

# A Ministry of Healing Among Negroes

Field Nurse in a Rural District of South Carolina Tells of Her Work

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UNDER the direction of the National Council, I entered upon my field of work as rural mission nurse at Pineville, South Carolina, on October 1, 1923.

My first impression of this mission has ever been an inspiring one, in that I can never do too much along any line for our poor, unfortunate ones here.

Redeemer Mission is situated nearly seventeen miles from a railroad station, and buggies, wagons or cars are used as a means of transportation. Our communicants are scattered here and there some five to twelve miles more or less apart, some few settled in villages, but despite the distance they fail not to attend our services regularly.

One cannot realize what a rural nurse does unless they have had the opportunity to see the work. I have no special hours, no special place, to be about my duties attending the sick. In most cases that cannot afford a physician I act both as nurse and physician.

My way of getting to the patients is by ox cart, wagon, buggy, or sometimes by car. Patients come from far and near when able to get treatments. No night too dark, nor hour too late to be about my duty. Some patients' homes are too far to make daily visits, but whenever possible I go into a settlement and make as many visits as I can

while there. The living conditions are looked into and instructions given along the lines of sanitation.

The nearest drugstore is twenty-three miles distant, and the nearest hospital forty-seven miles from here, so one can clearly see how sick people suffer in cases of emergency.

We are really in need of some place or home where we can treat our folks whenever their home conditions are not favorable.

I have received two boxes of dispensary articles from two of our northern branches of the Woman's Auxiliary. These articles are used in case of emergency and for those who are too poor to secure them through other means.

Our nearest physician, Dr. Kirk, who lives about ten miles away, donates medicine whenever possible. He is very kind to our people.

No fees are charged to our people unless they are able to pay a little and these funds are kept to use for emergency medicines, etc.

Let us hope and trust that some day we shall have the means whereby we may be able to receive our people and treat them amid sanitary conditions.

I hope to continue to work for my Master and my people until some day we shall be able to boast of our mission being among the record-breaking ones.



A RURAL DISTRICT NURSE  
*This is not a picture of the author, but of a nurse who is doing the same kind of work in the same locality*