

A Series: THE BLACK FAMILY AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE 80's

PART VII - OUR CHILDREN... THE QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE - A QUEST FOR TRUTH

by Maudra Jones

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."

Martin Luther
1483-1546

While the uncertainties of the 80's seem to mount with each passing day, there are those who are yet grounded in the certainty that our Redeemer lives and "He's got the whole world in His hands." These are they who can say as did Martin Luther: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree" — yes, even now, as we experience all the implications of the controversial ABC film "The Day

After."

If you were among the millions who viewed "The Day After" and you felt the reassurance which came with the message of consolation during those final moments of the film, then you can surely "plant your apple tree" — because you're standing on solid ground.

The "message," which played while the film credits were rolling, seemed to transcend all the horror that had gone

before. I had the feeling that it had been ordained and orchestrated by the Divine Hand to lead us out of that unsettling experience of nuclear des-

truction, back to the source of reassurance. You will remember the tune; these are the words which many have no doubt sung before:

1. *How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*
2. *Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed;
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause
thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*
3. *When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*
4. *Thy soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to His foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to
shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."*

George Keith, 1787



Maudra Jones

For Black families, there has always been a special message in that song. The same Divine Hand was at work in

1787. The meanings for us in 1983 (when taken to heart), can serve to strengthen our courage, increase our faith and deepen our convictions as we accept the challenge to press on beyond the present cynicism, crises and impending dangers.

We must press on in our quest for excellence and truth, planting our apple trees on that firm foundation, no matter what the uncertainties. "Our hope should be built on nothing less." Lest We Forget....

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Church

PRAISES FROM VICTORY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
St. John 1:1

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

STUDY...

PRAY: Man ought always pray! These are the words of Jesus to us all. There is a rule or law to prayer; it is stated in Matthew 6:9: After this manner therefore pray ye...

This is mistakenly called the Lord's Prayer, but it is what the Lord told us to DO, not SAY! He did not say REPEAT these words, but rather AFTER THIS MANNER, which is saying — This is the rule of prayer that always

works: Our Father (look up, get God's attention); give us this day our daily bread (look in); forgive us (look outward). LOOK UP, LOOK IN, LOOK OUT.

It isn't always feasible to say the words written

in Matthew 6:9-13. Conditions will dictate the words of the true prayer.

FAST: All the people of the Bible, having spiritual power, were fasters: Moses, Elijah and Jesus fasted 40 days, Exodus 34:28; Kings 19:8, Luke

4:1. Daniel fasted 21 days, Daniel 10:2-3; Ezra and David fasted 7 days, Ezra 8:21; 1 Samuel 31:13. Fasting is a means of afflicting one's soul and disciplining one's body, Isaiah 58:5. It makes the body weak; but it will, through prayer, make the spirit strong. Fasting is also one method of being healthy and managing weight control. According to Isaiah 58:6-14, it will break every yoke and put one in continual touch with God... and make fat thy bones (fat bones), yes. Isaiah 58:9-11.

The bones are the blood factory of the body — a fat bone is a bone full of marrow; and blood comes from marrow. The life of the flesh is in the blood, Genesis 9:4. The bones manufacture the blood; the blood contains the life (health, if you will), so fasting is

also a health measure or method.

The law of fasting is found in Isaiah 58:6-14; the HOW NOT TO, in versus 1-5; the HOW TO in versus 6-14 and in Matthew 6:16-18. Note that Jesus said, "When you fast..." — so it is expected of all Christians to fast.

When Moses fasted 40 days, he met with God face to face. When Elijah fasted 40 days, he went to Heaven in a chariot of fire. Jesus fasted 40 days and was transfigured on top of a mountain. All three came into God's presence through fasting. Fasting and prayer is a law that always works, when done in accordance to the will of God.

God will do the same for you — for it is no secret what God can do....

By Rev. A.J. Thompson

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