

President Nebr. Conference

Mr. J. J. Parks, a resident of Kansas City, Kas., has proven himself worthy of commendation for the fine leadership he has given in his church, in civic and social affairs of the community, and as a promoter of clean politics.

He has been a faithful member of Trinity A.M.E. Church for twenty-six years and has served in the capacities of steward, trustee, and Class Leader. Each year for twenty years, Mr. Parks has represented his church at the District and Annual Conferences and has been elected five consecutive times to represent the church at the General Conference. As a layman in the African Methodist Church, he has championed the cause of the laymen and is now serving as President of the Laymen's League of Trinity and as President of the Nebraska Conference Laymen's League. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Wilberforce University, an active member of the N.A.A.C.P., and a Thirty-Second Degree Mason.

Several civic, social, and political clubs have been organized by Mr. Parks for the uplift of the people of the community and they are doing fine work. As Superintendent of Buildings for six years at the County Court House in Kansas City, Mr. Parks is the first and only Negro who has held the position. He is at present a staff member at Douglas Hospital in Kansas City.



Mr. Parks

Laymen's Day At Tulsa Church

BY FLOSSIE THOMPSON

TULSA, Okla. (ANP). The laymen of Vernon A.M.E. church had charge of the annual Laymen's Day service on Sunday morning.

The principal speaker was Mrs. Gladys W. Norvell Coots, well-known church figure, civic and social leader. Mrs. Coots spoke on "The Laymen's Church."

She was presented by Mrs. Geraldine Brady. Mrs. Mildred E. Jones gave a talk on the purpose of "The Laymen's Church."

Other laymen who led parts of the service were T. L. Ware, Mrs. C. Butler, J. L. Greer, Willie Fork, Mrs. L. B. Abernathy, J. T. Owens and T. W. Harris.

The Rev. Ben H. Hill is pastor.

Interest to Laymen

(Continued from P. 3, Col. 5)

his elementary schooling. He completed his high school work at Western College in Macon and graduated from Western University, Quindaro, Kas., in 1921. Mr. Ansell is a member of Bethel A.M.E. church in Macon where he serves as trustee, steward and chairman of Ways and Means Committee. He is a veteran of World War I and is married to the former Alma Hortense McElroy.

Women's Meet

(Continued from P. 1)

Link, treasurer; Mrs. Ruth Dinkins, recording secretary; Mrs. Daisy Myers, assistant secretary; Mrs. Mabel W. Jones, corresponding secretary; Dr. Martha J. Keys, chaplain; Mrs. Alma A. Polk, general secretary, YPD; Miss Mary E. Frizzell, chairman, promotion and miscellaneous education; Mrs. Clara Harris, historiographer and statistician, and Mrs. Floy Brown, parliamentarian.

Not Yet Christian

America is not yet a Christian nation. While 53 percent of our population does have some church affiliation, actually there are more people in our country without any church relationship than at any time in our history. We do talk of building a Christian nation. And so we should. Jesus commanded His disciples to go "into every city and place" of their land — preaching, teaching and healing. In America we do have churches geographically distributed from Riverside on the Hudson to the sparsely populated plains of the midwest, from coast to coast. Yet we are told there are some 700 unchurched communities in our land. Great population changes have taken place during the past ten years. Half of the people of our country do not live where they did in 1940. In the same ten years there has been an increase by birth of fifteen million. If America is to be Christian the men of the churches must be concerned about these people—Dr. George I. Nance.

Church Members Hit Peak in U.S.

By Religious News Service

NEW YORK.—Membership in religious bodies of the United States increased 3.56 per cent last year to a new high of 85,705,280, according to statistics compiled here by the Christian Herald.

The rate of gain was more than double the 1.67 per cent growth of the general American population in 1950, and brought church membership to a record 55.9 per cent of the people.

Protestant groups reported a net gain of 1,409,045, or 2.89 per cent, to a new total of 50,083,868 members. Roman Catholic increased 3.1 per cent, or 859,784, to a membership of 28,470,092 at the end of the year.

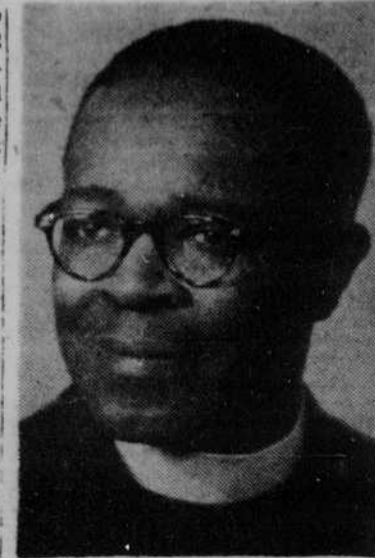
Of the total church population

Why I Am Seeking Episcopal Honors Our Mailbag

The motive impelling me to seek Episcopal Honors in 1952 grows, first, out of my deep concern that my church play her full role as a partner in the worldwide missionary enterprise; second, out of my earnest desire to be used as an instrument of God in the realization of the unfinished task of Christian missions as carried on under the framework of my church in foreign fields; third, out of my conviction that such a service is a part of God's plan for my life. The nine years of foreign missionary work, carrying out the duties of bishops for two consecutive quadrenniums with credit and achievements, I feel, is a sign of God's purpose for my life.

Thirty-five years ago, Dr. J. W. Rankin, the former Secretary of Missions of the A.M.E. Church made the observation that "We do not quite come up to the standard of successful missionary operation." From my own observation of nearly a decade in the front-line trenches of the missionary field of South Africa, from my extensive studies of principles, methods, and programs of missions, yesterday and today, I can witness to the truth of Dr. Rankin's statement.

On the other hand, I am strongly convinced that African Methodism ought and can rise from mediocrity to position of prestige and power in the foreign fields. Two great imperatives must be met if African Methodism is to rise from a second-rate position on the field abroad and take her rightful place beside the other strong missionary agencies in the worldwide missionary outreach. The first of these imperatives is the elimination of the paralyzing weakness of "discontinuity of program and activities on the mission field." The second great imperative is the launching forth of a long ranged and constructive program of advance which harmonizes with the programs of the other members of the International Missionary Council. Such a program of advance would be directed toward the goal of the "Evangelization of every area of life." In addition to evangelism it would include the following types of missionary and humanitarian services: (1) **Missionary education** on the primary, secondary, and higher levels for



DR. J. R. COAN

the peoples of the neglected areas of our missionary field. (2) The creation of **Christian literature in the languages** of the indigeneous peoples, a need of poignant urgency, (3) **Ministering to the health needs** of the people through hospitals and clinics. (4) **Social service and improvements in the standards of living.** This will bring relief to degrading poverty, challenge social evils of long standing, and fill the lives of primitive peoples with new grace and beauty.

To plan and to put into operation such an all-embracing program of missions on the foreign fields, requires bishops and other personnel who first of all are thoroughly missionary minded. They must be specialists in this special phase of the fulfillment of the Great Commission of our Lord. They must be prepared to go and stay on the field and in the service until the long ranged program has taken on permanent roots on the field.

For this type of service, God has called me. I am prepared to put myself at His disposal. If elevated to the episcopacy and sent to one of the foreign fields, particularly Africa, under the guidance of Almighty God, such an advance in the field of missions will definitely become a reality.

This letter is reprinted by special permission of the writer, who is greatly concerned about the A. M. E. Church. It emphasizes one important phase of the Church that might be improved to help spread African Methodism throughout our country. It reflects the growing sentiments of laymen in the African Methodist Church who are clamoring to be heard.
George J. Jones, President
Fifth Episcopal District
Laymen's Organization.

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Laymen's League of Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church, Jefferson City, Missouri, is greatly concerned about the unpleasant publicity that our church is getting in recent issues of the Kansas City Call through a series of articles by Mr. Franklin, the editor. To date there has appeared no refutation in our own church papers, and this fact leads many of us to believe that the statements made by Mr. Franklin are true.

It is our feeling that we need better church papers to spread African Methodism through the length and breadth of this great country of ours, and we feel that the only way that we can get better papers is to make the matter an issue at the next General Conference. Accordingly I am writing to you for the names of the lay delegates to the General Conference from the Fifth District. If you are unable to supply me with the names of the delegates, perhaps you can give me the names and addresses of the presidents of lay organizations (conferences) in the Fifth District.

We hope that trained people in English and journalism will be put in charge of our church papers so that they may be the kind of papers of which we can be proud and to which we will subscribe in large numbers.

I trust that the preparations for the July meeting of the Fifth District Laymen's Organization is moving along according to schedule.

Sincerely yours,
Alfred Farrell, President
The Laymen's League
Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church
Jefferson, City, Missouri.

Some Things Laymen Are Advocating

By James B. Solomon
Supervisor, North District, Chicago Conference, Lay Organization

1. A loyal, awakened and informed laity.
2. More lay connectional officers.
3. A better financial plan for helping struggling churches.
4. Higher stipends for mission pastors who actually need it and smaller assignments against mission churches.
5. A better system of promoting and encouraging young qualified ministers of our church.
6. The establishment of more mission churches in new communities and congested areas as a means of reaching migrating members and insuring increased membership in our churches.
7. The maintaining of fewer and better schools and colleges.
8. Merging of church departments in the interest of economy and efficiency.
9. A church official organ that is not controlled by prelates or syndicates and that will print the facts unbiased.
10. An eight-year term for Bishops, Presiding Elders on all districts or charges.
11. The establishment of a merit system for selecting our Bishops and the repudiation of candidates who seek to get elected through political trickery or large expenditures of money.

Let us weigh the merit and boost the good things and help get rid of the bad.

Why I Am Seeking Episcopal Honors

The African Methodist Episcopal Church represents the truest expression of Brotherhood and the highest aspirations of ecclesiastical organization among Negroes in the world.

The church has evolved a system of laws growing out of almost 200 years of experience. Her program of evangelism, missions, church extension and social action is time honored. Her ministers and laymen constitute a community of like-minded pilgrims looking for the Kingdom of God and working to have it realized.

The Bishop has the great opportunity of administering these complex affairs in such a way that his faithfulness and efficiency can bless the church. I seek this opportunity.



DR. G. WAYMAN BLAKELY

Why I Am Seeking Episcopal Honors

H. THOMAS PRIMM, A.B., B.D., LL.D.

With Allen's ways for my goal and Christ's Spirit for my guide, I will consciously work toward the promulgation of extended and radiant African Methodism.

Having evaluated my unreserved endowments, recognized the Presence and Power of God and His leading, guiding Wisdom and creative Energy manifesting itself in my life, I desire to make use of His beneficence to me in serving in a capacity where I can render the greatest good.

I seek Episcopal responsibilities because they will give me an opportunity to inspire, lead and direct other ministers and religious leaders to Do what I Have Done in New Orleans—give to the Church its greatest program of practical Christianity. To lift high the banner of truth, aboard a platform of righteousness, friendship and loyalty and a pennant which denotes that I am a servant of God with the Spirit of the Man of Galilee and the lofty vision of Paul and thereby elevate African Methodism and push on to new frontiers.

No empty promise of what will be done but an unfolding of what has been achieved. A tree is known by its fruit.



REV. F. M. MASON

Presiding Elder of Columbus District of the Ohio A.M.E. Conference, 51 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus 15, Ohio.

CANDIDATE FOR BISHOPRIC IN '52

Pulpit and Loyal Churchman. Pastor 27 years, Presiding Elder 14 years.

A special friend to rising ministers.

Believes in financing Colleges, Universities, Theological Seminaries and Church expansion.

Feels that every mission church should pay, or be helped to pay their pastor not less than \$25.00 a week.

He has a program which he feels will benefit the great A.M.E. church.

He craves your support in 1952.

Adopts Resolution

The women's organization adopted a resolution to be offered at the next session of the General Conference to consolidate the evangelistic work of the A.M.E. church into a Commission on Evangelism which will include the women evangelists of the church which was not done by the 1940 General Conference in setting up a Commission on Evangelism which included men only.