

SOUTHERN STATES MISSION HISTORY

East Kentucky: G. F. Ellisworth, president, box 142, Lexington—Two baptisms were performed at Barboursville on May 23rd by Elders J. E. Knudsen and J. C. Page. These elders had the privilege of explaining the principles of the gospel to a large crowd that had gathered to witness the ceremony. Elder J. E. Ellisworth, while canvassing in Lexington, met a Christian minister who attacked him with vile epithets, on the Book of Mormon. After a short conversation, the minister admitted that he knew nothing about the book he was trying to defame. On Sunday, May 16, Elders J. E. Knudsen and J. C. Page, by visiting a sectarian Sunday school and at the invitation of the class leader, explained the gospel to the school. During the next two weeks, Elders Martin Anderson and Orson P. Zagar have joined our ranks.

Atlanta: O. W. Hyde, president, 29 County St. Georgia—Elders J. H. Hunter and Leonard Ball, while canvassing the town of Ellijah, met a Baptist minister who invited them to hold a meeting. The minister invited his neighbors and friends to attend and a good meeting was held, after which the two elders discussed the first principles of the gospel until a late hour. The next morning, the elders, with the Book of Mormon and a copy of the Doctrine, were present.

Virginia: H. A. Shupe, president, box 4, Lynchburg—Two persons were baptized in Halifax county, by Elder W. H. Simmons, Elders W. E. Shumway and W. L. Sherry report having much success in Page county. On Sunday, May 16, they attended the baptismal service of a divine healer. At the close of the service, one of the men in charge announced that the elders would hold meeting that night at the home of one of their members. About 75 persons attended the meeting, and the elders, at the close of the services, the elders were invited to hold another meeting the following evening in the village schoolhouse. When the time came for the meeting, there were about 100 persons assembled all of whom listened with much interest to the discourses upon the principles of the gospel. Sister Eleasha J. Wood died at her home in Lynchburg on May 21. The funeral services were conducted in the Methodist church, and were attended by Elders H. A. Shupe and R. B. Major. About 300 people assembled to pay respect to the departed one and to listen to the discourses of the elders upon the subject of the resurrection.

Middle Tennessee: J. H. Esplin, president, box 24, Memphis—Elders J. H. Esplin and Wm. Perkins visited the branch at Teague, and baptized one person. They found the saints very much interested in the Sunday school in good running order. At Arrington, Williamson county, a Sunday school has been organized by Elders Wm. Perkins and J. H. Esplin, and a splendid work is being accomplished in that section. Elders J. L. Bushman and Evans Coleman who are doing splendid work in McNairy county, write: "We have been well treated wherever we have stopped and certainly commend the good people of this country for their hospitality and fair-mindedness." Our force has been strengthened by the arrival of Elder Andrew L. Jones.

Ohio: Paul E. Nelson, president, box 41, Sta. D., Columbus—While canvassing in Palmetto, the city, he said he was pleased to have the opportunity of purchasing a copy of the Book of Mormon. He also purchased two other doctrinal books, and has been very successful in his work. The elders of company "B" called on the mayor of Coshocton and he was also called a copy of the Nephite record. He highly praised the work of the elders, and they held street meetings. The elders are having splendid success in working among the business men of that city. Elder James A. Wadsworth of Jamaica, Nev., joined our ranks on May 25.

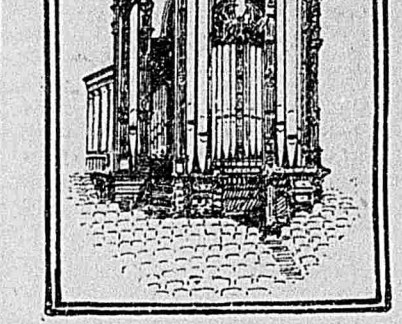
Alabama: H. A. Gardner, president, box 785, Mobile—A large number of baptisms were performed at Phenix City, May 16. A very successful street meeting was held at Rome on May 27 by the elders of company "A". The canvassers for miles around had gathered to the city on that day, and the elders had a congregation of over 200 people who listened with interest to their remarks. Elders Lawrence C. Stokes and Edwin J. Ford joined our ranks on May 18.

Florida: J. W. Blazard, president, 124 Claudi St., Jacksonville—Elders Thaddeus Walker and S. A. Winters attended a Baptist meeting at Hatcher's Bend. The pastor addressed a large congregation upon the subject "What shall we do to be saved?" At the close of the service, the people gathered around the elders and asked them to hold a meeting that night and speak upon the same subject. A large number of people were present, and the meeting was very successful. The elders were very much interested in the work, and they held street meetings. The elders are having splendid success in working among the business men of that city. Elder James A. Wadsworth of Jamaica, Nev., joined our ranks on May 25.

East Tennessee: W. H. Larson, president, box 688, Knoxville—Elders E. L. Layton and H. H. Simpson organized a Sunday school at Oak Hill on May 9 with an enrollment of 22 members. A primary department was provided for the little ones. Brother Joseph W. Foster was appointed and sustained as superintendent. During the week ending May 30, three baptisms were performed, and many successful meetings are being held in districts that previous to this time have been closed to the elders.

North Carolina: Robert Andrus, president, box 154, Kinston—Elders Robert J. Bradshaw and Emil Chatelain organized a Sunday school in Wake county, with Brother Frank McCotton as superintendent. During the week these brethren also performed two baptisms. Though the elders were not granted permission to hold street meetings in Rockwell, many of the citizens have asked them to hold meetings in their homes; and the business men are manifesting a spirit of friendliness and many of them are purchasing copies of the Book of Mormon.

Kentucky: Thos. E. Seerist, president, box 554, Louisville—During the two weeks ending May 27, four persons



were baptized in Trigg county by Elders J. P. Lesueur and J. E. Charlesworth, and prospects for the future are very bright. A splendid branch conference was held at Sebree, Webster county, on May 16, 17 and 18. The meeting was held at the home of Elder Asa C. Bagley has been very sick with the chills during the past week, but through the blessings of the Lord is now speedily regaining his health.

Georgia: L. L. Myers, president, 454 Oak St., Macon—Elders A. E. Mortenson and E. L. Allen met with success at their regular meeting at Skipperton, where they baptized one person. One person was also united to the fold in Harris county by Elders A. A. Savage and E. C. Walker. At the close of the regular monthly meeting in Pottersville, Elders F. A. Lamont and J. C. Healey baptized one person. A large crowd of strangers gathered to witness the ceremony and to hear the principles of the gospel explained.

Mississippi: D. W. Stowell, president, box 1, Jackson—During the past two weeks two baptisms have been performed in the Mississippi conference. Companies "A" and "B" are both doing excellent work, and are meeting with much success in holding meetings. On May 25, Elder Roy Oler was honorably released to return to his home. Elder Osmond Call of Chesterfield, Ind., arrived in the conference on May 26.

J. ELMER JOHNSON,
Mission Secretary.

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE CALIFORNIA MISSION

San Francisco: June 10.—Approximately 200 people were present at the Latter-day Saints meeting held in the Manzanita hall of the Jefferson Square building, Sunday evening, May 31; the occasion being an illustrated speaking and song service.

President Joseph Magley of the San Francisco conference spoke feelingly on various gospel truths, which were in turn illustrated by songs rendered by Elder Alvin Keddlington, assisted in several numbers by Brother William Thompson and the Misses Lillian and Amelia Hooper.

The strangers present eagerly came forward to grasp the hands of those who had taken part and to express their appreciation of the sublime and beautiful thoughts set forth; and many new friends were made among the audience. Elder Joseph Magley, a number of retired Presbyterian ministers who made this declaration, "That comes nearer to being pure religion than anything I have ever experienced, and consequently he invited the elders to visit him. Sr. Hansen of Oakland, contributed largely to the success of the evening through her splendid piano accompaniment.

Prest. Magley and the artists named above will hold a like service in Oakland, Sunday, June 6; and in San Jose, Sunday, June 13.

Elders Jos. D. Harris of Tremonton, Bear River stake, Utah, and William Harper of Murray, Utah, arrived in San Francisco on Monday, June 7, and were filled with the Spirit of God and their discourses and testimonies were listened to with rapt attention. The two elders were completely changed, and apologized for the cold and indifferent manner in which they had received the guests to dinner Sunday, May 30. Of Brother Joseph J. Cannon of Salt Lake, who is in San Francisco on business.

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Last Friday evening, the elders laboring at Los Angeles, together with President Robinson, spent the evening at the home of Pres. Wm. W. Burton of the Star Valley stake, who has spent the winter in southern California, and left the following morning for Ogden, Utah, with his family that have been with him. The evening was spent very pleasantly, and the association with them and their kindness to the elders during their sojourn here, will long be remembered.

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Los Angeles, Cal., June 10.—President Joseph E. Robinson returned from a trip to the northern part of the state. His special visit was to Gravelly, at which place he re-organized the branch. The following is a list of the new officers: George W. Tolley, branch president, with Albert Taylor, George W. Miller, clerk, Relief Society, Minerva Cameron, president; Emily Dewdney, counselor; Phyllis Tolley, secretary; Sunday school, Frank Dewdney, superintendent, Alfred Bramwell, and George M. Miller, assistants. Jean S. M. secretary and treasurer. Wm. Catnel, chorister, and Lillian Farr, organist. Elder Jacob Magley, president of the San Francisco conference, accompanied Pres. Robinson on this trip and also to San Jose, to which latter place Elder Alvin Keddlington also accompanied him. Elder Keddlington is the son-in-law of the mission and whom we love to hear.

Last Friday evening, the elders laboring at Los Angeles, together with President Robinson, spent the evening at the home of Pres. Wm. W. Burton of the Star Valley stake, who has spent the winter in southern California, and left the following morning for Ogden, Utah, with his family that have been with him. The evening was spent very pleasantly, and the association with them and their kindness to the elders during their sojourn here, will long be remembered.

Sunday morning, May 30, three more souls were added to the fold, being Mrs. Gertrude Marshall Chandler and her two daughters, Gertrude Marie and Doris Irene. Elder Joseph W. Vickers officiated in the ordinance which was performed at Bimble Baths. During May one other baptism was performed here at Los Angeles, and two at San Bernardino, all of which is encouraging as results of our labors, and pleasing because other souls are brought to rejoice in the Gospel.

E. F. BURTON, Secretary.

NEW ZEALAND MISSION NOTES.

One of the most interesting conferences ever held with the native people in New Zealand was concluded Sunday

night, April 4. A great victory has been won and an invasion made whereby the gospel may be carried to many of the tribes of the Waikato district. Hitherto it was excluded, owing to the prejudice of the people.

A year ago, when the announcement was made that the next April conference would be at Huirahara, there was a feeling of disappointment and resentment manifested not only by some of the saints, but also by the inhabitants of the Waikato district. Huirahara (Jerusalem) lies about 12 miles inland from Waipiro and is right in the center of one of the strongholds of the Church of England. The surrounding country is rough and mountainous, thus making it very difficult to gain access to the settlement. The bad roads and the small number of saints living in that vicinity were the reasons for some of the prejudice against the conference being held there, but the Church of England had very different reasons for annoyance.

The great class of natives take to the gospel very readily and on several occasions whole tribes have joined the Church, therefore the English church felt some apprehension for their followers and resented the idea of the Latter-day Saints holding conference in their midst. Almost every possible means was employed to prevent us. The native official organ of the English mission, the *Huiarau*, devoted a column after column to the Mormon question, trying to discourage the gathering, and if failing in this, to persecute the missionaries. The missionaries should the gathering take place. To offset this the elders and saints, all over the mission, were praying and working for the conference to convene. The result was that the conference, with 25 elders and nearly 100 native saints, landed at Waipiro Thursday evening, April 1. We were very hospitably received, and a very entertaining and in good old Maori fashion. During the evening horsemen and telegrams arrived from Huirahara stating that the people there did not want us and if we proceeded we would not be allowed to enter the village. This news did not dishearten us. The Maori saints gloried in being persecuted and were bound stronger together in faith and love. To observe the faith and unity of the natives was a strong testimony to us elders laboring among the Europeans, and we rejoiced in having the privilege of being persecuted.

Next morning we started for Huirahara, we resembled a veritable pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Some were conveyed by means of horses and carts, in several numbers by motor vehicles, and some on foot. With staff in hand, we set out cheerfully notwithstanding the fact that 21 streams had to be crossed before we could reach the village. We will not stop to describe how the streams were gotten over by tender-footed elders, but