

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF FAITH?

Text: "And what is faith? Faith gives substance to our hopes, and makes us certain of realities we do not see." Heb. 11:1.

THE ALLIES OF faith are hope and love. Hope gives aim and direction. Love keeps hope worthy and faith steadfast.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FAITH

The residents of the coastal area of Australia speak of the inner more or less uninhabited area of the continent as "Beyond the Beyond" or only the "Beyond" as did Abraham, Columbus, John Glenn, and others.

Faith unfolds space. Faith unveils time. Faith redeems the future. The Beyonds of truth, beauty, and goodness are entered by faith, they are large countries with no boundaries.

One man's faith releases another's faith, energy and achievement. We note that Jesus could do no mighty act in Nazareth because the people had no faith. Faith discovers; faith builds; faith achieves.

BY FAITH, men experience eternal life long before their translation. By faith, men see the invisible God. By faith, they receive His grace through Christ. By faith, they know the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Examples of faith. Read the eleventh Chapter of Hebrews. Read the lives of the great discoverers and inventors. Ponder the records of men and women on the pages of Christian history. The examples are myriad; it may be true that nothing worthy is done in the world except by faith.

EVERYDAY FAITH

Believe in others. Believe in yourself. Many adverse things have been said about "positive thinking" but we forget the truth involved to our peril.

Believe in God. If you maintain the stance of demanding proof that God exists, and demand sight before every step you take you will wallow in doubt all the days of your life. Christianity is a religion of faith. Taking one step in faith leads to another. The Mustard Seed grows into a great tree.



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SOLOIST CONTESTANT



SAM ROBERSON is a participant in a widely anticipated "Soloist Contest" between Roberson and Sister Amanda Green to be held Sunday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 1100 No. 'D' street.

Sister Green is known as the "Singing Nurse" at Sunrise Hospital and is a member of the Church of God In Christ... Young Roberson's membership in the New Jerusalem Church make this affair a truly Inter-Denominational one and the public is cordially invited to attend. All contributions made by public offering will benefit the Building Fund Drive of the Church where the Rev. F. N. Addison is Pastor.

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"OPEN DOOR" PROGRAM PRESENTED TODAY

NEGRO AMERICAN HISTORY will be the theme of the "Open Door" Program to be held at Marble Manor, Thursday (today), Feb. 23 at 1:30 p.m.

Senior Citizens and Vista Volunteers will join forces in presenting many interesting stories and dramatization of the past and present. Good music and Refreshments will add interest to the afternoon's program.

Come to 811 'I' Street--Everyone is welcome.

ALTAR CALL

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

"BABYSITTERS, NOT ANGELS"

Comic strip theology is quite the order of the day. One which appeared recently educed for me two reactions.

One: it's great that this media is being used to communicate religious thought.

Two: it calls the adult minds (if they read some of these comics) to re-evaluate their personal theology, especially that which they communicate to their offsprings.

THE CASE in point was "McGurk's Mob" which depicts the rigors of family life, especially larger families. One of the daughters, being tucked in bed by her mother, asks, "Do the angels watch over me when I'm sleeping?" Her mother answers, "Uh huh."

The daughter goes on, "All day when I'm playing too?" The mother speaks assuringly, "They're always watching over you, dear." The daughter: "Then how come I need a baby sitter?"

Without debating the subject of angelology-- which for some is mere myth and for others some kind of ill-defined substitutionary force at work in the world (on special order and assignment)--the fact that a child can be sold a bill of goods on angels, when that child can reason that angels cannot replace babysitters, gives strength to the fact that many of our progeny are not buying what we're selling about religion.

Then, there was Peanuts' Charley Brown sometime ago, who was told around Christmas time that there was no Santa Claus. Charley promised to investigate "this business about a baby Jesus," too.

Religious myths continue to be passed along from one generation to the next. It is easy to recall those which many of us received from our parents, our grandparents. We were not allowed to challenge the authenticity of those religious "facts" they purveyed. Oftimes in the quiet recesses of our minds we hung a question mark until we could find out for ourselves.

TRAGICALLY, many of today's youth, upon discovering earlier alleged facts to be myths, throw the baby out with the bathwater--they discard all religion with the myths.

The solution to the problem of racial harmony and the contribution organized religion ought to be making to it is thwarted because we are still encumbered by religious myth. Reality has small chance for survival.

Negro and white religious practitioners are both guilty. Perhaps we ought put some of these comic strips alongside the Bible on our Personal Religious Altar, so that our youth may discover the truth about man's humanity, in order to apply theological reality to our problems in human relations.

"Keep The Faith, Baby"

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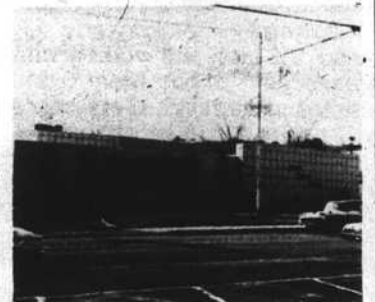
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