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# JOURNAL

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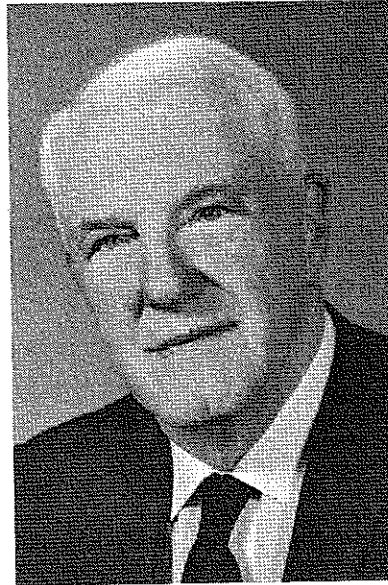
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## JOSEPH KING VIVION

His many friends throughout South Georgia were deeply saddened to learn that Dr. Joseph King Vivion, a former active minister in the Conference, died on January 27, 1969, at the age of 72.

Dr. Vivion was born at Southwest Sixty, Missouri, on February 16, 1896. He graduated from Drury College, Springfield, with a B.A. degree in 1916 and was ordained to preach that same year. Thereafter he received the B. D. and M. A. degrees from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, and in later years was awarded the honorary degrees of D.D. and L.L.D.



His career of service included varied and challenging responsibilities. He was the first minister to open denominational work on the campus of Texas A and M College, Jacksonville, Texas and Galveston, Texas were the locations of his early pastorates. For an interim of seven years, he served with distinction as President of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

For a period of seventeen years, he was pastor at McKendree Church in Nashville, Tennessee, this being followed by a pastorate at the Fourth Avenue Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Vivion came to the South Georgia Conference in 1953, becoming pastor of Vineville Church in Macon, where he served for seven years; and thereafter, he was assigned to First Church, Douglas, where he concluded 47 years of active ministry by retiring in 1963.

He returned to Springfield, Missouri and resided there for the balance of his life, continuing to preach and teach Bible classes, and serving as interim pastor for a year in the Good Shepard Church of the Brethren. Other activities included membership on the Board of Directors of Burge-Protestant Hospital, where he died in the early morning of January 27, 1969 after having suffered a heart attack at his home.

He is survived by his wife, Harriett, who is affectionately remembered in this Conference; three daughters: Mrs. Clayton Erkert, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mrs. John S. Miller, Jr., Nash-

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ville, Tennessee; and Mrs. Mary V. Kelly, Springfield, Missouri; a brother: Dr. Monroe Vivion of Austin, Texas; and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Vivion was an extraordinary person. He was both a great preacher in the pulpit, combining the best qualities of the scholar and the evangelist, and a fine pastor, whose devotion to and concern for those committed to his charge knew no limits. His faith was strong and vibrant and inevitably the lives of those with whom he came in contact, whether members of his church or others, were enriched thereby.

Words cannot adequately describe those qualities of character and integrity, of steadfastness of purpose, of deep personal faith and commitment, that characterized his life and ministry. His dedication to the Lord's work was total and complete. He was physically a strong and robust individual, a man with a great enthusiasm for living and a well developed sense of humor, one who searched for and found the best in his fellow man and was able to inspire others to do so as well.

It was the writer's privilege to be a member at Vineville during Dr. Vivion's ministry there. These were years of great advancement at Vineville, of growth in membership, attendance, financial support and participation in Church activities, and of a strengthening of the faith of the congregation. In receiving a new member into the Church — one of the highlights of his ministerial duties — he regarded the ritual as calling not only for a commitment by the new member but a renewal of their vows of membership by all present. The Christian faith was for him always a fresh and joyful experience; as a pastor, he was able by precept and example, by constant support and encouragement, to share this experience. Though his earthly life is now over, his influence will live on for many years to come in the lives of all those whose good fortune it was to know him.

—FRANK C. JONES