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BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA

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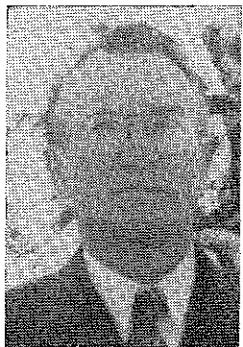
EDGAR H. NEASE

BROAD STREET METHODIST CHURCH

STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 18-22, 1943

CHARLES PLATO GOODE



Burke, the British statesman, summarized the great truth by saying "Civilization is a contract between three parties—the living, the unborn and the noble dead." Rev. C. P. Goode had many elements of nobility in his life, and we, his brethren in the ministry, are contracting along with his children in the flesh and his many sons and daughters in the spirit to carry out his heritage as a good minister and a noble man—greater laudation can no man have than this.

Charles Plato Goode, the third son of thirteen children of Dr. N. A. G. Goode, was born in Waco, Cleveland County, on November 18, 1867. He died at his home in Summerfield, Guilford County, on March 23, 1943, at the age of 75 years, 4 months, 5 days. For forty-four years he was an honored member of our Conference.

He was educated at the Sylvanus Erwin Normal Institute.

After graduation he became an instructor in this school for several years.

In 1895 he married Miss Rhoda Weber of Belwood. They had five children: Lois, now Mrs. D. O. Warner of Greensboro; Paul Weber Goode, who died in 1920; Olivia, now Mrs. J. E. Heafner of Charlotte; Samuel Weber Goode of Charlotte; and E. Doree Goode of Summerfield. Mr. Goode spent many happy hours trying to show them the way to go—hoping and praying the Lord would call one to be a minister of the Gospel. Rev. W. O. Goode, a brother, is a well known and honored member of our Conference.

As I have gone over the record which he left and as I knew him personally, I am impressed with one quality of character which seemed to dominate his life, and that was sincere fidelity and devotion to his work. This devotedness to duty surpasses many other traits worthy of mention. Added to this was a warm-hearted zeal which made his ministry highly evangelistic and effective.

Brother Goode was licensed to preach at Bessemer City in August, 1899. Dr. W. R. Ware, Presiding Elder, appointed Mr. Goode to help establish churches in the northern part of Cleveland County. He worked and held meetings until Conference. He organized a church at Casar, bought the lot and helped raise the money to build the church, which is today a flourishing congregation.

His appointments were as follows: Spring Creek Circuit, Canton, Hayesville, McDowell, Davie, Summerfield, Kernersville, Cool Springs, Thomasville, Carraway Memorial, Reidsville, Denton, Ansonville, and Crouse. Because of his failing health, he retired at Conference in Winston in November, 1932.

He always did his own revival work because he felt he knew more about the needs of his people and many responded to his preaching and exhortations; but he was interested also in education, being instrumental in establishing quite a number of consolidated schools. He felt the hope of the world depends upon the youth. He always paid special attention to the youth of the church and its community. His special interests were in the young men entering the ministry.

When he retired he moved to his farm near Summerfield where he continued to dwell in the love and esteem of his neighbors, and with unflinching interest in the progress of the church to which he had given his life. This writer never entered the home without feeling the spiritual aura of his personality, and we never parted without a prayer. During these seasons of refreshing, the impression that the Good Spirit was present was almost overwhelming. If the negro neighbor and tenant was about the home, he was called in for family devotion, and sometimes the negro man would lead in prayer. No unkind word passed his lips. "He honored all men and loved the brotherhood." He loved to testify to the power of prayer and sincerely believed that his own life had been prolonged beyond a serious crisis when the silver cord was almost loosed, and by reason of answered prayer his days were extended, but he lived ever after as one waiting for the call and went without fear. The sweet saving influence of his redeemed life will linger a long while

in the memory of those left behind, and only eternity can measure the worth of his service to the Father's kingdom.

Rev. A. L. Latham and R. P. Gibbs assisted the writer at his funeral. There is no stain on his escutcheon and his white banner never dipped before the minions of evil. Victory crowned his life and faith glorified his death. Open, ye everlasting doors, and let him in!

* * * *

THOMAS BRADLEY JOHNSON



"To follow truth as blind men long for light;
To do my best from dawn of day till night,
To keep my heart fit for his holy sight,
And answer when he calls; this is my task."

To such a soul we pay tribute.

Rev. Thomas Bradley Johnson was born August 14, 1864, a son of Isham P. and Mary Ann Couch Johnson, of Randolph County. He attended the county schools and later Shiloh Academy and Trinity College, which was then located in Randolph County.

After finishing school he taught for several years. He joined the Western North Carolina Conference November, 1892, at Winston-Salem, N. C., and served the following charges: Franklin Circuit, two years; Waynesville Mission, one year; Highlands Circuit, one year; Clyde Circuit, two years; Creston, four years; Pleasant Garden, two years; Olin, three years; Troutman, one year; Stony Point, four years; Summerfield, four years; Trinity, three years; Prospect, one year; Thomasville circuit, four years; Hanes, three years; Forsyth Circuit, four years; Draper, four years; Lafayette Street, Shelby, three years; and Elmwood, one year.

During the 46 years of active service, he never missed attending an Annual or District Conference.

At the Annual Conference which met in Charlotte, October, 1938, he asked to be superannuated.

For 29 years prior to his death he served on the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home at Winston-Salem and never missed attending a Board meeting. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

He was married to Miss Mary Virginia Conley March 4, 1897. This union was blessed with five children: Virginia Mabel, who died at six years of age; William Thomas, who died when nine years of age; Grace, now Mrs. D. S. Johnson; Mae; and Bain.

Brother Johnson possessed a warm heart and a true community spirit. Great was his love for those in sorrow, for his home, and the Children's Home. The humble Christian spirit was the vital principle of his life. He knew no jealousy. He was a child of justice and mercy and the golden rule was incarnated in him. He was sincere and dependable, one who loved his Lord and his fellowmen. One of his friends has said, "Tom was one of the best known and loved ministers in the Western North Carolina Conference."

We are only remembered by what we have done. A man is not great because he owns something but because he is something. Brother Johnson will be remembered for his fine contribution to make life a little sweeter for those whom he came in contact with. He was a friend of every cause that promised to benefit the community or the Kingdom of God. After a funeral service conducted by Dr. C. C. Weaver and Rev. L. F. Tuttle at Thomasville, his precious body was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Statesville, beside the grave of his son. Nearby are the graves of two other itinerant Methodist preachers, Rev. Zeb E. Barnhardt and Rev. J. B. Tabor of sainted memory.

When spring time comes and the mocking bird sings its lullaby, and the pink and white dogwood trees and magnolias bloom, we shall walk through the quiet city of the