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WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Being also the 108th year of the organization of the Blue Ridge-Atlantic Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the 96th year of the organization of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the 158th year of the organization of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, the 125th year of the organization of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the 21st year of the organization of the North Carolina-Virginia Annual Conference of the Central Jurisdiction, and the 18th session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.)

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le serving Shepherd Charge (1933-37), he
nors, having attained the honor of being
Divinity School and achieved his B.D.

Elizabeth Cooke, and to this union were
l) and Anita Elizabeth (on February 29,
children.

minister of the Troutman Church in the
coming a chaplain in the United States
rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel and served
s valor and dedication, he was presented

tern North Carolina Conference by serv-
from March through July, 1946. He then
6-50; Kannapolis: Jackson Park, 1950-54,
ese he went on to serve at Brevard: First
t Market Street Associate, 1967-70; and,
officially retired. But that was only offi-
s chaplain for the J. A. Jones Construction
e Big Spring Church in Charlotte.

eland County, North Carolina, the son of
ng man plowing the fields in Cleveland
conversion to the Christian faith at Palm
ie follow Christ, but that also he must go
weitzer, he felt that he had been blessed
f Christ's ministry and in the army of his
He felt consumed by a fire to preach the
a minister. His words in those early days
Phelps:

ou gavest me,
l, Dear Lord, from thee;
My heart fulfill its vow,
w, Something for thee.

people and preached with great evangelis-
the pulpit as preachers at the Balls Creek
ached each day for a week, and always
; praying for me to get through so he could

ere "down and out," the lonely, and the
He took of his own money to buy electric
's heat, and he delivered untold blankets
ence statistics can never record the kind
members, but they were God's children.

ys had a smile and a story! He always felt
r! What faith he had! He had faith in God
onversing with the writer just outside the
d about a matter not working out, and he
how people always come through. Just
d.

Father's business, he never overlooked
h trusted friend.

h Church, James Charles Reichard was
e ministers were Robert L. Carter, Jr.,
rlie Reichard had kept the faith; he had
fe.

eland Memorial Park in Shelby, North
1!

Edgar H. Nease, Jr.

ISAAC LEROY SHAVER

August 15, 1893 — May 25, 1984



Isaac Leroy Shaver was born August 15, 1893, on a farm in Rowan County, North Carolina, to Isaac Cowan and Mary Elizabeth Hartman Shaver. He joined Zion Methodist Church near his home in 1901. After he died in Charlotte on May 25, 1984, that church was the scene of his funeral, conducted by Walter S. Hill, John H. Christy, Jr., and Jerry B. Watts, with burial in the church cemetery.

Leroy Shaver took preparatory studies at Rutherford College from 1911 to 1915 and was a student at Trinity College from 1915 to 1919, taking the A.B. degree there. In 1925 he received the A.M. degree from Duke University. He was received on trial in the Western North Carolina Conference in 1922 (being already an elder) and was received into full connection in 1928.

During his college years, while briefly a patient at Watts Hospital in Durham, he made the acquaintance of Miss Pearl Elizabeth Tesh, who was in nurses' training there. They were married on the day he graduated from Trinity College, June 4, 1919. To this union were born six children: Josephine Tesh (born 1920, died 1921), Eleanor Louise (born 1921), Isaac Leroy, Jr. (born 1923, died 1925), Joseph Gray (born 1926), David Cowan (born 1930), and Phyllis June (born 1943). All but the last-named were born in Japan.

The Shavers were appointed in 1919 to serve as missionaries to Japan under the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It became the great passion of their lives to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Japanese people — whether in Japan, Korea, or the United States — and in turn they were greatly beloved of many Japanese friends. Mr. Shaver was a long-time personal friend of Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa (the most eminent Japanese Christian between the wars), and of Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto (whom John Hersey called, "the hero of Hiroshima"). In 1933-34, while the family was in Arizona for Eleanor's recovery from a very serious illness, Mr. Shaver became the champion of Japanese farmers in the Salt River Valley and was largely influential in persuading the Arizona legislature to reject an effort to eject them. There was a brief interlude in 1939-40 of work with the Japanese in Seoul, Korea, while he was also serving as pastor of the English-language church there. When open hostilities came between Japan and the United States, the Shavers were located in Caldwell, Idaho, from which point Mr. Shaver engaged in tireless defense of the personal and property rights of Japanese-Americans in Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon.

During their missionary labors in Japan, Mr. Shaver's appointments included Hiroshima, Nakatsu, Oita, and Matsuyama. Both Rev. and Mrs. Shaver were engaged in the founding and operation of an orphanage in Oita in the post-war period. He was also superintendent of the Matsuyama District.

Retiring from missionary service in 1959, the Shavers resided in Caldwell, Idaho, and for a period of about ten years Mr. Shaver was supply pastor of a nearby congregation at Kuna. In August, 1969, they removed to New London, North Carolina, not far from the scenes of his childhood, and they were afforded opportunity to participate in the life of both Zion Church and New London Church. They continued to keep alive their contacts with many friends and former parishioners by letter and by visit during these golden years of retirement. Their home, by its wealth of mementoes of Japan, eloquently spoke of what their great lifework had been.

One of their delights was gardening, and in some settings it was with great pride that they enjoyed the beauties of a hundred or more different varieties of dahlias, and of other flowers comparably. Another delight was found in the long cross-country drives on furlough from and to Pacific ports, and Mr. Shaver would conduct for his lively family a "guided tour" to many points of interest along the way.

A full life, rich in blessing and memories, has now had its earthly setting, and two nations give thanks for it as they commit it to the higher and greater opportunities of the Father's House.

Bernard C. Russell