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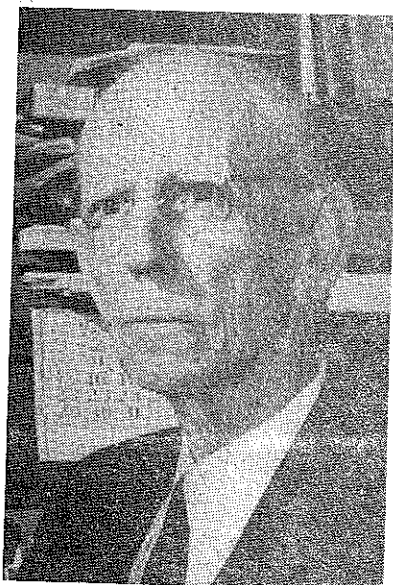
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EDMUND FRANCIS COOK

The period from 1867 to the current year embraced one of the most turbulent and revolutionary periods in all human history. War, famine, sorrow, and suffering were prevalent; yet progress made strides beyond the fondest dreams of man. It was during this time that Edmund Francis Cook was born on Jan. 24, 1867, in Marietta, Georgia, to the Reverend William Francis Cook, D.D. and



Louisa Richards Cook. His father was son of the Reverend Francis and Margaret Ellison Cook. His mother, Louisa Richards, was the daughter of Alexander and Malinda Rylander Richards, pioneer citizens of Macon, Georgia, who, with others, cut down the trees and, with their own hands, built the Mulberry Street Methodist Church in Macon.

Edmund Cook attended the public schools in Atlanta and then went to the military and agricultural academy at Milledgeville, after which he entered Emory College at Oxford. He studied at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, and received the honorary degree of D.D. from Emory College on June 10, 1909.

On February 14, 1894, he was married to Miss Annie Cargill of Columbus, Georgia, a young woman of rare culture and grace. A

graduate of Wesleyan College in liberal arts and music, Miss Cargill was, at the time of her marriage, the organist of the St. Luke Methodist Church in Columbus and recognized as a consecrated and accomplished musician. This was a most happy and devoted union, and the inscription on Mrs. Cook's wedding ring, "oneness" was perfectly fulfilled in their life together. To them was born on June 15, 1906, a son, Malcolm MacDonell Cook, who became a pediatrician. His untimely passing on February 20, 1955, was a sorrow which they bore with the courage of those who never doubt the wisdom of their heavenly Father.

Edmund F. Cook was admitted into the North Georgia Conference in November, 1887, at his birthplace, Marietta, Georgia. He transferred, as had been planned, to the South Georgia Conference, which met at Sandersville in December, 1887. His first assignment was to the Centennial Circuit, which he served one year. He was then assigned to St. Mary's from 1889 to 1890, at which time he returned to Vanderbilt University for one term. Upon his return to the conference he served McKendree Church at Brunswick from 1891 to 1894. During this period Brunswick suffered the terrible yellow fever epidemic. Against strong urging and persuasion, he refused to leave the city but remained to serve the people. Although he was in daily contact with the disease, he survived two epidemics without contracting it, to the amazement of the medical profession,

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DR. FRANCIS COOK

to the current year embraced one of the most important periods in all human history. Suffering were prevalent; yet progress and the fondest dreams of man. It was during this period that Francis Cook was born on Jan. 24, 1867, in Brunswick, Georgia. His father was the Reverend William Francis Cook, D.D. and his mother was Louisa Richards Cook. His father was son of the Reverend Francis and Margaret Ellison Cook. His mother, Louisa Richards, was the daughter of Alexander and Malinda Rylander Richards, pioneer citizens of Macon, Georgia, who, with others, cut down the trees and, with their own hands, built the Mulberry Street Methodist Church in Macon.

Edmund Cook attended the public schools in Atlanta and then went to the military and agricultural academy at Milledgeville, after which he entered Emory College at Oxford. He studied at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, and received the honorary degree of D.D. from Emory College on June 10, 1909.

On February 14, 1894, he was married to Miss Annie Cargill of Columbus, Georgia, a young woman of rare culture and grace. A graduate in liberal arts and music, Miss Cargill was the organist of the St. Luke Methodist Church and was recognized as a consecrated and accomplished musician. Her husband was a most happy and devoted union. Cook's wedding ring, "oneness" was the motto. To them was born on June 10, 1909, Donell Cook, who became a pediatrician. On February 20, 1955, was a sorrow which was shared by those who never doubt the wisdom of

Dr. Cook was admitted into the North Georgia Conference in 1887, his birthplace, Marietta, Georgia. He was transferred to the South Georgia Conference, in 1887. His first assignment was in Brunswick, which he served one year. He was transferred to Macon in 1889, at which time he resigned for one term. Upon his return to Macon, he served the McKendree Church at Brunswick from 1889 to 1890, a period during which Brunswick suffered the terrible influenza epidemic. In 1890, he returned to Macon and remained to serve the people. Although he contracted the disease, he survived two epidemics and the amazement of the medical profession,

but not to the people of Brunswick who were praying that he would be spared. This man so endeared himself to the people of Brunswick that he was even asked to serve as a member of the City Council and Relief Committee.

From 1895 to 1898 he served the First Church of Brunswick. In the last year of this pastorate, the Governor of Georgia asked that he serve as the Chaplain of the First Georgia Regiment of Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. He accepted this position and served with distinction for seven months.

Upon his return from the war he was appointed to Wesley Monumental Church in Savannah, 1899-1902. His next appointment was as Presiding Elder of the Thomasville District, 1903-1906, and it was during this period that the Thomasville District became the Banner District in Missions for Southern Methodism, supporting seven missionaries above all other assessments. Receiving church-wide recognition as a missionary leader, he was called to be Secretary of the Educational Department of the General Board of Missions from 1906 to 1910. In the latter year he was made Secretary of the Foreign Department of the General Board of Missions, which office he held until his resignation in 1917.

For the next fifteen months Dr. Cook engaged in special work and study in Chicago, including the organization of the Department of Missionary Education at the Moody Institute. He located at the Conference held in Albany, Georgia, in 1917 to perform this special work. He was re-admitted nine months later in the Southwest Missouri Conference and became President of the Scarritt Bible Training School, a position which he occupied until 1921. He served as the Associate Secretary of the General Board of Education for a little more than one year and as Secretary of Missions, Education and Sunday School Extension of the General Sunday School Board from 1922 to 1927.

In December of 1927 Dr. Cook returned to the South Georgia Conference and was appointed to the Vineville Church in Macon, which he served for five years. From there he came to Mulberry Street Church which he served until his retirement in 1937, completing fifty years in the active ministry. Upon retirement, he and Mrs. Cook continued to make their home in Macon and retained their church affiliation with Mulberry—the church of his ancestors.

As he often said, his retirement was from salary only, for his responsibilities and services multiplied. With a ministry reaching into all the churches and civic organizations of the city, he made a great host of friends among all the people, unrestricted to denomination. He was so highly respected that he filled the pulpits of various denominations when the ministers were absent—and even served as pastor of the Lutheran Church of Macon for three months until a pastor was secured. He was truly a cosmopolitan Christian.

A great source of pleasure to Dr. Cook was his membership in the Civitan and Palaver Clubs. The latter is a cultural club composed of only twelve members; Dr. Cook was chosen to be the "czar" or leader, and it was at the Palaver Club in February of 1957 that he delivered his last address before his death on April 10, 1957.

Here was a man with convictions sufficient for any decision which he was required to make, with courage for any conflict in which he engaged, and compassion as broad as the needs of men. He went on intrepid feet to the ends of the earth to bring good news and hope to the downtrodden and sin-laden of humankind. Here was one of God's noble, courageous, and good men. When grief rolled up against his life like the tidal wave which would engulf the earth, he stood secure, and the Christian faith triumphed above the sorrow. There was not enough darkness in all the world to extinguish his candle of hope. Here was one as minister, author, educator, administrator, and friend who took the common things of life and fashioned them into an uncommon, magnificent life.

LEONARD H. COCHRAN