



July 5, 1907.

Mrs. E. G. White,
Sanitarium, California.

Dear Mother:-

There is a matter in connection with the colored work in which I desire your co-operation and I think you will be glad to co-operate with me in it.

The matter to which I have reference is the building of a church and school house for the colored people in Knoxville, Tennessee. Now, I do not know if you know the circumstances, but Knoxville is the first place where missionary work was really begun for the colored people. It was begun there by Dr. Caldwell, and he undertook the work in response to the Testimony which you sent a great many years ago. You remember those first Testimonies which you sent in regard to the colored work. Some way he got hold of a copy of this and he began to act at once. He went down to Knoxville and began the work there and brought out a nice company. He came from there to Battle Creek to attend the Biblical Institute and at that place he met W. O. Palmer and myself and it was from talking with him and learning about that Testimony that we decided to come South and undertake the work.

Now, there is quite a company of colored people there, but they have no ^{suitable} place of meeting. They are meeting in a private house and the room is all together inadequate and they can do no missionary work of any importance until they have a house of worship.

Now, I have had some letters from Sister Anna Agee Hall. You

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know she used to be Anna Agee and she was one of the first teachers that we had in the school at Vicksburg. She was very successful and did splendid work for the colored people, but she married Elder Hall a few years ago. This is the father of H. H. Hall at the Pacific Press. She has two nice appearing girls, which I should judge from the photograph which she sent me of them. Since the death of her husband she has gone down to Knoxville, Tennessee, and entered the colored work there. A Brother Byrd is also connected with that work and they are trying to build up the work at Knoxville but they find it practically impossible to do any thing until they can have a church and school room. Now, they began by seeing what they could do about a lot and they found a Brother who donated a lot to them. It is a corner lot and I understand it is in a good location. Then the colored people themselves went to work raising money and they have secured about \$150.00 toward building the church. Now the Southern Missionary Society has given them a lot of copies of the Story of Joseph and the church members are going to sell ~~this~~ ^{them} and the entire proceeds will go toward building the church. They feel safe in saying that they can raise \$200.00 toward building the church.

Now, the Conference took hold to try to help them. Not help them by furnishing any money, but to ^{advise them to do} plan and see what they could, with their own money. They advised them to put up a little church 20 by 30 feet with a basement under it 16 by 20 feet for a school room. Now, mother, such a building as this would be practically useless for work ~~am~~ among the colored people. Of course, it would furnish a place large enough for our own church to assemble, but you see when missionary work is begun, as it should be, they will bring many people from the outside who

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desire to attend the meetings and a little building 20 by 30 feet would be practically of no use what ever.

Now, I became earnestly interested in this matter through a pleading letter from Sister Agee that I take hold and help them. This was received after I came from California the last time. Now, while I was in California, I gave a talk on the work in the South before the young people at Mountain View and of their own accord they took up a collection that amounted to nearly \$20.00. Later a brother sent me \$10.00 to be used in ~~xx~~ the same work. Then sometime ago while I was at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I gave a talk on the work and I introduced this letter from Sister Agee and read it to them. Then I asked them if they did not want to take hold and help build the church that would be suitable for the work and the next Sabbath they took up a contribution of \$20.00. Now, this leaves in my hands about \$50.00 toward this work. This with the \$200.00 there will make \$250.00.

Now, the Conference has decided that the building can be put up for \$300.00. Now, mother, I know that this is absolutely inadequate and it is not representing the work as it should be and I do not think it should be done. So I wrote to Sister Agee some time ago and told her that I did not agree with the plans there at all, that I thought that broader plans should be laid and an effort should be made to raise money enough to make such a building as they should have there. I told her that they should have a building just as good as we have here at Nashville, built by the Southern Missionary Society, and that we have in Jackson, Mississippi built by the Society. The two buildings are just alike, only the one at Jackson, Mississippi is two feet wider. This one at Jackson, Mississippi,

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is ~~24~~ feet wide by 48 feet deep and you know mother, that this is small enough for any church purpose. Now, if they do the work as they should at Knoxville, they ought to have a stereopticon and give stereopticon lectures to the colored people and if they do that they will crowd a church of the size of 24 by 48 and cannot begin to get them in. A building 20 by 30 would simply be foolishness.

Now, I wrote to Sister Agee that I would take hold and write to churches where I was acquainted and endeavor to get them interested in this work and ask them to send down such donations as they could and we would report it through the Gospel Herald and the money would go to build a proper memorial for the truth among the colored people at Knoxville, the first place where missionary effort was begun for this people. I think I shall enclose you copies of the letters which I have received and it will show you how grateful the people there are for any assistance we can render. Now, Mother, I want to know if you cannot take hold and help us in this? Can't you prepare something at your place and send it around to a few of the churches there in California and ask them to raise a little donation ^{to help} to build a proper church there. Such a church as they need, will not cost less than \$800.00 ^{and should cost \$1000-} and that is small enough anybody knows. I learn that the lot slopes strongly toward the street and they want to put underneath it a basement for school purposes. Now, I should suggest that the basement be not less than 24 by 30 feet and that the building itself, the upper story for church purposes be 24 by 48.

Now, there is another feature connected with this that I desire to have you consider. Emma's mother, in settling her business affairs, arranged for \$300.00 of her estate to go to the cause to be appropriated

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by the General Conference. Her estate was left to be administered by Emma and her sister and their brother. I presented the situation of this church to Emma and her sister and asked if they would not join me in the request that that \$300.00 be appropriated by the General Conference to the building of this church at Knoxville. They both agree in this and they send to you their request that you take hold and help secure the co-operation of the Conference in appropriating this \$300.00 to this church. I know if you take up the matter with the General Conference, they will accede to your request. I know that Mother Mc Dearman would desire this to be done if she were alive and I could present the matter to her. And so I believe ^{it} to be only right that the General Conference should apply this \$300.00 to this emergency for this missionary church. I know if W. C. will take this matter up with you, and arrange a letter to the General Conference that this can be secured. Of course, it is to be taken out of her estate and the General Conference will not have to pay any money. They simply allow this \$300.00 that was given by my wife's mother to be applied for the building of this church as mentioned and I believe it is right that this should be done. I feel that certainly the heirs to the estate should have something to say in regard to this, when it comes up in this kind of a way.

Now, Mother, if this seems reasonable to you, I wish that it might be undertaken ⁱⁿ at once and that you would write me and let me know what steps you expect to take in regard to it. I will say that I have arrangements with the secretary of the Southern Missionary Society so that all donations that are received will be credited in the Gospel Herald, which is the organ of that Society, and will be sent forward in the regular way to build this church.

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Now, Mother, I regard this as one of the important things in the South at the present time. Knoxville is a large city. There is a large following of colored people there. There is a good company of our own people. There are workers on the ground to take hold and push the work and if they can have the proper place, in which to do their work, I believe that a strong company can be brought out in that place. But from my knowledge of the colored people and what they will do, I have no faith that anything of any importance can be done there, until they can have a house of worship, and connected with it, a school room where they can open a mission school.

I ask that in addition to what I request in this last, in regard to the estate, that you call the attention of some of our churches to it. I believe the money can be raised easily. I hope so. I shall be glad to hear about it as quickly as possible. I remain as ever,

Your son,

J. E. White

Dictated to Graphophone.