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LAKE JUNALUSKA, N. C.

He was a successful evangelist because that is what he wanted to be above all things. A few years ago he wrote: "When I entered the ministry, I asked the good Lord for a hundred souls a year, and He gave me 152, bless His Holy Name! That was the average I counted up the other day. There was a gradual come down each year. That was straight conversions. I am so grateful for such a record." According to his own records there were 8,061 conversions from his ministry.

"The greatest reward in my life," he told a newspaper reporter several years ago, "is the knowledge that God has led those people to my altars where they accepted Him as their Saviour." In the early days, he traveled on foot and by horseback. It was hard work, he admitted, but added, "I'd do it again." As to his method, he modestly said, "I didn't do anything fancy. I'd give my sermon, pray, and ask them to come to the altar, and they came." His modest remark does not tell the full story, for he was a master in effectively inviting people to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

"And wherever he preached, I was there if it were possible to be there," commented his devoted wife of 56 years, who preceded him in death by ten months. In his ministry one of his favorite hobbies was movies, especially showing pictures of the Holy Land which he visited during 1926.

He was married to Hattie Warlick, of Cleveland County, on December 6, 1899. To this happy union were born five children, all of whom survive: Mrs. A. G. Wilcox of Enfield; W. S. of Burbank, California; Steven L. of Sacramento, California; Nathaniel of Rockingham; and Vance of Greensboro. Others survivors include one brother, B. J. Bethea of Miami, Florida, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Hanes-Lineberry Chapel, Greensboro, February 26, with beloved brother ministers, R. A. Hunter and E. Lester Ballard, in charge. He was buried in the Guilford Memorial Park.

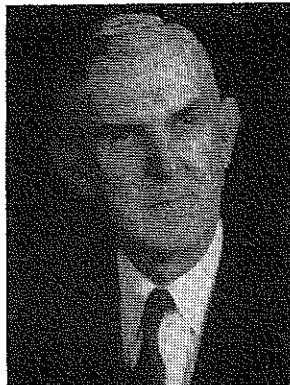
Saint Paul says that "he gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4: 11-13). And high on that list are evangelists—and one in our day being Neil Graham Bethea.

J. ELWOOD CARROLL

EDGAR PARKE BILLUPS

August 15, 1893-October 6, 1956

Edgar Parke Billups, son of Alvin C. and Mary Viola Farley Billups, was born August 15, 1893, at St. Albans, West Virginia. He was converted early in life and became a member of the Methodist Church in St. Albans. He was educated in the public



schools of that city and at Morris Harvey College, then located in Barboursville, West Virginia, Emory University and Northwestern University. He was awarded the A.B. and M.A. degrees and in 1942 Morris Harvey conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, which he richly merited and which he bore with honor.

He responded to the call to preach the Gospel and was licensed to preach. He was admitted on trial into the Western Virginia Annual Conference in 1915 and on September 6, 1918, was admitted into full connection. Two days later he was ordained deacon by Bishop E. R. Hendrix. In 1922 he was ordained elder by Bishop Collins Denny.

In the West Virginia Conference he served as pastor of Barboursville until 1919 when he was transferred to the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. In the

conference he served the following appointments: Glenwood-Bethel; student, Emory University; West Market, Greensboro (Junior Preacher); Seversville (now Wesley Heights), Charlotte; President, Rutherford College; Kernersville; Granite Falls; Brevard; Canton, Central; Monroe, Central; and Leaksville.

On October 2, 1922, he was married to Miss Mary Ruth Person of Carthage. To this union three sons were born. Two of the sons died in infancy and one, Edgar Parke, Jr., of Leaksville, survives. Mrs. Billups went to her eternal reward on March 8, 1955. She was a true heroine of the parsonage, a good wife and a devoted mother.

Not only was Dr. Billups a good administrator, a wise pastor and a successful builder of churches, but he was a good preacher and a true Christian friend. He was loved wherever he was sent. After an illness of several months, he asked the Annual Conference in session in 1956 to grant to him the retired relation. This was done and on October 6, 1956, he was relieved of his suffering and pain as he went home to be with God. The services were conducted by Eugene C. Few, Superintendent of the Greensboro District, and A. Mitchell Faulkner, from the Leaksville Methodist Church. His body was interred by the grave of his wife in the Lawson Cemetery at Leaksville.

From us the body of Edgar Parke Billups has gone; but his spirit and influence and Christian power live on. A great and good man, a true historian, a "sweet singer," and a good minister of Jesus Christ was and is he. The Church is infinitely stronger and better because he was a powerful part of her; and with him there, heaven is real and sure and we join him in the choir as together we sing:

"Ah! there on earthly wings we soar,
Where sin and sense molest no more;
For heaven comes down our souls to greet,
And glory crowns the mercy seat. Amen and Amen."

EDGAR H. NEASE

WATSON OSCAR GOODE

August 16, 1876-October 7, 1956

Early Sunday morning, October 7, 1956, the Reverend Watson O. Goode died of a heart attack. This was the first Sunday for many preachers in their new charges for the conference year. It was also a day of rare beauty as the morning sun was shining upon the autumn splendor of the hills of Western North Carolina. As the choirs in the churches of Asheville sang praises to God and a welcome to their new pastors, the heavenly choir sang welcome to Brother Goode into a new appointment with the church triumphant.

Watson Oscar Goode was born August 16, 1876, in Waco. He was a graduate of Trinity College and did post-graduate work in Vanderbilt and Harvard Universities. He was licensed to preach and joined the Western North Carolina Conference in 1901, was admitted into full connection and ordained deacon in 1903, and ordained elder in 1905. He retired from the active ministry October 1, 1948. He is survived by the widow, Mrs. Kathleen Syfan Goode, a son, James Goode, and three nephews, John, Thomas, and Ralph Robinson. He served for 47 years in the active ministry, serving pastorates in Forest City, Morganton, Charlotte, Greensboro, Thomasville, Hickory, Burnsville, Wadesboro, Marion, Waynesville, Kings Mountain, Leaksville, Spencer, Mount Holly, Jamestown and Derita. In 1952 he was appointed as a Retired Supply to French Broad Church in Asheville. It was the writer's privilege to work with him for almost three years in this last pastorate. Although he was limited in physical strength, he had all the glow and zeal for the victory of the Kingdom that anyone could expect in a minister. He loved to share his victories with others. As I reflect upon the many times

