

midst of a grove dedicated to evil spirits, and sleeps only a few feet from a house that has food in it for the devil, and then hears the hopeless death wail of these people. A little farther on we saw more of these houses.

"In fact, the Chimpempe Mission is in an area of devil worshippers. Yet over eighty joined the Bible class while we were there, and Brother Hurlow hopes to be able to baptize several next year. An old chieftain whom I met on this trip described the condi-

tion of himself and his people very well in the following questions: 'If a man is lost, will he recognize the home path when he sees it? If a man is lost and gets on the path that leads to his village, will he know which way his village is? No; if he knows, he is not lost; but it is because the wrong way seems right that makes him lost. Now how can a man that is lost find the right way and walk in it unless some one shows him the way, and walks in the way till he recognizes the homeward path?'"

Report of the Negro Department

By W. H. GREEN, *Secretary*

AFTER the discovery of America in 1492, most of the great nations of Europe began to found settlements in this New World. But it was not until about the year 1619, a little more than three hundred years ago, that the first African slaves were brought into this country, thus laying the foundation for the sixteen million now in the United States, most of whom live in the Southland.

When more than 240 years of exacting servitude had been spent by them, in 1863 they were set free, four million strong, with no money, without education, and with but few friends,—nothing save that training which they had received by contact with the powerful Anglo-Saxon race and its enlightenment, which, after all, was a great blessing to them in the overruling plan of the Creator.

Since they were freed, as they have increased in numbers, they have also filled the coffers of their powerful neighbors, and at the same time piled up millions in wealth for themselves and posterity, and have reduced their illiteracy to a very low per cent, with hundreds of thousands attending schools and millions going to church.

With the foregoing brief outline of history, we are now to deal with the colored people as they are related to this message and movement.

In This Message

About thirty-five years ago, this advent message and movement began to take permanent shape, under faithful and self-sacrificing white workers, among our people in the South. From that small beginning, it has, by the grace of God, grown to such proportions in the United States, from Massachusetts to California and from Canada to the confines of Mexico, that today its progress is to be wondered at, in proof of which these figures and facts will testify:

Membership

The membership for the first twenty-seven years of the colored work numbered 3,500, while the membership for the last eight years has increased to 7,900, showing a gain of 4,400 in this period of time.

Funds

Tithes for the five years ending Dec. 31, 1917, were \$140,000; offerings to foreign missions, \$34,000; total, \$174,000. Tithes and mission offerings for four years ending Dec. 31, 1921, were: Tithes, \$533,000; foreign missions, \$309,579. Offerings to all other mission funds were \$220,000, to which was added \$85,000, making the total

amount, \$1,147,579. For the four years ending Dec. 31, 1925; tithes were \$785,645.34; foreign mission offerings, \$462,702.94; total, \$1,248,348.28.

Donations for church expenses and all other mission offerings reported are \$173,725.06; estimated, \$92,100; totals, \$265,825.06. Entire total raised, \$1,514,173.34, to which should be added the annual Negro collection of \$16,174.24 given in large part by the white churches. Then to that amount should still be added \$35,000, estimated to be paid into the cause by our members in other churches in the United States and Canada, who are not numbered among the churches in the Negro Department, making a grand total of \$1,565,347.68.

While the foregoing figures show that the membership has more than doubled in the last eight years, yet the funds raised from all sources show a total for the eight years of \$2,712,926.68, which is more than fifteen times as much as was raised the previous five years, ending Dec. 31, 1917, at which time only \$174,000 was reported to have been raised in tithes and offerings, as set forth in the secretary's report at the General Conference of 1918 at San Francisco.

It should also be noted that by selling literature we have helped our publishing houses to spread the truth and pile up millions of dollars to maintain their institutions, and at the same time bring in thousands of dollars for the finishing of the work in all lands.

Before closing the foregoing statement with reference to the moneys raised during the last four years, it should be noted that the records show that there was paid out to colored workers in wages, traveling expenses, etc., \$529,590.53. To this amount should be added about \$50,000 more, by estimation, which, no doubt, has been paid out in various ways of which we have no record, bringing the total amount expended to \$579,590.53.

In deducting the amount paid out to workers during the last four years, from the amount of tithes received from our people during the same period, we have a balance to add to the Foreign Mission Fund for various appropriations, of \$205,054.81. Adding to this the \$462,702.94 foreign mission funds raised during the same time, brings the total amount available for appropriations for various causes in the last four years to \$667,757.75. This shows that the Negro Department is an asset to the denomination, rather than a charge.

Church Property

Our church property has increased from naught thirty-five years ago to more than three quarters of a million dollars as a purchasing price, and is easily worth a million dollars in actual value today.

Ministry and Education

Starting with scarcely any workers among us, we now have about ninety ministers, seventy-five church school teachers, and more than a score of Bible workers, who are pushing the conquest of the cross to its final triumph.

There were fifty church and mission schools in operation this year, with about 1,500 pupils enrolled. Besides these schools, we have the Oakwood Junior College, which is fostered by the whole denomination. It is nicely located near Huntsville, Ala., and is well conducted, doing a good work for our people, although it should be brought into closer touch with them, and should, without delay, have a very much needed dormitory, especially for boys, and some teachers' residences.

There is also another pressing educational need, and that is the founding of a school in the North, which should be wisely and economically built and properly administered in the interest of the education of our growing Northern population.

Further Needs

There is still need of a better organization of the colored work in some parts of our field, to the end that it may be brought closer to the organized movement with proper, just, and courteous consideration of workers and members.

Also there should be a readjustment of certain appropriations made by the General Conference annually to our work, so that more money may be conserved to do evangelical work, and not be unnecessarily absorbed in conference administration.

There is a crying need of facilities for medical training, either in our schools or independently, where capable men and women may receive training for efficient medical missionary work, and where competent doctors and nurses of our race may be used in the prosecution of the same.

Last and greatest of all, we need a clearer and holier conception of our Lord and His Christ, and a truer relationship to Him and His cause, with an infilling of His Holy Spirit to inspire in us a purer religion, which should give us purity of character, honesty, and truthfulness in our dealing with our God and mankind, and a burning zeal to finish this work with untiring services and continued sacrifice.

Conclusion

While we are not fully pleased with the progress that has been made during the last four years, for we could and should have done more in winning souls and in paying tithes and mission offerings and fulfilling other duties, yet we will lose no time lamenting, but instead we now renew our devotion to God and His conquering cause, and pledge ourselves to try to do better in the future along all right and righteous lines in helping to finish the work with no more delay.