

SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE ISSUE



To Further United Methodism's Part in Christianizing Rural Life

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In Memory Of Glenn F. Sanford



This issue of "The Bulletin" is dedicated to the sacred memory of **GLENN F. SANFORD**, Rural Pastor, Preacher and Executive 1895 - 1976

The Rev. Glenn F. Sanford, former Executive Secretary of Town and Country Work of the National Division, died February 5, in Lower Bucks Hospital, Levittown, Pa. He was 80.

Formerly of Conway, Ark., he attended Hendrix College, Northwestern, and Duke, Glenn was a member of the North Arkansas Conference. He served pastorates there, the last three of which are Bentonville, Paris and Marion.

From 1927 to 1937 he served as Extension Secretary of the North. Ark. Conference Board of Education. In 1941 he was appointed director of the Conference Town and Country Commission and served in that position until 1949 when he was named Executive Secretary of Town and Country in the National Division.

Glenn served in this capacity until 1961 when ill health forced his retirement. During his term of office he helped establish professorships of town and country work in Methodist colleges and seminaries, helped direct in-service training for rural pastors and helped provide religious leadership for such areas as mountain villages, lumber camps and mining towns.

Glenn was vitally interested in promoting the Group Ministry across the Church. He was a long time friend and promoter of the then Methodist Rural Fellowship. He was very active in leading workshops and seminars on

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Town and Country Ministers' Summer School

The Annual Virginia Summer School for Town and Country Ministers will be held July 19-22 at Ferrum College, Ferrum. Guest leaders for the School are Dr. James Nelson, Director, Department of Rural - Urban Missions, Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta; and Rev. James A. Allison, Jr., Pastor of Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, Roanoke. Dr. Nelson will conduct a course on "Meaningful Ministry in the Town and Country Church" with special attention to the pastor's own needs, feelings and aspirations as he attempts to put it all together in the Town and Country situation. Rev. Allison will offer a Bible Study and Preaching Seminar on "Preaching God's Word from Exodus." Time will be provided for sharing, exchange of ideas among ministers and opportunity for individual counseling and sharing with staff.

Fliers and registration forms are being sent to pastors and denominational offices in the near future. Cost of the school is \$40.00.

In Memory Of Glenn F. Sanford

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the town and country church.

On July 20, 1959, at the National Town and Country Conference in Wichita, Kansas, the late Elliott L. Fisher awarded Glenn an Honorary Life Membership in the Methodist Rural Fellowship. At the same meeting life memberships were also presented to Clyde N. Rogers and Elliott Fisher, the first three ever awarded.

Funeral services were held by the Rev. Neal Bachman, pastor of Emilie United Methodist Church, Levittown on Friday, February 6. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Among other words of comfort, his pastor made the following statement at Glenn's funeral:

"Glenn Sanford's life pilgrimage is not measured in mileage nor achievements from Mountain Home, Arkansas, where he was born to 475 Riverside Drive, where he retired from the Lord's

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Hope For Rural Sunday Schools In Kansas

by
Jack Gregory

—Does the Sunday School have a future in the small rural church?

—Can there be a class for every teacher and a teacher for every class?

—Does the United Methodist Church offer resources that can be used by rural students and teachers?

Many persons in the New Mis-



David Hollingswood, Jackson Area Ministries, Jackson, Ohio, serves as resource person in a legislative committee during General Conference.

work with The Methodist Mission Board, and to his quiet years in Levittown.

"While his 80 years are characterized by earnest faith and humble witness to his Lord and Saviour in small mountain communities, in larger pulpits, in the encouragement of pastors and people in town and country ministries; by familial devotion to his beloved family, and an encouraging witness to all who came to know him, from the smallest child in his block to those of us who were fortunate enough to be pastors to him."

We proudly dedicate this special General Conference issue of The UMRF Bulletin to the sacred memory of Glenn Freeman Sanford who would have been proud of the legislation passed in Portland in behalf of the church in town and country.

J.E.H.

sion Parish have joined the ranks of those concerned about the future of the Sunday School in the small rural church, where membership is under 200, or even under 100. Declining population, declining interest, and changes in values have caused many churches to place their Sunday Schools on the critical list.

Because we, in New Mission Parish, believe that children, youth and adults need Christian Education, and because we believe there is strength in cooperation, a training event was held one Sunday in January, at the Parker United Methodist Church. Over 65 concerned teachers and the parish staff joined Conference Council Staff members. Margaret West and Jerry Grabher, and Ottawa District Youth Coordinator Glen Scharff, in exploring ways to better communicate the 'good news' of God's saving love and possibility.

In addition to the input from our leaders, unstructured time was made available for browsing through ample curriculum and sharing with other teachers. The event was designed to foster hope among those struggling churches and dedicated teachers who desired to sharpen teaching skills.

Margaret West introduced the notion of learning centers where two or three teachers would work with students of different ages in one center. This could be a life-saver for a Sunday School which has only one or two students in a class, and a shortage of teachers. Careful attention was given to preparing a lesson plan, encouraging teachers to begin their weekly preparation early in the week, and make changes in the classroom appearance regularly so as to stimulate interest.

New Mission Parish annually hosts a Vacation Church School training event for teachers and hopes to continue to provide support for our teachers with future events. Simple things like purchasing one VCS Kit for

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