

ALTAR CALL

By EMORY G. DAVIS, D.D.
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

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WE CANNOT AFFORD TRADITIONALISM

"We're...more interested in traditional religion," was the comment given to the press by a member of my congregation after my announced intention to resign in September from both the local church and the active ministry.

And this is a reflection of what I suspect of not only the basically Negro church, but also what seems to be the posture of members in churches, synagogues and temples. They--members, priests, rabbis, ministers alike--seem more interested in traditional religion than in facing life as it is.

WHY THE backward, unalterable traditionalism in religion? Why does science, technology and cybernetics, for example, look forward? The answers to these questions explain the wide breach between religion and the rest of the world.

WHEN WILL RELIGION LOOK FORWARD, TOO?

The aura of mysticism that engulfs religion in America precludes people from attempting change in its message and methodology. There are those who would not substitute "you" for "thou" in the Bible lest they be called sacrilegious.

OTHERS HAVE not examined their own concept of God since they inherited it from their grandmothers. We dare not say anything about the sometimes inexplicably differing approaches to life evinced by Jesus, his disciples, or Paul.

Beyond the imposition of theological traditionalism upon the ministry and the laity, is the more recent challenge to religion and its relationship to the social revolution. It is comparatively easy for religion to hide behind a shroud of traditionalism in order to escape the more demanding realistic confrontation with the issues of the day.

IT IS EASY for the layman in the church to speak as the one quoted. To turn from a backward look at traditionalism to a current and forward look at the problems in human relations, dares the layman to really make a commitment to a religious consciousness that will serve this present age of riots, despair, anti-intellectualism, poverty, to name a few.

Since, of all organized bodies, the Negro church--with its thousands of members, reflects the effects of discrimination and white racial hatred--it should be done with traditionalism and be searching for a new religion that will counteract and chisel a way for progress for the Negro.

We, the Negro, even more than the white, can no longer worship at the altar of traditionalism. Had we ever thought that a new Altar might even break white religious traditionalism and set all men free?



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Bethel Baptist Church Activities

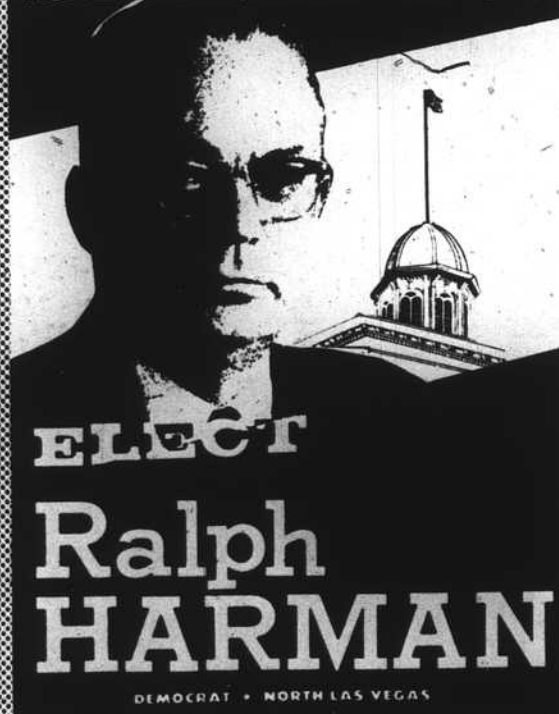


YOUTH DAY PROGRAM at Bethel Baptist Church Sunday last was a smashing success.... Among the multi events of the evening's program were a delightful Tom Thumb Wedding and a Fashion Show--Pictured here are participants in the program.



MISSIONARY SOCIETY of Bethel Baptist Church met at the home of the Pastor, Rev. and Mrs. I. W. Wilson for their regular weekly meeting to find a patio party had been planned for them and special guest of honor, Rev. John Paul Hundley of the Oakey Blvd. Church of God in Christ...After partaking of the delicious repast in the Wilson patio, guests assembled inside for a picture. From left (seated) Sachil M. Jones, Ruben Montgomery, Rev. Hundley, Rev. Wilson, James E. Creager, Mrs. Wilson, Jessie Lee Windom...Standing from left: Ruth Miller, Minnie Johns, Viola Slay, Eva M. Harris, Amanda McClain, Jimmy L. Cook, Rosa Lee Brewer, Sadie M. Jones, Bessie M. Drumgale, Willie M. Lovely, and Lenora Synagogue. Mrs. Wilson, Jackie Hall, and Cynthia Williams were official hostesses.

STATE SENATOR



ELECT
Ralph HARMAN
DEMOCRAT • NORTH LAS VEGAS

"North Las Vegas has been good to me and I'd like to 'pay my civic rent' for the space I occupy in the community. Many things are important in a man's life...one of the most important of these is service to others.

If I'm elected, I will stress service to the citizens of the community.

Being a state senator from North Las Vegas would be a great honor...a position of trust...and one that should be exercised with dignity."

RALPH HARMAN

