

Marshall Keeble

Widely believed to have been the most effective preacher, black or white, within the Churches of Christ because of the 40,000 to 50,000 estimated people he brought to Christ in his lifetime, his success is largely attributed to the support he received from A. M. Burton, wealthy insurance executive in Nashville, Tennessee. Keeble was born in poverty and discrimination. He learned early that blacks had nothing and whites controlled all resources. He therefore, catered to white interests while doing the work of the Lord. Burton recognized his unusual preaching ability and fully supported him "to go everywhere preaching the Word" from 1930 until his death in 1967. Keeble's last visit to Michigan was to speak on the lectureship at Michigan Christian College.