



REV. L. A. TAYLOR

This young preacher had a depression-born opportunity thrust upon him before the ink was dry on his letter of acceptance—the opportunity to match his faith against the growing fear and pessimism of the darkening days of hard times. The test left no doubt in anyone's mind that he was another of the great preachers of Central.

Rev. Taylor was of a different generation than his predecessors. As someone put it: "those up to Lawson preached the scriptures; those after Lawson were scriptural plus." Rev. Taylor put enough of both into his sermons to make his congregation aware of the seriousness of the times, through changing world conditions.

Rev. Taylor was a preacher with the layman's point of view. He was scholar and teacher; disciple and apostle! He had a way with men that made you enjoy a cup of coffee with him, on time snatched from the busiest hour of your busiest day. He was the first pastor of Central to engage extensively in civic matters. Rev. Taylor left Central in the Spring of 1938, after eight arduous years for the pastorate of a Presbyterian church at Fulton, Missouri.

officers took to be an ultimatum. Boiled down, the decree implied that the Personnel was lax in keeping a preacher on hand, and that if something wasn't done about it, at once, the matter would be presented to Presbytery. Deacon McLaughlin's pride was hurt. He slowly rose to his feet, placed a pin in his sleeve, and unburdened his heart so consistently that out of pity, his remarks were omitted from the record.

After extinguishing the fireworks, the Personnel Mission representatives made peace by offering to furnish a preacher for one year from date, for \$200.00, and no hard feelings! Rev. J. H. Green was assigned to the pulpit, and the church went steadily on. He was so taken with the spirit of Central that he received permission to remain longer, and continued his work until April, 1901.

Rev. Green was succeeded by Rev. F. E. Maddox. Then, over a comparatively brief period, the church was honored by such notable pastors as Rev. H. L. Paisley, Rev. J. C. Shiver, Rev. J. F. McKinnon, and Rev. J. Walter Cobb. Under their progressive leadership Central gained in strength, membership and spirituality.

Rev. Charles R. Hyde followed Rev. Cobb in Central's pulpit, and he served the church for two years. The new preacher's tenure was mainly routine, but he had a leading role in the merger of the Second and Central churches, which had been revived after Rev. Cobb left. The membership was still against giving up the identity of the church, they had put too much of the onus on that. The officers were particularly obdurate in that respect. The relationship between officer and pastor became strained. As a final measure the session appointed Elder W. W. McLaughlin to represent the officers, since he was a