

# ALTAR CALL

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

A few years ago a minister, in company with a group of ministers, boasted that the only book he read was the Bible. Complaints heard today from laymen would indicate that many ministers' sermons reflect no further knowledge than that hidden under the dust of time in biblical literature.

There are yet, persistent in the ranks of the Christian ministry, those who believe they can read a verse from the Bible, open their mouths and words God would have the people hear; come out. The severity of our racial crisis would rule such a technique untenable.

It is heartening, however, to know that lay people do not have to depend solely upon what Rev. says on Sunday to get their gospel food.

THE FACT of the availability of books for those who want to know about the Christian religion and where it stands in today's social revolution was brought to mind once again as I read another of William Stringfellow's books--Dis-senter In A Great Society.

This book is easy to read and understand. Readers, Negro and white, will soon discover while reading this book that much the Bible-only-reading preachers are saying has nothing to say about what life is all about--what religion is all about in the Year of Our Lord, 1967.

It is evident, as one peruses this book, that this stuff that is peddled as Christianity is not very Christian.

Stringfellow, an active, profoundly incisive Episcopalian layman, who has had his own baptism in the Negro ghetto, is by any measurement one of the most theologically (and I apologize for the resemblance to former definitions of this term) informed bench members in anybody's church.

MY MAJOR point in bringing this particular book to your attention--and I have called attention to another of his books previously--is to raise the point that it is high time that we should have church text books for church members. The educational function of the ministry and the laity is sorely lagging.

Is there any reason why a minister would not, at the beginning of the church year or season, pass out to his congregation a list of reading material to be read, and, out of which he could bring relevant and meaningful sermons and discussions? Even the Bible would have more relevance and meaning.

Pertinent to the racial crisis is the fact that there are a few laymen and preachers who, seeing the irrelevancy of what we call Christianity, have dared to write about it, revealing how so-called Christians, as well as institutionalized Christianity, have sanctioned and supported racial discrimination.

We need an Altar of Well-Read Laymen to be added to those remedies essential in curing our racial sickness.

## \*\*\*\*\* IN MEMORIAM \*\*\*\*\*



In loving memory of our husband and father, Kermit R. Booker, Sr., who died October 5, 1966.

Friends came in to comfort  
Brought flowers by the score  
Did many things to comfort  
Till they could do no more

We're trying to carry on  
As we think you would do  
Hoping to have you clasp our hand  
When our work on earth is through

Wife and children of the late Kermit R. Booker, Sr.

Ethel Booker  
Kermit R. Booker, Jr.  
Jerald P. Booker

### "America 1967, Racist To Its Very Bones"

ST. PAUL, Minn. - (NPI)--The "silence of Christians," while "America, 1967... is racist to its very bones," was attacked by the Rev. Peter Riga, author-theologian, St. Mary's College, Oakland, Calif., during the 1967-68 adult education lecture series at St. Leo's parish.

"If Catholics today are uninvolved in the problem of race, poverty, war and peace, then they are evangelical freaks of the very first order; if not, in a sense, baptized pagans," he added.

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## Zion Methodist Church Day Nursery Now Open

Christ said, "Suffer little children to come unto me for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." These words set the stage for the Church's dedication to provide continuous religious, moral and educational training for children.

Zion Methodist Church extends herself into the area of Day Nursery Services. In an effort to provide more community facilities for our members and friends, the Church offers complete home care for neighborhood children. The nursery, operating Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., provides expert supervision of the child including hot lunch, nap period, educational and fun-filled hours. The nursery began functioning Monday, October 2, 1967, at \$2 per day per child. There will be adjustments of prices for the attendance of more than one child from the same immediate family.

Zion Methodist Church is located at 2108 No. Revere Street, No. Las Vegas, Nevada, Phone 642-3172.

## Businessman Ordained



Rev. Rufus E. Irving, Sr.

Rev. and Mrs. Rufus E. Irving, Sr., have just returned from an eventful and exciting three-week vacation highlighted by the local businessman's consecration as an ordained Baptist minister and a hair-raising automobile flight to escape the floods resulting from hurricane Beulah's rampage.

The Irvings enjoyed a wonderful motor tour throughout Southern Texas and Mexico following the rewarding experience of his having been ordained into the ministry September 15 at St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Church, 5415 Marcus St. in Houston with the church pastor, Rev. James U. Phillips officiating at the sacred ceremony.

IT WAS after the Irvings' visit to Johnson City and a tourist's view of the LBJ Ranch, both of which are described as "beautiful" by the couple, that they learned all roads leading West were closed but highway 290, which was not guaranteed to remain open. The Irvings decided to move on and it was after leaving Austin, Texas' capital city, that they encountered torrential rains enroute to El Paso. However, all's well that ends safely at home and now the Irvings recall the experience as just another adventure of what was a memorable and pleasurable (as well as rewarding) respite from their responsibilities here at home.

Rev. Irving is owner-operator of a barber shop located at 808 W. Bonanza Rd., and also owner of the Fashionette Beauty Salon, 1212 No. 'D' Street which is operated by Mrs. Irving. The Irvings reside at 633 Veronica, North Las Vegas.

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**Southern Baptists' Woes**  
ATLANTA - (NPI)--Money troubles have come to the 10.9 million-member Southern Baptist Convention in the area of operating its denominational institutions of higher learning. Increased tuition costs and fees have doubled since 1940, while contributions have dropped to 16.6 per cent.  
The Baptists hesitate to accept federal assistance for fear it would endanger their carefully preserved principles of separation of church and state.

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 8-14**  
Here's good Fire Prevention Week advice from your Las Vegas Fire Department: Don't rely on Lady Luck in place of a good baby sitter. Children left alone at home might be trapped and helpless if fire or some other emergency should strike.