

among the Russians of North Dakota. There were at that time seven organized churches, with a membership of 200. At the General Conference of 1922, the report showed thirteen churches and twelve companies of Russians in North Dakota, with a total membership of 700. There has been similar growth among the Italians, and more recently among the Poles and Ukrainians.

The work among the Jews, especially fostered from the beginning by F. C. Gilbert, has been definitely connected with the Bureau since 1911. The interest in our publications on the part of the Jews is growing. More than 100,000 magazines are circulated among them annually, besides thousands of tracts.

The Bureau of Home Missions is operating at present in thirty languages, and other tongues are being added as rapidly as possible. In the four years preceding the General Conference of 1922, there were won to the truth from among the foreign-language-speaking people in America, 4,457 new believers, and seventy-five new churches were organized.

### The Negro Department

Work among the colored people of the United States was begun in the year 1894, when J. E. White opened an evening school for them in Vicksburg, Miss. He also held Bible studies in the homes of the people. In time a church was organized, and a small church building erected. Similar success attended efforts put forth in Columbus, Natchez, and other cities in Mississippi, and as the work grew, it spread gradually into other States.

In 1895 a central training school was opened on a farm five miles northwest of Huntsville, Ala. The old manor house served as the school building for the first year. New buildings have been erected as needed, and additional land has been purchased. The farm now includes 896 acres, and is well stocked with horses, mules, and cattle. The institution has been successful in training a goodly number of workers. In recent years it has been raised to the status of a fourteen-grade school, and is known as Oakwood Junior College.

Other schools of a more elementary character have been carried on from time to time, and likewise aggressive evangelistic effort. The work was under the fostering care, first of the General Conference, and later of the various State and union conferences organized in the South. The General Conference of 1909 created what is known as the Negro Department for North America.

The first secretary of the department was J. W. Christian, who held the post only a few months. He was succeeded by A. J. Haysmer, who continued to the end of the term. At the General Conference of 1918, W. H. Green was elected secretary, and re-elected in 1922.

There has been marked growth from the beginning. When J. E. White entered Vicksburg, there were fifty colored Sabbath keepers in the South, and possibly the same number in the North. In 1909 the membership had grown to 900; in 1913 it had passed the 1,800 mark. Five years later, in 1918, there was a colored membership of 3,500, with tithes and offerings for the five years amounting to \$174,000. During the next period, from 1918 to 1922, the tithes alone amounted to \$533,000, and the offerings for missions were \$309,579, besides \$220,000 for local needs.

Aggressive evangelistic work has been carried forward in the larger cities of both North and South. There are now churches with memberships numbering from 100 to 600 in New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Washington, Detroit, Tampa, New Orleans, Louisville, San Antonio, and many other cities.

### The Press Bureau

At the denominational headquarters in Washington, D. C., a Press Bureau has been maintained since 1912, to assist the evangelistic workers in getting publicity for the message through the newspaper press, especially in telling of the progress that is being made at home and abroad. W. L. Burgan, a former member of the reportorial staff of the *Baltimore Sun*, is secretary of the bureau, the work of which has steadily grown in influence and importance.

### The Home Commission

At the Fall Council of the General Conference Committee held at Boulder, Colo., in October, 1919, action was taken creating a committee to be known as the Home Commission, consisting of the secretaries of the General Conference Departments of Education, Young People's Missionary Volunteers, Sabbath School, Medical, and Home Missionary, with certain other persons, M. E. Kern being appointed chairman. With the beginning of the year 1922 the organization was completed by the selection of A. W. Spalding as secretary and Mrs. Flora H. Williams as assistant secretary.

In the fall of 1921 active work was begun by members of the commission, who held home institutes in churches, dealing with basic questions and problems of the home life.