

FALSE GODS, Cont'd from page eight

That God is the God of white supremacy. Black people must come to realize that the Lord is a God of justice. When slumbering giants of injustice emerge in the earth, we need to know that there is a God of power who can cut them down like the grass and leave them withering like the green herb. When our most tireless efforts fail to stop the surging sweep of oppression, we need to know that in this universe is a God whose matchless strength is a fit contract to the sordid weakness of man.

I was way down yonder by myself the slave sang and I couldn't hear nobody pray down there at the bottom of man, The Black man earned the right to speak of man and for man. When he experienced in the place where nobody was praying speaks to us today in the Black tradition, and it is that tradition which we affirm today as meaningful and valid for all men.

God has commissioned us to go down to the bottom of society, yes, in the basement if you please. At the bottom of man to transform him and make him a creature, a new society, a new nation.

The spirit of the Lord is upon us because he hath appointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. [Luke 4: 18, 19.]

The Black church must be willing to serve on a daily basis if it is to be a relevant church. Even though we are few in number we must learn to trust and believe the prayer that says, "give us this day our daily bread."

1. Go preach my gospel said the Lord. Bid the whole earth my grace receive, explain to them my sacred word, bid them believe obey and live.

2. I'll make my great commission known and ye shall prove my gospel true by all the works that I have done and all the wonders ye shall do.

3. Go heal the sick, go raise the dead, go cast out devils in my name, nor let my prophets be afraid.

But there are also times when we need to know that God possesses love and mercy. Where we are staggered by the chilly winds of adversity and battered by raging racist storms of life and when through our racist attitude sins we stray into some destructive far country and are frustrated because of a strange feeling of home sickness, we need to know that there is someone who loves us, cares for us, understands us and will give us another chance.

When days grow dark and nights grow dreary, we can depend upon God to lead us through this racist society and give us love and justice.

WORKSHOP, Cont'd from page eight

thanks to the General Spirit of co-operation permeating the community.

There have been a few occasions when we have gotten a little discouraged but the Lord picked up the pieces and allowed us to go on.

Our initial planning meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Ethel Randolph on Saturday, July 28. In attendance were Mrs. Virginia Brooks Brewster, Mrs. Carine Clairborne, Mrs. Kathryn Joseph, Mrs. Lula Collins, Ethel Randolph and Mrs. Cooke Wilson was our guest from Newark, New Jersey, where she is the Chapter Representative for that State. Sister Wilson has been with the workshop since it's inception twelve years ago.

I am from New Jersey and until four years ago, when I left, I worked under this dynamic Christian woman.

A need was felt for the Workshop in this community, so Sister Wilson consented to come to Las Vegas, and help us to organize, for this we owe her a debt of love only the Lord can pay. Although we had been planning for many months prior to her visit, it was not until July 28, when we talked with Mr. Ed Smith, the Executive Secretary for the Gospel Music Workshop of America, were we officially under way. Our open community organizational meeting was held on August 7, at the E.O.B. Day Care Center where we explained to the community the goals, and structure of the Gospel Music Workshop of America that time we were given the total support of the Voice Newspaper, which has been lending invaluable assistance ever since. At the National Convention which convened in New Orleans August 18-25, our Chapter was officially received into the National Body.

We have been asked to be a member of the National Public Relations Board under the able direction of Reverend Norma Jean Pinder from Detroit, Michigan. Needless to say this is a great honor and we look forward to a long successful relationship. Since our return from New Orleans things have been moving along at an unbelievable pace, and we owe this to many individuals who have committed themselves to helping elevate Gospel Music through Christian unity in our Community.

We give special recognition to Mr. Tyree of E.O.B. Day Care Center, Rev. Thompson of Victory Baptist Church, Rev. Willie Davis, Second Baptist Church, Sis Joyce Hall, St. Paul of C.O.G.I.C., Mr. Jack Ferris and staff of the "Voice" Newspaper, Rev. Sam Roberson, Great Moment in Gospel Radio Program, Ms. Alice Key, Executive Director of NAACP and Mr. Lyle Jones of Bold Explosion, and so many others too numerous to name.

There is a place for everyone in the Las Vegas Chapter of Gospel Music Workshop of America and we look forward to a long prosperous total community effort. Some of the organizations to which you can become associated are:

Womens Council
Mens Council
Evangelistic Board, Sis Ernestine Northington, Grace Immanuel
Nurses Unit Board, Andre Crockett, St. Paul
Ushers Board, Clairbone, Victory Baptist
Youth Choir Board, Warren Parker, Jr., St. James
Music Workshops, Mrs. Mattie Goings
Youth Department
Directors Board, MR. Johnny Carter, St. Paul
C.O.G.I.C., Foustan Jordan, Victory Baptist

The Las Vegas Mass Choir which is the single most important unit of the Chapter is off to a good start. We already have Victory Baptist Church Choir, St. Paul C.O.G.I.C. Cathedral Choir, Tony Wright and the Love Choir and the Hall Sisters as a total unit participants and many individual members.

We hope to have representatives from all churches and sections of the Community in the near future.

Our first appearance of the Mass Choir will be at the Installation service to be held this month, at a date to be announced soon. We will also be in concert on Saturday evening, October 20, 1979, and will have our Sister Chapter from California as our special guest. Sister Rene Smith and the Tri Valley Chapter from Sacramento and Sis Helen Stephens and the Northern California Chapter from Berkley, Oakland, and hopefully, the mother Chapter, Mrs. Rodena Preston Williams and the Southern California Chapter.

Our rehearsals are held each Monday evening at 6:00 P.M. at different churches in the area. We'll keep you informed through this column, Rev. Sam Roberson's Program Gospel Music Workshop of America on KCEP and through announcements to your respective churches.

Musicians from all churches are invited to become a part of our family and play an active role in our musical presentation. Our Chapter Musician is Mr. Tony Wright from Pentacostal Temple C.O.G.I.C. and the Love Choir.

We would like all musicians to come prepared to teach two selections of their choice. If you have any questions regarding the Music Department please contact Mr. Wright.

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ALL ABOUT STEVE

Stephen A. Reed, "Steve" to all who know him, is State Representative of the Las Vegas Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America. Steve, a native of East Orange, New Jersey, has made Las Vegas his home for the past four years and is an active member of St. Paul Church of God in Christ.

Steve received all his early education in New Jersey, but as an earnest believer in raising one's self by one's own bootstraps, he has continued studies in a number of fields in a variety of locations. Through this devotion he has obtained a B.A. in English, Sociology, and A.A.'s in Computer Sciences and Social Work. He has worked as a bookkeeper, chef, campaign coordinator, tailor, and secondary school teacher.

For eight years, Steve was deeply immersed in the activities of the New Jersey Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America as well as with the North Jersey Choral Ensemble, the Renaissance Choral Ensemble and the Revival Temple, all of the Garden State.

His political involvement in New Jersey included serving as coordinator of volunteers for Kenneth Gibson's successful Mayoralty bid in the 1970 Newark election.

Since arriving in Las Vegas, Steve has worked as personal secretary to comedian Slappy White, Service Representative of Centel, bookkeeper with Dalton Properties, marketing analyst for Eastern Airlines, and as reprographis - computer operator at City Hall here.

Steve is in the process of opening his own restaurant business and is devoting all of his volunteer time to the GMWA and the local chapter of the NAACP.

COMING EVENTS

Zion United Methodist Church is coming along rapidly. Gospel Imperials and Gospel Tornadoes of Las Vegas are touring.

Federation of Choirs Anniversary, Sunday, October 14, 1979 at Truelove B.C.

Gertrude Ward and Ward Singers in Las Vegas, Sunday, September 16 through Saturday, September 22, 1979.

The Community Baptist Church of Henderson, Nevada will fellowship with the Community Baptist Church of Redlands, California. The bus will leave from the Golden West Shopping Center parking lot October 7, 1979 at 4:00 a.m. Rev. Sam Roverson and the congregation are asking for your support and your company to go along with us. For additional information, call 647-4610 after 5:00 p.m.

The Zion United Methodist Church will present Ms. Dora Taylor and Blessed, a dynamic singing group from Southern California. Dora Taylor is the sister to the late Glenna Session of the Session Connection. They will be here October 13-14, 1979. For additional information, call 648-8530.

The St. Paul Concert Choir and the Hall Sisters will be featured at Jubilation, Sunday, September 30, 1979 at 3:00 p.m. Hear and see Loyce "Madame" Hall. Call 648-4230 or 642-6771. It will be a live recording session. BE THERE!