

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

PART VIII — FOR OUR CHILDREN ... THE QUEST FOR TRUTH ... OUR BEST LIVING REALITY

by Maudra Jones

Not long following Dr. Martin Luther King's death, someone wrote that the 20th Century will be remembered for the fact that we, in America, dared to think of the human condition as a priority. During that same period, the national mood was described by Alan Pifer, as a "broad consensus around the goal of making this society a place that conformed with the highest humanitarian and egalitarian ideals." While current trends would suggest that we have strayed from the goal, one must agree that we have witnessed some evidences of humanitarian and egalitarian ideals during the past year.

The most signal of these events was the declaration, by the United States Congress, of the "Year of the Bible." Indications of a national hunger for spiritual revival serve to support the U.S. News and World Report 1980 forecast which stated that 1)

church participation would accelerate in the 80's; 2) more people would turn to small prayer meetings; and 3) there would be greater cooperation among religious faiths. The report included a statement by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee, in which he observed: "The main task of religious people in all denominations will be to mobilize the will of society to assert moral

authority over these forces that are now out of control."

It was no doubt the hand of God at work in



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moving the U.S. Congress to acknowledge God as the Supreme Ruler of the affairs of our nation. I can think of no better way to "mobilize the will of society to

assert moral authority" (at a time of such moral decline and stagnation in our society) than that of applying the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. It is most significant that the president of our country, in his speech before signing

MAUDRA JONES, who has served educational institutions and community organizations in the field of Human Resources Development for over 30 years is Regional Director of the National Association of Family and the Religious Community.

the official proclamation, designating 1983 as a national "Year of the Bible," said: "Inside the Bible's pages lie all the answers to all the problems man has ever known." (I am sure he can get an Amen from the Black families of the nation.) Later, addressing the National Reli-

gious Broadcaster's Convention, Mr. Reagan spoke of the "enduring values" presented in the Bible, which "have great meaning for each of us and our nation."

The question now becomes: when will moral action begin to replace

the divine call to apply the teachings of the Holy Scriptures on every level of society — our homes, churches, schools, businesses, government offices, organizations and civic groups?

Jesse Jackson reminded us of the Black Family tradition recently, when he demonstrated to the world that "our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness...."

Our "reasonable service" should begin with nourishing the things that are of value to God, by living daily in ways that demonstrate our value to each other, as human beings — that is what Shriver suggests will lead to moral authority.

(To be continued)

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

by Pastor A.J. Thompson
STUDY

In the past weeks, I have endeavored to arouse the readers of this column to study the Bible for themselves. The study of the Bible is considered difficult by most; but the truth contained in two scriptures: Seek yet out of the Book of the Lord and READ: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them. Isaiah 34:16. Search the scriptures; for in them yet think ye have eternal life: and they are they which TESTIFY for me. John 5:39. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15.

SEEK, READ, STUDY, SEARCH and RIGHTLY DIVIDE; this is the rule that always works — for if you do these five things, then the Lord promises:

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:26. The rule is this: the Bible is written testimony of people just like you and I, who had living experiences with the living God. And if you READ, SEEK, SEARCH and STUDY, you may not come to the same experiences as they, but you will most surely come face to face with the reality of God.

The promise is and has always been — if you will draw nigh to God, he will draw nigh to you. (James 4:8). I love them that love me; and those that seek Me early shall find me. Proverbs 8:17... For God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

Remember when you pray to enter into your secret closet; and when

you have shut the door, pray to the Father in secret and the Father which seeth in secret shall reward you openly (Matthew 6:6). The secret closet of prayer is not necessarily a small room, but rather, a state of mind, in which one is able to shut the world around him out and close in with God in prayer and communion — yes, COMMUNION; the word springs from

communicate, meaning not only to talk to another but to listen to what the other has to say — in this case, God.

The commandment to meditate in Joshua 1:8 is rather to quietly listen to the voice of God.

Man has ever been so filled with life's joyful abundance as when he listens to and obeys the voice of God.

St. James Catholic Church To Hold Revival

'Walk in the Power of the Spirit' is the theme for the annual revival at St. James Catholic Church at the corner of "H" and Morgan to be held Feb. 13-16 at 7 p.m. nightly. The mission-revival this year will be led by Fr. Thaddeus Boucree, S.V.D., of New Orleans, LA. He comes to Las Vegas with past pastoral assignments in Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana. He has been active with many prayer

groups in addition to his community and civil rights activities.

The Parish of St. James cordially invites all to come and be filled with the power of the Spirit. The mission-revival promises to be an uplifting and prayerful experience. You may call St. James' Rectory at 648-6606 for further information.

Father Bryan Flynn is Parish Priest.

AND GOD SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT ...
AND GOD SAID LET THE WATERS BRING FORTH ...
AND GOD SAID LET US MAKE MAN ...
AND GOD SAID INCLINE YOUR EAR AND COME UNTO ME: HEAR AND YOUR SOUL SHALL LIVE;
KNOW THIS: THE MOUTH OF THE SOUL IS THE EAR.

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