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REV. S. GERIAH LAMKINS,
Pastor of *The Tenth Street Baptist Church.*

CHURCH OUT OF DEBT.

ABLE FINANCIERING OF THE REV. S. GERIAH LAMKINS.

How the Progressive Pastor of *The Tenth Street Baptist Church* Made His Way in *The World*—His Faithful Services to *The Denomination.*

Washington is noted for her high-grade ministry and beautiful church edifices. One representative worker for the Master, whose constructive genius and intellectually have contributed largely to the uplift of the community is the Rev. S. Geriah Lamkins, a sketch of whom is here given.

He was born in Roanoke county, Virginia, June 20, 1857. He received private instruction at an early age and attended the public schools of his native county at Bonsack's, Hollins and Roanoke City. He professed faith in Christ and connected himself with the Green Ridge Baptist Church of Roanoke county, Virginia, in 1876. He was licensed to

preach in 1878, was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry in 1879 as pastor of the Flat Creek Baptist Church in Campbell county, Virginia. He resigned to enter Howard University in 1880. He graduated with honors from the Theological Department in 1885. He was called to the pastorate of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church before he graduated from Howard. The church was worshipping at that time in a little one-story brick building on K street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, northwest. Mr. Lamkins set to work at once to improve the building, which he was successful in doing. It is now the cosy church home of the Mt. Airy Baptist Church, Rev. A. B. Hamb, pastor. It became too small for the Mt. Carmel Church, hence, through the efforts of the pastor, it was given as part payment on the church, corner of Fourth and L streets, northwest, which had at one time been the edifice of the Third Baptist Church, but had been sold for debt and had been used as a school house, and also as a barroom.

It was the Rev. S. Geriah Lamkins who redeemed the present house of worship in which the Mt. Carmel Church worships, corner Fourth and L streets, northwest, Rev. Wm. P. Gibbons, Ph. D., pastor, from a school

house and whiskey shop and brought it back in the Baptist column from which it had been sold. It was during his pastorate of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church that he baptized Prof. M. Grant Lucas, Mr. James Lucas, Mr. Jos. Lucas and Miss Annie Belle, all of whom are public school teachers here in Washington. The late Mr. Bundy, father of James F. Bundy, Esq., member of the school board, Mrs. Alex. Freeman, the business woman of the Fourth ward and Miss Lottie Brockenbrough, the leading soprano of the church, and a host of others were baptized by Rev. Lamkins while he was pastor at Mt. Carmel. It was during Rev. Lamkins' administration, and mainly through his efforts, that the Mt. Carmel church was brought into fellowship with the Second Baptist Church, after a separation of over ten years' standing, when it was not fellowshiped by the Second Baptist Church. It was he who received the Rev. Geo. W. Lucas in the church.

After six years of a pleasant and most successful pastorate he resigned the pastorate of the Mt. Carmel to go South, but finally changed his mind and accepted the pastorate of the Salem Baptist Church, where he remained for six years, during which time he added a story to the building and beautified the interior and baptized two hundred and seventy-five persons, the most of whom were young men. When they could no longer live together in peace, they did as Abraham and Lot and Barnabas and Mark, they separated. The result was that the Salem church or chapel lost all of their church property after he left and does not now own so much as a shingle, but is paying rent, while the Tenth street congregation is worshipping

in a \$25,000 church. The Salem church has had four pastors in the past five years, to wit: Rev. Pryor, Rev. Edgerton, Rev. A. S. Lomax and Rev. Herburn, none of whom have been able to save or redeem the church.

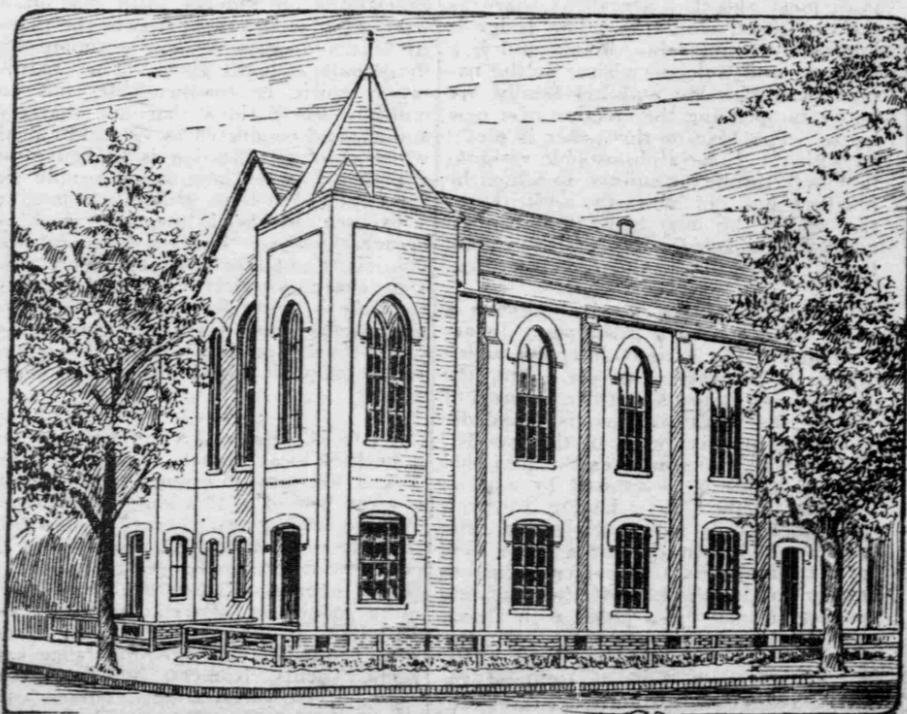
The Tenth street church was organized in 1897 and has broken the record of any young church at the Capital of the Nation in securing a house of worship. Their house of worship was erected by the Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church at a cost of \$15,000. It was sold under the hammer for \$10,000, the present congregation buying the house and ground for \$7,000, being less than half what it cost to build it.

Rev. Lamkins is well and favorably known by the leading men of both races not only in this city, but throughout the country. This position as editor and manager of the *Christian Banner* keeps him in touch with the leading people in all parts of the country.

Rev. Lamkins was married to Miss Susie Fitchett, Hampton, Virginia, 1888. She has proven to be a helpmeet, indeed. She fills her place regularly in the choir and is prominent in all the work of the church. She left the Hampton Normal and Collegiate Institute, where she attended school before graduating, to travel with Mrs. Elijah K. Sherman, a wealthy widow of Toledo, Ohio, who left Miss Fitchett, now Mrs. Lamkins, \$2,000 in cash at her death, as a recognition of her faithful services as her companion.

Rev. Mr. Lamkins has served the Baptists of the District of Columbia as Secretary of the Baptist Ministers' Union, as Vice-President and Corresponding

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The Tenth Street Baptist Church, Valued at \$25,000