

ALTAR CALL

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RELIGION AND BLACK POWER

"A Religious Opportunity" is the title of one chapter of Nathan Wright, Jr.'s book, "Black Power and Urban Unrest", that has something to say which ought to be read by both preachers and people--Negro and white.

Although this chapter, to me--at points--seems too conservative and traditional for the urgency of our times, Wright has not overlooked the possibility of religion functioning in a more meaningful role in a classical definition of Black Power.

His intimation that it is possible for the church as an agency to promote "dependency which limits self-directed progress toward maturity and self-sufficiency" which "complicates the human problem," is a clear call for religious forces to self-examination.

THE POTENTIAL for the forces of religion to "be or become enablers, facilitating human growth into self-direction," Wright suggests, is the kind of charismatic imperative that religion needs to give to the cause of Black Power.

To understand this 5-degree author's definition of Black Power, one MUST read this informative and provocative book.

Wright insists that those institutions that are concerned with ultimate social ends MUST be power-producing enterprises. The church is no exception.

The institutionalized Negro church, in particular, tends to abdicate its responsibility of producing human power, awaiting an external imposition of power from a "God" that is most often ill-defined in his attributes.

It is usually a "let God do it" kind of religion that characterizes Negro religion. As a result, the people intensify their own powerlessness erroneously affirming that such powerlessness is God's will.

"Every parish clergyman might measure the fruitfulness of his tasks by their relationship to the furtherance of power," Wright suggests.

OF THE clergy he asks whether they have created dependency or facilitated self-directed growth. This is to say that every clergyman ought look into the mirror of social unrest and need and see that role he or she is playing or fulfilling.

Black Power, as explained in Nathan Wright's book is not awesome and fearful. It is real, meaningful, essential and sacred. It will search the mind and soul of every reader until the reader has discovered where he or she is; where he or she would be; and, where ALL must be if chaos is not to be the final chapter of this generation.

Dare we suggest the Altar of Black Power as timely and relevant? Wright thinks so. The Altar of Black Power might well be the only Alter left through which society is to be redeemed.

Norfolk Publisher Dies

NORFOLK, Va. - (NPI)--The death of one of the nation's leading Negro publishers, Thomas W. Young, 58, was being mourned in this city and across the country.

Young, 58, died at General Hospital, where he had been confined for about two weeks. He had been publisher of the Norfolk Journal and Guide newspapers, which he inherited from his father, P. B. Young, Sr.

A member of a distinguished publishing family, Young had served as president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and once was the Association's first secretary.

A lawyer, he was a long-time chairman of the NNPA Merit Awards Committee. Young was also secretary of Amalgamated Publishers Corporation, which sells advertising in the Negro Press.

In 1964, President Johnson named him to the National Citizens Committee for Community Relations.

Fellowship Welcome To New A.M.E. Church Pastor



Edward E. Davis of Stockton, California was appointed Pastor of First A.M.E. Church, Las Vegas, Nevada during the closing session of the California Annual Conference held in San Francisco, California August 27, 1967.

A native of Oklahoma, Rev. Davis attended Shorter College (an A.M.E. Church School) in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and he has matriculated in the Universities of Oklahoma, Tokyo, Maryland, Pacific and San Joaquin Delta College.

Rev. Davis has a rich heritage in African Methodism. His father, the Rev. W. A. Davis, has been an A.M.E. minister for 50 years, and is presently presiding Elder of the Muskogee, Oklahoma District in the Muskogee area. Also, his grandfather, brother, and uncle are ministers.

Rev. Davis has been quite active in community organizations, having been involved in the Community Relations Movement in Stockton since its inception in the early '60's. He is co-founder of the "Ebony Young Men of Action", a militant young Negro organization that has brought about many social and economic changes in Stockton for the young Negro.

An inspiring and beneficial ministry in this area has been predicted for the brilliant newcomer to Las Vegas.

Will Conduct Revival



REV. MANUEL L. SCOTT

Bethel Baptist Church, located at 400 West Adams, will be the scene of an unusually inspiring five-day Revival beginning Sunday, Sept. 17 and continuing nightly at 7:30 p.m. through Friday, Sept. 22nd.

Rev. I. W. Wilson, Bethel Baptist Church Pastor, in announcing the event, said that Bethel Baptist Church is extremely gratified at obtaining the services of Rev. Manuel L. Scott, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, California, to conduct the scheduled Revival. Rev. Wilson stated that Rev. Scott is one of the most dynamic and outstanding members of the ministerial field today, and urges all who stand in the need of prayer and encouragement to reaffirm their Christian belief and principles to come hear Rev. Scott bring the Gospel to them.

Bearing out Rev. Wilson's evaluation of the esteem in which the Rev. Scott is held and indicative of the personal characteristics which attribute to the recognition is the fact the Secretary of Los Angeles' Calvary Baptist Church, Mrs. Hazel K. Johnson, forwarded a letter to Rev. I. W. Wilson furnishing biographical data of Rev. Scott and pertinent information regarding his accomplishments because (and we quote Mrs. Johnson) "of the very humble spirit of Reverend Scott, I am furnishing this information from my knowledge of him".

The letter continued, "Reverend Manuel L. Scott was born November 11, 1926 in Waco, Texas. He is a graduate of Bishop College--now located in Dallas, Texas.

Among his accomplishments he is past President of the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Convention of the Western Baptist State Convention; Dean of the Baptist Ministers' Institute for the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Los Angeles and Southern California. He has served this conference as Critic and has brought "Helpful Hints" to the ministers weekly for several years. He has appeared as Guest Speaker in the National Baptist Convention, Inc., on three occasions; twice as Guest Minister for the city-wide Revival of Dallas, Texas; Guest Minister and Lecturer for the Tri-State Convention of Washington; Guest Minister and Lecturer for the Annual Session of the Empire State Convention; and Guest Evangelist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (Evangelistic Conference.)

Presently, he is a member of the Executive Board of the Western Baptist State Convention; the Institute Committee of the Baptist Ministers' Conference; The District Attorney's Commission; a member of the Board of Trustees of Bishop College; Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee of the Baptist Ministers' Conference; Chairman of the Education Commission of the Western Baptist State Convention. Last--but by no means least--Reverend Scott is, and has been since 1949, the very able pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Los Angeles."

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