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**JOURNAL OF THE
Thirteenth Session
of the
LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

of the
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

South Central Jurisdiction

held at

CENTENARY COLLEGE

and

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

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JAMES BERRY GRAMBLING

James Berry Grambling, the eighth child of Mary Rebecca McDonald Grambling and James Franklin Grambling, was born in Ruston, Louisiana, on September 14, 1891, six months after the death of his father. His family was in the contracting business in North Louisiana.

The first of his many trips to Chicago was in 1910. During the next few years, he was employed by different organizations. When he was 17 years of age, he tried out his talents at vaudeville. He organized a minstrel group and put a show on the road entertaining for many civic organizations. He had never led gospel songs, so it was with reluctance that he accepted an invitation from Reverend Douglas to lead a song service for him at a tent meeting in Forney, Texas. The meeting was called to an end on Friday night because there was no response. Little did they know that one young man's heart had been touched and within a few days, James B. Grambling knelt at his bedside and gave his heart to God, a beautiful conversion experience.

He went back to Chicago and studied at the Moody Institute to be an evangelistic song leader. He worked with such men as Homer Rodeheaver, Gipsy Simon Smith and Billy Sunday. He was a member of the Broadway Methodist Church in Chicago when he started his work with the Epworth League.

On March 22, 1918, he was married to Ethel Schlegel who faithfully served with him until her death. They were blessed with two sons: James Berry Grambling, Jr. and Robert F. Grambling.

In addition to the studies at Moody Institute, Brother Grambling attended Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Seashore Divinity School in Mississippi. He was ordained in the Louisiana Methodist Conference in 1926.

During his 40 years of active ministry, he served Bank Street Methodist Church, New Orleans (later changed to Epworth, a church he built); Grand Cane, Stonewall, Keithville Circuit, Hammond, Mer Rouge, Epworth in New Orleans, Bogalusa, Crowley, Jonesboro, Wynn Memorial in Shreveport and Logansport.

Brother Grambling will long be remembered for his work in the Epworth League where he faithfully served in Chicago and Louisiana. This was the beginning of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship. He gave unlimited time and dedication to the summer camps. He served on the Board of Hospitals and Homes for several years. He was instrumental in establishing the Retired Ministers Homes, Inc., and served as President of the Board until 1957. After his retirement in 1960, he continued active as Building and Grounds Chairman until 1969. During his tenure on the Board, one duplex, nine single units and the apartment complex were built.

Brother Grambling left a wealth of information — personal writings, pictures, clippings and letters from which a book should be written. He was indeed a great man. On Friday, June 4, 1982, he graduated to his home in glory. He left a host of friends who were influenced through his life and ministry and Erma and I count ourselves most fortunate to have been two of them.

James L. Adams

DR. WILLIAM TALBOT HANDY, SR.

William Talbot Handy, Sr., was born in Copiah County, Mississippi, on May 20, 1894. He was the eighth child born to the union of the late Emanuel and Florence Geneva Handy. His early formal education was received in Copiah County and at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, where he was a member of the traveling quintet. He received higher education and degrees at New Orleans University and Gammon Theological Seminary.

In 1919, he married Dorothy Pauline Pleasant and from this union were born four children: William Talbot, Jr., Frances Geneva, Ephriam Adair (deceased) and Dorothy Antoinette.

In 1920, he was ordained a deacon in the Atlanta Conference, and in 1921, he began his effective ministry and rendered service in the Texas, Southern California and West Texas Annual Conferences. His most important ministry was served in the Louisiana Annual Conference. He served the following appointments in Louisiana: Peoples Church and Community Center, First Street, Trinity, Brooks, Williams and Ray Avenue, all of New Orleans and Warren Church, Lake Charles. He also served as District Superintendent of the New Orleans District and following retirement, as Superintendent of Gulfside Assembly, Waveland, Mississippi. Dr. Handy always had a special affinity for his nine-year pastorate of the Mount Zion United Methodist Church. He was quite proud of its growth under his leadership and the innovative programs which began under his tenure.

While serving in New Orleans, he led in the participation and involvement of Blacks in the Community Chest (now United Way) and was instrumental in the organization of the New Orleans Urban League. He was the first president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

He was a member of the Uniting Conference in 1939, in which the Methodist Protestant Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South and Methodist Episcopal Church united to become The Methodist Church. He also served on many boards and agencies of the Church including the General Commission on World Service and Finance (now General Council on Finance and Administration).

Dr. Handy departed this life Tuesday, February 1, 1983. Funeral services were held Friday, February 4, 1983, at the Mount Zion United Methodist Church, New Orleans. Bishop J. Kenneth Shamblin delivered the eulogy.

He leaves a devoted wife and three children. Also surviving are a brother, Alonzo Handy, a daughter-in-law, Ruth R. Handy, a son-in-law, Calvin M. Miller and four sisters-in-law: Mrs. T. J. Handy, Mrs. L. Z. Handy, Mrs. Lurenza Handy and Mrs. Alma U. Hedrick. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Longfellow wrote these lines which make an appropriate statement about Dr. Handy:

Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.

And so when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

Alfred L. Norris

ROBERT MATTHEW HARRIS

The Reverend Robert Matthew Harris was born in Torris, Louisiana, about the year 1906, to Lyn Harris and Carrie Sherman Harris. R. M., as we called him, was one of thirteen (about the fifth) children. He received his formal education in Point Coupee Parish school system. After some moving around, he settled in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

It was here that he was called into the ministry and was accepted as supply pastor in the year 1940. In 1941, he received an appointment under the late Dr. Walter Scott Chinn in the Baton Rouge District at New Roads-Batchelor and, from that beginning, he served as a Gospel preacher for thirty-eight years. Under his ministry, many souls were called to God and to Christ's Church.

Some of the many charges R. M. served were: Melville, Rosedale, Maringouin, St. Peter and Mount Zion in Clinton, Beech Grove-Washington Circuit, Welsh and Jennings.

R. M. was a devoted Gospel minister. He has left behind a legacy for others. On August 24, 1982, at Doctors Memorial Hospital, he departed this life to go to that place he had been praying for so long. He took the wings of the morning and went to God, leaving behind the