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Charity and Children, issue of Jan. 8, 1948 - Dr. Zeno Wall

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New General Superintendent



Dr. Zeno Wall

Charity and Children, issue of January 8th, 1948

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On January 1, Dr. I. G. Greer officially relinquished his duties as general superintendent of the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage to his newly elected successor, Dr. Zeno Wall of Shelby. The event will be formally observed early in February by a special service at the Mills Home Church, in which both incoming and outgoing superintendents will participate. During the month of January both Dr. Wall and Dr. Greer will be in and out of the office, as Dr. Wall familiarizes himself with administrative details, while receiving the benefit of Dr. Greer's wisdom and experience.

A little over a month ago the announcement of Dr. Greer's resignation was received with regret and a feeling akin to dismay in Baptist circles throughout the State. While regret is still felt, the sense of dismay has been largely dispelled by two factors: the election of Dr. Greer as President of the Board of Trustees, and the election of Dr. Wall, former President of the Board, as his successor.

The action of the Board has met with widespread satisfaction and approval. So far as we know, there is no school or college which claims to turn out full-fledged Orphanage executives. For that reason it usually has been necessary to invade other fields in order to find qualified men for this type of work. In the course of a long and varied career Dr. Wall has managed to acquire experience which singularly equips him to assume the position of general superintendent with its manifold duties and responsibilities.

A native of Moresboro, Dr. Wall was educated at Mars Hill and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Before entering the ministry he was for a while in charge of the office of Cliffside Mills and agent for the Cliffside Railway Company. He served a number of pastorates in Mississippi before accepting a call to the Clinton Baptist Church at Mississippi College, where he remained for five years. During this time he was secretary of the Board of

Trustees of Mississippi College and treasurer of the Board of Ministerial Education of that state.

In 1922 he returned to North Carolina to accept a call to the First Baptist of Goldsboro. Three years later he became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shelby, a post which he continued to hold until his recent resignation. From 1930-32, in addition to his pastoral duties, he was called into service as President of Boiling Springs College, now Gardner-Webb, at a critical period in the history of that institution.

As the result of years of service to the denomination, Dr. Wall will be perfectly at home in representing the cause of the Orphanage to North Carolina Baptists. During twenty-three years as pastor of one of the most active and influential churches in the State, he has been a leading figure in the Convention. From 1933-36 he was president of that body, and in subsequent years has served on various boards and committees of importance. His reputation as a preacher of force and eloquence has been augmented by the publication of two volumes of sermons. He holds the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Mississippi College.

In recent years his responsibilities as president of the Board of Trustees have kept him in immediate touch with all phases of the Orphanage program. Throughout this period he has worked in close cooperation with Dr. Greer, as doubtless he will continue to do now that their positions are reversed. The trustees were fortunate to find within their own ranks a man who has the variety of experience needed in the post of superintendent.

Mrs. Wall was formerly Miss Elora Kate Ramsey of Walnut. They have three sons—Zeno, Jr., Yates and Woodrow—and two daughters, Mrs. Ollie Harris and Mrs. Walter Fanning.

We look forward with pleasure to the arrival of the Walls and face the New Year with confidence as Dr. Wall takes up his new duties.