

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

RECEIVING

Text: Scripture Phil. 4:14-18.

The Philippian Church sent Paul a gift, Paul received the gift most graciously calling it "an odour of a sweet smell." It was a figure of speech for fragrant. Fragrant in this connection would be itself a figure of speech. "Your gift was most fragrant," we might say. It carries the suggestion of flowers and perfume.

IT IS A very simple lesson that we may learn from this incident of giving and receiving. For once we shall not emphasize the giving, but consider the importance of gracious receiving.

Refusal or reluctance to receive from others is often an indication of pride, selfishness, and self-conceit. A wise woman psychoanalyzed herself drastically in this connection to discover why she was a "stingy receiver". Her ego resented any communication that would make her a recipient instead of a bestower. Her self-revelation "made plain to me that my reluctance was due to self-conceit, to the regret that I could not be in the limelight as a bestower--but must lurk in the semi-shadows as a receiver."

An attitude of reluctance to receive may be unfair to a loved one or a friend. A man I know married a very wealthy woman. He himself had been very poor. It was a marriage of true love on both sides. They lived together in great happiness, except, (and this was an exception that almost broke his wife's heart) he would never accept graciously from her anything that his wife's wealth provided for his comfort or for their home.

WHEN WE refuse a favor which we cannot return, are we not depriving another of the joy of adding to the sum of human happiness? Or are we not guilty of doubting the sincerity of the would-be giver?

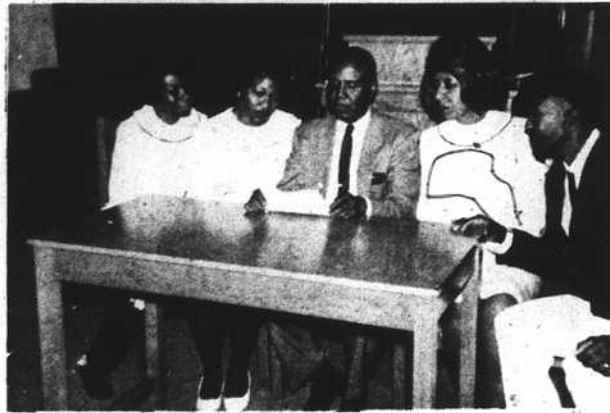
There is a tremendous thrill in gracious receiving. Not only is there deep satisfaction in the thought that someone cares for us enough to give to us, there is also pleasure to be taken in the gift itself. The willingness to receive may be as much a proof of friendship as is that of giving. There is great comfort in having a friend who never doubts our love.

Don't be a stingy receiver of affection, but accept it with your whole heart.



REV. D. M. CLARK

Church Usher Board To Present Special Program



The Usher Board of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church will present a special program Sunday night June 4, 1967 at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Pictured above are part of the Usher Board members (from left) Sis. Trimble, Chaplain; Sis Walker, Vice President; Bro. Wimberly, President; Sis. Trailer, Secretary, and Bro. Childress, Chaplain.

A CALL TO WORSHIP

Zion Methodist Church provides various opportunities for every person to participate in the christian atmosphere of the church and its influence on our community. We plan our activities for the benefit of public enjoyment as well as for the personal enrichment of our members.

We wish you would note the following events and prepare to share them with us.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 1967 at 3 p.m., the Formal Opening and Consecration of the new Zion Methodist Church will be observed. Mr. Herschel Hedgth, Director of Church Extensions of the National Board of Missions of The Methodist Church will be the speaker. He will journey from Philadelphia, Pa. to honor this occasion. A meaningful and inspiring program has been arranged.

The Vacation Bible School begins Monday, June 4, 1967 thru Friday, June 9, 1967, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. daily. All youths and interested adults are invited.

The Commission On Missions will crown the winner of The Baby Contest on June 18, 1967. The event is planned by Mrs. Jeanette Carr and Mrs. Ruby Amie.

Rev. W. D. Lester, Director of Evangelism For Special Activities of the Methodist Church will conduct a 5 day revival at Zion beginning June 25, 1967.

A Spring Window cleaning campaign is being sponsored by the Methodist Youth Fellowship. If interested, Please leave your name, address and phone number at the church.

Our Church is located at 2108 No. Revere, No. Las Vegas, Nevada. Rev. Marion D. Bennett is the minister.

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Convenient Immunization Clinic For Children

The Clark County Health Department, through the efforts of the Westside and Madison Neighborhood Councils, has graciously consented to open an immunization clinic for the community residents. This clinic will be held in the MARBLE MANOR MEETING ROOM FROM 9 to 11 A.M. on JUNE 12, 1967.

All parents with children are urged to bring them to the clinic for free immunization shots. If there is proof of the need of a clinic of this type in the community, it could possibly become a permanent operation. The need may be proven only by your taking advantage of the services offered on the morning of June 12.

Your Westside and Madison Neighborhood Councils ask that you PLEASE USE THESE FREE SERVICES--9 to 11 A.M., JUNE 12, 1967 MARBLE MANOR MEETING ROOM.

ALTAR CALL

By EMORY G. DAVIS
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NOT IN 100 YEARS

The timetable for the unification of 10 major Protestant denominations is set for "de facto" union within 13 years and final incorporation in 25 years.

Meanwhile, there is a continual falling away of young members and clergymen from major Protestant denominations.

THE REASON was made clear by the Rev. Colin W. Williams, National Council of Churches, at the sixth meeting of the Consultation on Church Union, held in Cambridge, Mass.

Rev. Colin said, "The problem for existing Protestant institutions is catching up with their members."

A young Catholic layman, active in civil rights, asked the other day, if I felt there was any hope for the survival of the church as an institution.

His question came out of the anguish he suffers as he views the conservative-to-inert stance of his own faith in relation to its role in the vital social issues of the day.

While the dreamers of a vast single church, with some 25 million members, are trying to resolve such questions as the structure of the super-church, congregational organization, clerical ranking, hierarchical authority and local church board functions, those who are sensitive to such irrelevance are easing out the front door.

Will there be 25 million people to incorporate as one body 25 years from now?

TWO NEGRO denominations are included in the 10 laboring for union. One point alone that is characteristic of both is their traditional emphasis on election of bishops.

Visit either the AME or AME Zion General conference--both meet next year--and compare the money, time and energy spent in the sometimes unholy politics of electing bishops, over against the time spent in programming that would renew these denominations to the point of meaningful relevance in our segregation-scarred society, and you will see irrelevance at its best.

My prediction is that the 10-church union will never happen--even in 100 years. Organization, with its hierarchy and stratification of power and authority, is not what the church ought concern itself with if survival is its aim.

Worker priests--pastors, shopping-center chaplains; night club and coffee-house pastors; civil rights emissaries and peace missionaries are just a few of the ministries' combined efforts of varying denominations could join in supporting--NOW!

There's an Altar called the World, into which the church ought be going to serve, rather than depending upon it for the light bill.

VOTE TUESDAY

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