

From Our Readers

EDITORS NOTE: The Las Vegas Voice will publish your opinion on any subject - praise - complaints - questions - or answers. We do reserve the right to edit, and your letter must be signed with a valid address and phone number for verification prior to publication. We want your letters! At your written request your name can be withheld.

Dear Editor:

I had the opportunity last week to read an article concerning Billy Graham, and his activities here in Vegas, which was informative. This article was published in the VOICE, for which reason I am writing now . . . There was a statement that was made by Mr. Graham that also deserves to be considered. This statement was "that he knew a number of 'born again' Mormons and admitted the possibility of a Mormon to be born again and still remain a Mormon."

But yet the Bible tells us, "that which is crooked cannot be made straight", Ecclesiastes 1:15, and at Job 14:4 - "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one. Revelation 18:4 gives us the warning, "come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not her plagues."

What is it that is unclean about the Mormon faith? Well they exclude blacks from full equal privileges, (because of some said, "divine displeasure of their conduct, 'before birth'"). Blacks are barred from the priesthood which is otherwise open to all males . . . yet God's word tells us at Acts 10:34,35, "God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation, he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is 'expected' to him." Also Acts 15:7-9, further condemns this, religious sanction they've found for their racial prejudices.

How coincidental that Billy Graham did not make a firm stand against Mormonism as he didn't against gambling, smoking. Yes, how coincidental that he did not condemn these practices, that he would have the gamblers, the smokers, the Mormons and so forth sitting in front of him, and perhaps now, "also making donations." As many people that are not even religious admit, that they don't think smoking is right, even though they do smoke. As is plainly stated on the package of the cigarettes; it is dangerous to your health.

Yet Mr. Graham said that he didn't smoke because it might stumble some one, yet God commands us, "Thou shalt not kill". The reason that a Christian doesn't smoke should be because he will be violating God's commandment, "Thou shalt not kill", for as it is well known tobacco is dangerous to the health of it's users, and can cause death. From the stands, of this man it is hard to tell if any the difference between the righteous person and the sinner, and yet God's word tells us, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

But how can their be a seapration if no-one is wrong, all unrighteousness is winked at? This does not please God, for he warns us at Ezekial 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked one from his wicked way, to save his life; the warning, nor speakest

to save his life; the same wicked shall die in hi iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand!

Those living contrary to the way that God commands should be warned. How will they do God's will if they don't know what it is?

How will they discontinue what is unrighteous if they think that it is excused by God? Who is responsible for informing people of God's will? Is it not those who claim to be ministers of God? . . . Then these also have to answer for the ignorant people that are not aware. As the girl that cut her hand off due to misunderstanding a Bible scripture at Matt. 5:30 "If thy right hand offend thee . . . cut it off and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell . . . Billy Graham made known that Jesus didn't mean that, yet he didn't tell what he actually meant." Who does it mean? Why is it that the people don't know? Why is it that the people are so unaware with so many preachers?
Withhold name.

NAACP

by James A. "Jimmy" Gay

My, it was a beautiful February Sunday afternoon in Las Vegas - history making too. Some 150-200 interested black citizens turned out for an NAACP meeting. Was it because of the controversy between two federally funded programs or are we waking up and discovering how important NAACP has been for 69 years and still is today? Yes, they were standing around the walls and sitting on the floor in the auditorium of the EOB Center. President of the branch, Dr. James B. McMillan, opened the meeting by telling the audience "today is the 69th birthday of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People," and how proud he was to see such a tremendous turnout. "This is the way it should be - this togetherness is what we need to accomplish the things that we set out to do in my previous administration as president of this branch." He reminded everyone that NAACP was born out of a controversy and that today is no different. He emphasized the fact that it was whites as well as blacks who put together this fine organization.

Of course, there were the faithful few, but the greatness of it all was that there were so many new faces. And believe me, BABY, they were there from all walks of life. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers (but only a few), there were dealers, skycaps, maids and porters, you name them, most of them were there.

Who was it that said we couldn't have a peaceful meeting with such a hot issue at hand? Well, we did and it was beautiful. I would just like to compliment Dr. McMillan for the masterful way he conducted the whole affair - inside and out. How proud I was of two very fine young ladies of our community who were on opposite sides of the controversy. They are Mrs. Katherine Joseph of the Southern Nevada Economic Development Commission and Mrs. Ruby Duncan from Operation Life. What a pair of graceful diplomats. Mrs. Joseph made an honest presentation of her side of the story and believe me, without notes. (She had it all upstairs, BABY.) Likewise Mrs. Duncan proved herself to be a community minded person in a perfect lady-like fashion when she stood up and made this statement: "I am willing to sit down with anyone at anytime to work out the problem, if there is one, for the benefit of the community." To me, that was the climax of the meeting.

There were many other heated speeches and remarks that were kept in check by the president. There were rousing comments by Senator Joe Neal (also from Operation Life) and Mr. Odis Harris (SNEDC). Both men did a superb job in presenting their viewpoints and they were both armed with facts and figures. In fact, they both stated that they could prove the statements that they had made. (That's what we like . . . Tell it like it is, BABY!)

I was especially proud of the Reverend Albert Dunn who spoke for about 15-20 minutes and believe me, he knew what he was talking about also. And would you believe, not one word of profanity! Reverend, you're mellowing with age! (Laugh)

Now, would you believe that Judge Robert Reid was there and presented himself as would a Philadelphia lawyer? He rose to the occasion and demanded, as a citizen of this community, that the two sides get together and resolve their differences. He expressed his concern over this situation when he stated, "I hope that this is not a personal grievance that is causing the problem"

Mrs. Gwen Brown, former Administrative Assistant of SNEDC, did an outstanding job in explaining to the audience that both organizations could function without interfering with each other - and believe me, she knew where she was coming from, BABY.

I feel that Mr. Leonard Mason is an intelligent, dedicated, long-time resident of the community. A good friend of mine, I have been a friend to the family for many years; but I would like to say, Leonard, I personally would like to have seen you refrain from the opening statement criticizing the intelligence of one of our top black elected officials. Especially in an open meeting with the press in attendance (white press). There is a place for that type of criticism. The official was elected by a majority vote - we should at least respect the office. (Just a little constructive criticism, Leonard.) Do you know that at our best, the press is going to make it worse?

Now is the time to prove our independence to the world and especially to those people on the other side of the tracks, that we do not need them to solve our problems. Let's all of us bury the hatchet, join NAACP, and meet the quota that the national director asked us for.

It is then, and only then, that we will get our act together. It is my belief that under the guiding hand of Dr. McMillan we could go forward from this day on. I would like to ask of the two organizations that a meeting would be called with Dr. McMillan acting as moderator, along with legal advisors for each side if needed. Let's save the programs . . . We need them both . . . Economic development is what we need in this community - and a lot of it, BABY! Just remember, TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG!

WORDS OF LIFE
Biblical Inspiration
For The Week

"He is not far from each of us."
—Acts 17:27

1. **Help is at hand!** So often, in the face of difficulty, we tend to panic. Yet help is readily at hand, since "God is not far from each of us."

It is a truism in life that nothing that we actually need is impossible for us to attain. We need but separate our "wants" from our "needs" and then reach for the help we need . . . at hand.

2. **Our answers are supplied.** The psalmist was mindful of this, many centuries ago, when he held out for all to hear and heed words remind-

ing us that all that we need has been granted in what God has already ordained, decreed, prepared. (See Psalms 103 and 150.)

3. **God is waiting.** Underneath . . . awaiting simply our call for help and dependence . . . are "God's everlasting arms." "O rest in the Lord. Wait patiently for Him; and He will give thee thy heart's desire . . . Commit thy ways unto Him and trust in Him . . ."

How gracious and how near to us is God. "He is not far from each of us."

BREAK THE HATE HABIT
UNDERSTAND
THY
NEIGHBOR
BLACK, WHITE or BROWN