

Office of  
NASHVILLE BOOK CO.  
INCORPORATED

Telephone, Main 4527

1713 Cass Street, Near 23rd.

Nashville, - - Tenn.

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Dear Mother:==

I remember well that you have done considerable to~~y~~ assist in preparing for tent work among the colored people across the river from my former home here in Nashville. Well, there is quite a history connected with it. About a year ago I put up the tent on the spot where the present tent is located, and we held services in it for months, until the winds and storms of winter tore the tent and started the framework, then we took it down and stored it for abot three months. But as it came toward spring the people began to want us to begin again, and so I had the rents patched up, and built a strong, substantial frame and put up the canvass as you see it in the picture. You see it is built square like a house. Then there is a regular door to it so we can lock it up like a house. Then, there are eight windows in it. The sash and glass of these windows came from the Morning Star before~~y~~it was burned.

It is very comfortable and pleasant, and the people like t come to it. I have preached there almost constantly once or twice a week, and the people have certainly had the opportunity to hear the truth, but the most important part has been lacking, and that is some one to liv right among them and be with them and teach them, and exert a constant influence over them. Our success heretofore in the South has been because we had those who did this very thing. But the one we expected to do this failed, and I fear there will not many take their stand at present.

But it has been a very hard experience for me. I have been ~~of~~ overworked trying to get my affairs rounded up so that I could cut out the bulk of the work of my office, and begin to get where I could lessen thi s line of work as much as possible. My making of new books is done until business matters get into shape so I can do so without the financia

strain I have been under for so long. You see for over three years the offices have been cutting my book business all to pieces, until I saw I would soon be left in the most embarrassing position, and I have been trying to get where I would not be dependent upon them. So I now have a fine line of books of my own on which the offices cannot lay their hands.

But it was of the tent work I desired to speak. When I leave for the North the colored work in Nashville will have this tent and equipment, with the work having been in progress for over a year. They certainly ought to be able to do something with it.

But it has cost me considerably money when I was least able to invest it. They have a tent that has cost me in all since I began at least \$250.00 to put up and maintain, including the running expenses and \$25.00 worth of song books. The help you gave and the fruit you sent has helped wonderfully, and Walter sent on \$50.00 at one time.

Another simple building is needed near my own home, so that several living near by who are interested, and some others who come from a distance, could have a place to meet, and I have tried to get at the building of it for over a year, but have not been able to spare the money necessary. One little matter hurt me pretty badly. After struggling as I had to get up the ~~mix~~ tent across the river, of which I send you the photograph, I thought of a plan that I thought would work. I wrote to Eld. McVagh, the Prest. of the Southern Missionary Society, and laid the matter before him. I then told him I was a regular minister of the Southern Union Conference, and had not only carried the expense of providing the tent, but had also labored in speaking for over a year, here, and at Huntsville, and at Vicksburg, Yazoo City, and Jackson, Miss, I told him to consider the matter, and whatever would be allowed me for my labor I would be glad to receive, and would use it in putting up a simple building near my own home, so that the colored people in this

Mother =3=

could have a place to go to and hear the truth.

I sent this to McVagh in a letter. I met him a few days after, and he was very nice and told me he had received the letter and would present the matter as soon as he had an opportunity. Weeks passed and he never mentioned the matter. Finally I met him and asked him in regard to it. He replied that he and Eld. Haysmer had talked over the matter and decided that they could not establish such a precedent as to pay for my work. I called his attention to the matter of using the money to put up a little building for the work, but it did not make any difference. Mother, this cut to the quick after I have done what I have in establishing the work among the colored people. This practically expresses the attitude that has been manifested toward me for years. Ford began it, and the others have carried it on till it is a long agony to try to be a man in this field and among these men. I have been accused of drawing away from my brethren; but such a statement is false. I have tried to come close to them, but have been met in a way that I cannot try longer and be a man. I am so glad that I am going away. It has been my prayer night and day for weeks and weeks that the Lord would make it possible for me to go away, and that as quickly as possible. There is a whole history connected with the situation here, and you will know and understand it some day. I am glad, glad, glad, that the time for my going is now so near. I am going where I can throw off the bulk of the business care and burden which I now carry, where I can get the rest I have been told to take for so long, and where I can be free to meet our churches and speak the words of truth to them which I am sure the Lord has given to me. I am tired, tired, tired. But I will not write more to-night. I shall try to live right and work right.

In love, Your son,

*J. E. White*