

Extract from a Survey made of Church Work in Missouri outside St. Louis by the Rev. F. D. Goodwin, Secretary for Rural Work of the National Council, in 1925. (Complete copy on file in the office of the Diocese of Missouri.)

1. Trinity Mission, Kirksville. Rector, the Rev. L. C. Sherburne

Kirksville is a problem. Much too important to give up, and too weak to stand alone. The town is strongly churched by other religious bodies, but they need the Episcopal Church. Besides the presence there of the two colleges makes it too strategic a point to think of abandoning. I was not impressed by the loyalty of the Church members. What is back of this, I do not know. The average attendance at the service Sunday morning is given as twenty-five, and about eighteen students at the Sunday night supper. The situation here is bound up with the question of Mr. Sherburne's suitability for this particular post. With no reflections on his ability to do good work elsewhere, I feel that he has not enough force to make himself effective here. He evidently has been faithful to his task as he understood it, and has done some good work, but I judge that a new man and a forceful one is needed here to be effective both in leading the congregation and in ministering to the students. It seems to me that the amount of money spent here by the Diocese and local parish is out of all proportion to any results that are now being obtained. The Guild is to be commended especially for their interest in paying the Diocesan Apportionment. It must be borne in mind that the interest on the debt on the parish is about \$100 yearly.

Fortunately, as it seems to me, Mr. Sherburne is not unwilling now to leave Kirksville. I understand he has just gotten his degree at the Teachers' College. I think he is not to be blamed for making use of what seemed to him to be an abundance of time hanging heavily on his hands. I think he would consider a call, particularly from the East.

In the event he should go away, my solution of the Kirksville Mission is to combine it with Macon. I would judge that Mr. Wilcox is just the man for the Kirksville situation. It would be a drawback to have him living in Macon, but I think that the advantages of his personality and training would far outweigh the disadvantage of his living elsewhere. Between the two points there are four trains daily. When the state road is completed the distance of about thirty-five miles will not be much over an hour's run.

Another thing to be considered in this proposed combination is the fact that both of these points have been used to morning services. Kirksville seems to feel they are essential if any students are to be reached. But alternate services morning and night would I believe meet the needs at both places. Mr. Sherburne stated that the Presbyterians had recently proposed to join with us in having the Sunday night suppers for the students alternate between the two churches. If this arrangement could be consummated, our man would arrange to be in Kirksville on those nights when the suppers were held in our own church. If desired, there would be an early celebration at the place where the night service is to follow. Please remember that these re-

recommendations are made on the assumption that men will be put on these jobs that are willing to do anything reasonably possible to give satisfactory service at all points, and also on the assumption that the Diocese and parishes will give the minister sufficient salary so that he can afford to be generous in the use of his car.

Another angle to be considered of course, is the fact that Macon is an independent parish, and used to regular morning services. However, it seemed to me that I found here a more generous spirit than anywhere else, and I believe that if the proposition were put up to them by the Council and their cooperation for the good of the Diocese was asked, that they would respond and the details could be worked out satisfactorily. I am confident that if this arrangement could be made Mr. Wilcox would find it a more congenial field than the present partnership with Moberly, and would feel in it the challenge of a bigger job. I would suggest that in the event this combination of Macon and Kirksville was put through, that Mr. Wilcox's salary should be not less than \$3000 a year and the rectory; he to provide his own car and upkeep. This however would be a saving over the \$2400 now given Kirksville, and the \$1500 Macon contributes. He would have one of the biggest, hardest, and most interesting jobs in the Diocese.