. KOGER, COLLECTION



— Rev. J. B. Boddie —

FOREWORD

I was born in Nash County, North Carolina, Nov. 18th 1872, of slave parents. My mother died April, 1881. Attended the public schools some time till 1890, when I was sent to Franklin, Alburn Academy — 1890, 1891 and 1892. I came North, Princeton, N.J. and joined then what was known as the Bright Hope Baptist Church.

I was married to Miss Martha Branch Aug. 16th 1893, made our home in Princeton, N.J. from 1892 till April 1897; when we moved to Philadelphia, Pa. staying at 1809 Montrose St.

"MY CALL AND EARLY WORK IN THE MINISTRY"

I was converted Aug. 6th 1886; baptized the 3rd Sunday in Oct. 1886 with the St. Hope Baptist Church, Nash County, N.C. by Rev. Gilbert Stamper. I was called to the work of the Gospel Ministry at Sharon Hill, Pa. while at work on an ice plant, owned by E. L. James and Son; on July 27th 1897. I was then in my 25th year. I heard a voice singing through me that morning: "All, Yes, I Give to Jesus"; It Belongs to Him; all my life I'll give to Jesus, it belongs to Him. All I have I owe to Jesus, it belongs to Him, yes all I am I'll give to Jesus it belongs to Him." Then the Spirit of the Lord said to me, "I want you to preach the Gospel" then I said out of my weakness, "Lord I am an ignorant man, and don't know what to say". I want you to preach one Lord, exercise one Faith and indorse only one Baptism, the Lord said to me;

My wife, Mrs. Martha B. Boddie, dreamt at the same time in her bed where she was sleeping that morning, 1809 Montrose St., Phila., that I was called to preach. She passed on to her reward Jan. 26th 1903, in Scranton, Pa. When we made our call known to her by my own words she could tell me all about it, which was a surprise and yet very encouraging. Later on I told Rev. J. L. Barksdale, then pastor of the Union Baptist Church, Phila., Pa. He told me to write my Church in Princeton, N.J. which I did, and was told to come over and preach my trial sermon, which I did on the 24th day of Dec. 1897, Rev. J. W. Jeffries was the pastor. He resigned and left before I got my license. After they called a pastor I was asked to come back to Princeton, N.J. and preach the second time under the service of their new pastor, which was the late Rev. S. W. Smith, which I did. In the meantime my letter arrived from Princeton, N.J. and was placed in the Union Baptist Church, Phila. Dr. J. L. Barksdale pastor. This was in the spring of 1898. In July of the same year I preached my third trial sermon in the Union Baptist Church, Phila., Dr. Barksdale pastor; from these friends I got my license to preach, notwithstanding I had already preached at two different times. The first time I attempted to preach was in the Macedonia Baptist Church, Phila. 72nd Street and Woodland Ave. Rev. J. W. Wells, pastor. My first text in Princeton, N.J. was taken from 1st Cor. 7-14. In the Union Baptist Church Phila., Gen. 17-1. I do not recall my second text in Princeton. After receiving my papers from the Union Baptist Church, I went down to 714 Lombard St. Phila. and began a Mission known as the Wayside Baptist Church, for this same organization is led by Dr. W. H. Brooks, 21st St. and Jefferson St. It was in this Mission where scores of men and women were

converted and baptized into the fellowship of the Union Baptist Church by Dr. Barksdale. I served faithfully in this Mission over three years. Some of the friends who assisted at that time who are still active in christian service, Rev. T. R. Redd of Newark, N.J., Rev. W. H. Brooks of Phila., Rev. J. W. Saunders of New York City, Rev A. Lane of Va. These were my Deacons and helpers with many others who have passed to their reward.

During the summer of 1901, I received my letter from the Union Baptist Church, and sent it back to my home church, the St. Hope Baptist Church Nash County, N.C. where a council was called for my ordination Sept. 4th 1901. Nash County, N.C. Rev. S. Arrington was pastor and he had the Council called, assisted by my Brother Rev. F. D. Boddie, thus on the above date I was publicly set apart to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. This was two days before McKinley was shot; returning to Philadelphia, I wrote to two vacant churches; one at Paulsboro, N. J., the other at Scranton, Pa. of the two I received a letter from Scranton asking me to come and serve one Sunday; I consented, and went on the second Sunday in Oct. (13th) 1901. On arriving, I found much to discourage one who had just strated out. On this, the 13th day of Oct. I preached my first sermon from Matt. 17-4. "Lord it is good for us to be here". I married my first couple Thanksgiving Day 1901. The bride's name was Mary Gregory, I do not recall the name of the groom. I doubt if the then bride can readily recall his name, for when I saw her last (about 10 years ago) she had made several changes even from her first marriage and her first husband was still alive. I served my first Communion the first Sunday in Nov. 1901. Baptized my first candidate; his name was John Leffridges in Scranton Lake. April 1902, assisted in securing property for the Scranton Congregation; spring 1903 moved into the church house (then Universalist) Nov. 1903 which property cost \$4,500.00. I pastored in Scranton six years less one, with great success.

Some great honors came to us during our pastorate in Scranton. After the passing of my first wife (Jan. 1903) Feb. 15th 1905 I was married to Miss M. G. Smith a graduate of the Stroudsburg State Normal School. She came and took the children. Frances and Timothy and mothered them till both married and went out for themselves. I served as president of the Scranton Baptist Conference (white) for three months, 1904. Dec. 2nd 1906. I preached and served Communion in the First Baptist Church, Elmhurst, Pa., Dr. J. S. Wrightnour, Pastor. (White.) May 21st 1907 after preaching and serving the Bethesda Baptist Church for some time we were extended a call, which we accepted ere long installed as pastor Sept. 1907.

The late Dr. W. T. Dixon, W. M. Brown, G. Hunt with Drs. S. W. Times, H. A. Booker and others taking part in the installation service. We have baptized over 1,000 candidates, given the hand of fellowship to 4,000 persons; prayed for over 100 babies; married over 200 couples. Preached over 500 funerals, and made over 300 visits; and assisted in raising over \$250,000.00 with a Church property worth over \$75,000.00 clear of mortgage debt, with an enrollment membership of over 1,000. Large Sunday School, Supt. W. J. Brown for over 35 years; B.Y.P.U. Missionary Circle with Mrs. M. G. Boddie as president. Men and Women Usher Board, Mr. O. L. Dickerson and Mrs. Maggie Long in the lead. The Jr. and Sr. Choirs are led by Prof. and Mrs. M. Minton; Mrs. E. Lockett and E. Bartee leads the Emergency Choirs. Bethesda is proud of her prayer meeting each Wed. evening from 8.30 to 10.30. If you would enjoy a real spiritual feast attend these prayer meetings.

This Church and pastor is known far and near, for within the past twenty-five years he has preached in most of the large cities, assisted the pastors in their Churches. My first revival was held in Williamsport, Pa., Jan. 1906 Ebenezer Baptist Church, late Dr. C. D. Patterson Pastor. Then we were pastoring in Scranton. We assisted Dr. Patterson several times after he moved to Pittsburgh. Then Dr. W. W. Brown, W. W. Boone of Pittsburgh. From then till now we have gone from Boston to Atlanta, Ga. and from N.J. to Illinois, assisting and helping Churches. Hundreds, yea, thousands of souls brought into the Kingdom of God by telling the simple story of Jesus and His love to this old world. Among some of the subjects and texts used "The Crowd Out Doors" Luke 14-23; And the Lord said unto the servant, go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled". "Another Chance" Luke 22:31-32. "And the Lord said Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not, and when thou art converted strengthen the brethren". "The Low Down Crowd" 13:18. "He that believeth not is condemned already" "15 Waystations To Hell" 9th Psalm 17th verse "The wicked shall be turned into hell". "How To Get Along". 37th Psalms 3:5. "Trust in the Lord and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed, delight thyself in the Lord and He shall bring it to pass". The way of the righteous" 1st Psalms 6th verse "The Lord Knoweth the way of the righteous" "Jesus in the Midst" John 19:18 "There they crucified Him and two others with Him and Jesus In the Midst". "God's Job" 1 Cor. 6-1. "We then as workers together with Him" "Human Ignorance" John 4:10 "Jesus an-

swered and said unto her, If thou knowest the gift of God and who it is that saith to thee give me to drink thou wouldest ask of Him and he would have given thee living water". "The Best Wine" John 2:10 "Thou hast kept the good wine for the last" "Timely Advice" John 2:5 "His Mother saith unto the servants whatsoever He saith unto you do it". "Too Many Things" Luke 10:41. Martha, Martha thou art careful and troubled about many things, but Mary hath chosen that good part that shall never be taken from her. "Praying at midnight". Acts 16:25. At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises, and the prisoners heard them. Scores and hundreds of other subjects and texts used as we went from place to place preaching the best we could the word of God. Sept. 1930 I was asked to come from Hot Springs, Ark. and give the Eulogy over all of that which was mortal of Dr. W. W. Brown, who had served as a gospel preacher quite 40 years, having pastored from Drake Branch Va., High St. Roanoke, Va., Ebenezer Pittsburgh, Pa., closing his pastorate of 16 years with the Metropolitan Baptist Church N. Y. City, where he left one among the leading Churches in this country. His works truly follow him. December 1933 we served as preacher (by his request) at the funeral of the late Rev. J. R. Brown, D.D. who had pastored the Mt Zion Baptist Church, Newark, N.J. quite 29 years. He was used of the Lord in building a nice Church house and a loving congregation all to the Glory of God. July 1934 in the Holy Trinity Baptist Church we were called on again to serve as preacher for the funeral of Prophet Andrew Jones. He was called the seer of our race, he was a man of power, he was a man that loved God. These with scores of others we have served for in the same way, and we are still willing to serve till our time comes to close the book and enter into that rest that remains for the people of God."

The Bethesda Congregation where we have served as under shepherd for quite 29 years has been blessed of the Lord in a marvelous way, in that while we went from city to city and Church to Church as a servant of the Lord, they did not allow the under current from those who opposed such procedure, prevent them from standing for the Cause, which was greater than the local Church, as a result, the Lord has given to them victory in that at these times when it is so hard to get a little money together, they have no mortgage debt to contend with. They have given me as their pastor, every consideration which came as they saw we were proving our leadership and service. The future for the Church was never brighter notwithstanding these days of so-called depression. For the success of the Church may not be judged from no angle more than its morals coupled with faith in God to the salvation of precious souls.

These little booklets are to be distributed among some of my many friends, to have them known if we are able from every angle, we will get out a book that will contain much of the work we have been able to do these years in a large way. In a humble and yet a very happy vein, we mention the joy that comes from the standing and worth of our grown children, which were reared here in New Rochelle. Frances, our oldest daughter, was married just a few years before she passed to her reward, but she was loved by all who knew her. James Timothy Boddie took six years work at the Va. Seminary, under Dr. R. C. Woods, and then took his theology at Rochester Divinity School, finishing with B. D. May 1928. He has pastored the old historical Union Baptist Church, Baltimore for nearly six years, and the people there respect and honor him as pastor and leader. Then Richard Edward, now in his 26th year took four years college at Syracuse, N.Y. as Civil Engineer; as a result, he is working as a relief inspector in the city and the people think well of him.

Charles Emerson 24 years old last June, completes his work in Theology at Rochester Divinity School, in May 1936, all ready for his life's work, and all the people who know him say he is a gem. He was married Sept. 9th to Miss Lavinia Johnson. We wish and pray them every happiness.

James Timothy Boddie was married to Miss Emery Moore of Chicago by Rev. J. C. Austin, June 1928. This union has been blessed with three children, two girls and one boy; namely, Marcia, James Timothy Jr. and Vashti.

Our daughter Frances was married to Mr. Lewis Griffin Aug. 1928 and passed to her reward Nov. 1931.

Drusiila Gertrude was born May 5th 1913, Graduated from high school, New Rochelle, 1930, taking a business course in N. Y. City, 1931. Entered Lincoln School for Nurses Feb. 1932 and graduated May 1935. She is beloved and respected by all who know her. She is now a staff member of the Henry Street Settlement, Visiting Nurse Service, N. Y. City.

Dorcas Louise is taking a four years course in music at Ithaca, N.Y. after graduating from the N. R. High School. She was born May 10th, 1916. She says she will make good, for such has been the lessons given her all these years.

David Leonard is 17 years old, this is his year to finish High School, then he will take his course in N.Y. City as a Mechanical Engineer. Una Joy, Daniel Webster, Lydia Estella, Bertram McClendon, and Thurman Maurice are still looking ahead with every hope to prove as successful as their older brothers and sisters. To whatever success has come to us in this way the Lord is to be praised as he directed the spirit of Mrs. Boddie as she shaped the lives of the family in this Godly way while we were here and there, serving others in the Lord's Cause.

PERSONAL

This little booklet would indeed be, incomplete if I did not say a word about my trip to Northfield each August, but one since 1910.

It was in the spring of 1910 while I was assisting in a Revival Service, Shiloh Baptist Church Hartford, Conn. Dr. W. A. Harrod that he (Dr. Harrod) introduced me to Northfield, telling me of the nice helpful things one could get for his spiritual uplift and we went that August and from time to time and heard such men as Melvin Troter, Dr. Ad Jones of England. J. Stewart Holden, John Hutton, Kirk, of Balt.; I N. Vance of Nashville, Tenn.; J. Len Broughton, C. B. Myers, John Black, Burnett, Robinson of Louisville, Ky.; Dr. Mullins Louisville, Ky.; with scores of others that has thrilled my heart to do great things in the name of the Lord. Many of these whose names I have mentioned have answered the "Come Home" and they now rest from their labors and their works do follow them. I did not have the opportunity to take in and study books like many others, but here I had the privilege and pleasure of studying ing men, and as such has been a great benediction to my life and the christian program we have worked on all of the past 25 years.

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