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### SAMUEL EUGENE LEDBETTER

The Rev. S. E. Ledbetter, born June 22, 1895, passed to his eternal reward in Olanta September 11, 1951, having been in declining health for the past two years.

The son of B. L. and Miriam Rebecca Johnson Ledbetter, he was born in Horse Shoe, N. C. He attended the Spartanburg schools, graduating from Wofford College with an A. B. degree in 1917. He served as pastor of Kingstree circuit; Rembert; Lake View; Estill; Cumberland, Charleston; Oswego; St. Matthews; St. Paul's, Orangeburg; Walterboro; and Edgefield. He was twice district superintendent, serving both Florence and Marion districts.

The Rev. Mr. Ledbetter was first married to Miss Lula E. Johnson, of Spartanburg, who died in 1935. The following children survive this union: Mrs. Fred Bayles, Mrs. H. L. Green, Mrs. C. C. Allen, Mrs. W. D. Chitty, Samuel E. Ledbetter, Jr., Miss Margaret Ledbetter and John William Ledbetter.

He was then married to Miss Virginia Simmons of Mt. Pleasant. She died in 1941. One child, Virginia Jean, survives this union.

The third time he was married to Miss Anna Davis Inabnit who survives him, along with three sisters, Mrs. Annie L. Gaines, Mrs. Ruth L. Darden, Mrs. Claude Adams and one half-brother, Edgar Walters.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 September the 13th from St. Paul's Church in Orangeburg by the Rev. T. H. Vickery of Turbeville, assisted by the Rev. Paul Whitaker of Kingstree and the Rev. Wallace Gleaton of Columbia.

Sam, as everyone knew him, was an outstanding personality who drew people to him as they came to know him. He was versatile in his discussions of matters of concern to the church and he expressed his convictions without equivocation. He was a lover of good books.

Brother Ledbetter was a person with definite qualities of leadership. This was evidenced by the places of responsibility he held in various phases of his work. While at Estill in a time of emergency he was called upon to serve as superintendent of the city schools. He showed unusual ability as a school man. Then, as presiding elder and district superintendent, his work was outstanding. The writer recalls at a District Conference when the late Rev. J. Hubert Noland was treasurer he remarked about the work of the various presiding elders: "They all led well but Sam led better." He gained wide recognition as a district man. He was a good judge of men and his districts were well-manned during his administrations.

Sam was the chairman of the Board of Managers of the Pastors' School and was always keenly interested in securing a strong faculty. In addition to this he was chairman of the Advocate Board of Managers and it was during his term that the movement for a Methodist Center was started. He had a vision concerning our educational institutions that was perhaps ahead of his time. He was also on the Board of Trustees of the Epworth Children's Home and a delegate to the 1944 Jurisdictional Conference as well as a reserve delegate to the General Conference of 1938.

As pastor our friend was very democratic in his relation to his people. He had as much time for the humblest of his flock as he did for the top leader. He was warm hearted and sympathetic as the good shepherd. Those who knew him in his personal interest and care will never forget the radiance of his spirit and the contagion of his wholesome personality.

As a preacher, Sam was analytical in the preparation of his sermons. He spoke with clarity and power. In his early ministry he was influenced by such men as Bishop Francis J. McConnell who believed the gospel had relevance for our personal needs as for every area of our living. Sam was a fundamentalist in the best sense; he believed in conserving the best of the past but was not musty in his theological outlook; he was open-minded to the truth and welcomed it from whatever quarter it came. He was independent in his thinking and was uninfluenced by personal friendship when he saw a thing for the good of the church.

In the inner circle of his home our friend was most beloved. Always so patient, kind, and understanding that each child felt he or she had a large part in this father's heart. They rise up to call him blessed. It was so meaningful to them to speak of the Heavenly Father for this earthly father had been so prodigal in his love for them and so tenderly concerned about each of them.

Nan was with him in the last days. Her devotion and loving attention made life beautiful even though it was with difficulty that he made himself understood. Sam loved to talk but in the last days he had to listen. What a joy to know his tongue had been loosed to sing a thousand praises to his God and King in that realm of pure delight where saints immortal reign.

The writer feels a deep sense of personal loss in his heavenly home going. Our lives have been intertwined through the years, as we have helped each other in protracted meetings, worked in cabinets and on conference boards. He was a churchman of the first order. His name is written large in the book that St. Peter keeps. This messenger of God's mercy, this priest of His pity, this prophet of His redeeming and sustaining grace, this apostle of His light and love beckons us to follow Him who said, "In my Father's home are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you."

Wallace D. Gleaton.

### HOMER LLOYD FRANKLIN SHULER

When Dr. Homer L. F. Shuler died on September 23, 1951, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, Orangeburg, he left an unfinished sermon, an unfinished ministry and an unfinished life.

His ministry, rich and full and gloriously successful, was only begun here. It is going on in celestial places. Dying in the second year of his service at St. Paul's, he was quickly given an appointment in the Conference above, where man's noblest dreams are fulfilled and where man can preach forever as only angels can speak.

And the life which was quickly snuffed out here is being lived in