

Hebron Baptist Church, Concord, Georgia

By J. W. Oxford.

THE Hebron Baptist Church of Concord, Georgia, was constituted October 6, 1838. The Rev. John Holmes Milner was the first pastor. The church had in its constitution nine men and seven women to be the charter members. Since its constitution an average of fifteen persons has been added to its membership annually. The annual decrease has been fewer so that today the total enrollment is three hundred and twenty-two. In the last fifty years it has contributed \$65,000.

The church has had two houses of worship since it was organized. The first was built a mile and a half west of Concord; the second was erected in the city of Concord in the year 1887 and is the building which is now being used.

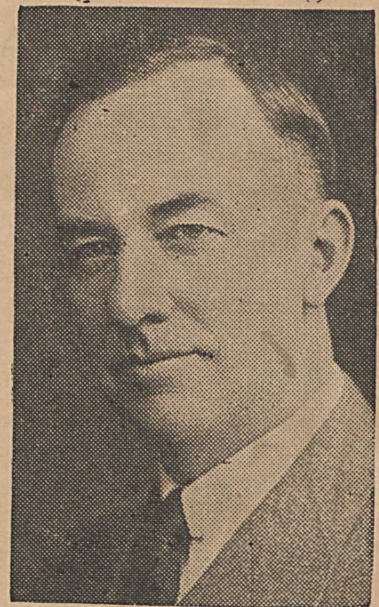
Some noble and true men have been her pastors. In the list we find the names of the Revs. John Holmes Milner, James C. Cleveland, J. M. Murphy, Uel M. Mathews, Jacob Buffington, J. M. Key, George R. Moore, E. S. Harris, R. M. Jackson, Jesse M. Wood, John A. Jackson, Enoch M. Hooten, W. A. Brooks, Thomas H. Stout, J. W. Beck, R. F. Smith, J. P. Lee, J. C. Solomon, E. W. Hammond, J. W. R. Jenkins, J. S. Knowles, W. C. Ivey, W. J. D. Upshaw, L. P. Glass, C. B. Jones, L. M. Polhill, Thomas J. Espy, E. A. Daniel. The present pastor is Dr. Norman F. Williamson.

No complete list of deacons is obtainable. Among those who have served in that capacity in the past are: H. H. Strickland, J. H. Gregg, Aaron M. Oxford, John B. Mathews, K. Melton, Jim Hooten, J. C. Strickland, J. C. Mayfield,

J. T. Conner, H. C. Oxford, E. L. Hooten, W. A. Bottoms, H. B. Carreker, J. C. Irvin, E. Fred Scott. The present Board of Deacons is composed of the following: S. A. King, John B. Madden, chairman, W. M. Marshall, J. W. Oxford, J. H. Strickland, R. H. Strickland, W. A. Strickland.

Sunday school has been maintained in Hebron Church since 1876. We give the names of some who have served as superintendents: John B. Mathews, W. A. Brooks, J. L. Hooten, H. C. Oxford, R. H. McLendon, J. O. Jones, John B. Madden, W. A. Strickland, J. C. Owen, J. H. Strickland, R. H. Strickland, S. A. King, E. F. Scott, J. W. Oxford. The church also maintains an active Woman's Missionary Society, of which Mrs. R. H. Strickland is the efficient president. Mrs. H. H. Brandenburg is the B. T. U. director.

Hebron church holds membership in the Flint River Association and has been consistently represented by its messengers in the annual sessions of that body. Six times in a century it has entertained the Association. During that time it has furnished for the Association three moderators and three clerks.



REV. NORMAN F. WILLIAMSON
Pastor Hebron Church

community to mingle during the six days with other people?" In the shops, stores, offices, factories and other places where they work they will be known as professing Christians. Around them will have the influence of them. Personal contacts mean personal evangelism. It is probably the reason why we are attracted to the Christian life by others than by Christ and His church. The most powerful method of evangelism is by the spiritual contact of personal contacts. It was thus that Christianity spread most rapidly during the first century.

Do you send out into the masses of unsaved people each week a body of church members with the light and love of Christ shining in their faces and lives so that they become soul-winners before they open their lips about salvation, and become an inspiration to weak and tempted Christians around them.

That, is your highest task, friend pastor. Not to hold annual evangelistic meetings. Not to balance your church budget; not to receive hundreds of new members by the end of your first year; not to have all the wheels of your church machineries whirling with a mighty din. Your heavenly commission is to so feed Christ's lambs and sheep by personal, loving instruction, as they become saturated with the Word of God, and by your own personal Spirit-filled, Christ-like example, that they, too, become filled with the Spirit of Christ and go forth each Monday aflame with the love of Christ. Then you are preaching every day. Then your church is busy, not with-

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CHURCH WILL INCREASE CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS

By James W. Merritt,
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

THE following letter from one of our churches is encouraging evidence of increased interest in the Co-operative Program:

"Enclosed you will find check for five dollars for the Co-operative Program to be credited to Church. We have not contributed to the Program the past year, but next year we plan to give a percentage of all our offerings to the Co-operative Program.

"God has blessed us in our work this year. We have baptized twenty-one into the fellowship of the church and received others by letter and statement. We have organized a B. T. U. and the Sunday School has increased in membership and attendance. We covet your prayers for our work."

THE PASTOR'S INTERROGATION POINT

By Eldridge B. Hatcher.

THE question hanging over every pastor's threshold is: "What kind of church members are you sending out every Monday morning, into the city, or



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EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Editor of THE CHRISTIAN INDEX does not necessarily endorse an article to which the signature of the contributor is attached and its appearance in our columns indicates only that it has merit from the contributor's point of view and for which the writer is primarily responsible.*

OBITUARIES — One hundred words free and one cent a word for the remainder. Count the words and send money by script or mail check when obituary appears.

EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS

The Index is a lay-guest editorial by [redacted] of *The Tribune-News*, Cartersville. His editorial is the first of a series of outstanding laymen over the years to receive in due time, and publish their views on subjects of his own selection, and to appear in *The Church Press*. The Editor of *The Index* expects this new feature to be widely read and popular among our good laymen, some of whom occasionally complain that *The Index* is a "preachers' journal."

IT is not our desire to write a word of complaint, but what are we to do when a minister, whose integrity is unquestioned, writes of his pastorate as follows: "I have read with deep interest your recent comments on long pastorates. A wealth of enrichment is found therein. There is a peculiar mind at G—— with reference to the ministry and the obligation of the church thereto. In all my experience as a minister, I have never found such disregard of the person of the minister and such a lack of a conscience of obligation to compensate him. A minister here without a private income will find his credit and good name jeopardized." There is no way by which the church referred to in the foregoing can be reached and chastised. With Baptists such lack of loyalty brings its own punishment.

ON the second day the Flint River Association was in session, the Editor was among the visitors. Miss Eva Guillebeau, representing *The Index*, spent two days at the Association soliciting subscriptions for the paper. The generosity of the brethren in allowing the Editor to speak a word in behalf of the paper is deeply appreciated. Judge T. J. Brown's address on "Law Observance and Temperance" was enjoyed by the entire congregation. With few exceptions, reports on the various objects fos-

tered by the Association, were read by the appointees. The Flint River is one of the best Associations in the state. Good ministers of Jesus Christ, pastors and laymen, have blessed it since its organization back in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

IN a letter from one of the gifted pastors of the Southern Baptist Convention, we read: "You possibly will not be surprised to know that J—— is keeping up her record of discharging her pastors unceremoniously. I am being dismissed from the pastorate at the invitation of two men who have assumed to give orders. I think this is about as things have gone for the past several years. I was aware that this was the disposition of the leadership when I came here, but I thought we might aid in changing the order. But we have been sorrowfully disillusioned, and now we are asked to move on. I have been a minister for more than a generation, and have ministered to some good churches from the rural section to the city, but this is my first dismissal. In reviewing a little more than the past decade of the church, I find they have had eight pastors, all of whom have gone out in bad odor." On as good authority as one can get this side of Heaven, we say that the pastors of this church, in the past, have been the victims of one man who seems to welcome the incoming pastor at the front door while he and those whose good-will he has succeeded in alienating from the retiring pastor, kick him out of the back door. One of the great weaknesses of the present day church is that it does not mark those that stir up strife in the churches. Such men should not be charged with the responsibility of looking after the needs of a pastor.

PLEASE READ, should be the caption of this little paragraph. Reference is to Secretary Merritt's announcements in this issue of the paper. Although the paper is filled with wise, informative, and stirring articles and editorials, its arrival in the home or office has no meaning to the subscriber unless it is read, and read prayerfully. Dr. Merritt's appeal in this issue and those that will be published later on up to Mission Sunday in this month, are of such vital importance to the Cause of Christ that we urge a careful reading of them. *My State For Christ* is the slogan for Mission Day in the Sunday School. Use the slogan as an instrument with which to bring about the desired revival.

A VISIT to the Middle Cherokee Baptist Association is an event in the life of one who desires fine fellowship. On Wednesday, September 21, the Editor attended this Association. Dr. B. D. Ragsdale, of Macon, clerk of the Georgia Baptist Convention for forty-three years, was the honor guest. The meeting of the Association was divided into five sessions and, at the beginning of each session, Dr. Ragsdale conducted the devotional and, on the evening of the first day, delivered a sermon. It was an inspiration to see him among the younger ministers of the Association, some of whom he instructed in theology while they were students at Mercer. Pastor George Crow, of the Tabernacle Church, was host to the Association. One could not meet him or hear him announce the hospitality of the Cartersville saints without being impressed with his deep sincerity and his keen interest in people. Brother Crow has rendered a great service to Cartersville and the Middle Cherokee Association. And there were Pastor Guy Atkinson and his excellent congregants of First Church, who shared with Tabernacle Church in entertaining the Middle Cherokee. In every way, Cartersville has long stood at the top of the state's leading cities.