

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

... SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS

"A sense of meaning—which we surely create out of our own particular responses to the 'facts' of experience—is crucial if we are to join ourselves to the past and the future, to commune with the ancestors as well as the coming children..."

Vincent Harding

Continuing our dialogue with Harding, we must ask ourselves the question, "How are we responding presently to the 'facts of our experience?' Have we been moved by any of these conversations to join the 'cloud of witnesses' in the search for meaning, as we seek solutions to today's problems?"

Howard Thurman and Vincent Harding were no doubt responding to the same spiritual "rhythm of life" in directing us to the only source through which we can find our "wholeness"—that is, the purpose for which each of us was created. In finding our "wholeness," we find our freedom—neither of which we can do alone. Yet, how many of us have earnestly asked God the question, "What is Your purpose for me on this earth?" It is from this foundation that we can truly begin our quest for meaning and vision.

On the practical level,

Harding shares: "... a sense of meaning—which we surely create out of our particular responses to the 'facts' of experience—is crucial if we are to join ourselves to the past and the future, to commune with the ancestors as well as the coming children. Without it we lose touch with ourselves, our fellow humans and other creatures, with the earth our mother, and with the cosmos itself. Without the search for meaning, the quest for vision, there can be no authentic movement toward liberation, no true identity or racial integration for an individual or a people. Above all, where there is no vision we lose sense of our great power to transcend history and create a new future for ourselves with others, and we perish in hopelessness, mutual terror, and despair. Therefore, the quest is not a luxury; life itself demands it of us."

If we indeed acknowl-

edge the current "facts of experience," then we must acknowledge Jesse Jackson as one who has joined the



Maudra Jones

"magnificent Cloud of witnesses" in the long struggle for truth and freedom. Jesse is re-directing the "river of struggle," just as surely as we are the river; and if we are listening, we cannot deny that the flow of the river is being directed on spiritual grounds. Like other witnesses in our long struggle, as described by Harding, the force and integrity of Jesse's spirit offers a powerful testimony to the possibilities of human transformation.

Jesse Jackson has, without question, "stirred the waters" of our times; and once more, in Harding's prophetic words, the river of our struggle is "... moving

toward the ocean of mankind's most courageous hopes for freedom and integrity ... seeking what Black people in South Carolina said they sought in 1865: 'the right to develop our whole

the river—for therein lies our hope and vision. We must do, as Harding did, "... vow to keep the faith with the creators and the children of the river ... and be faithful to the truth of their experience..."

larger dimension of the problem—and act on that reality. We must be aware of the "internal contradictions" and the "external opposition" to the "surging of the river." We must, like Harding, address the issues of the human spirit and its role in the struggle for transformation ... "We must be faithful to the soul of the river, of its people, the living and the dead, the many thousands gone..."

In a word, we must know our God and our history.

(To be continued)

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.

BEING'...."

History is again calling us as a people to a higher ground. It is calling to us to become immersed in the flow of

In our searching, we must be aware that our problems stem from America's problems. In our search for solutions, we must be aware of the

24 Hour Recorded Message Service

The City of Las Vegas Department of Recreation & Leisure Activities provides a 24-hour phone service listing weekly activities and events that will be updated as programs change.

The 24-hour recorded telephone message number is 385-2947.

Pre-Memorial Day Programs Scheduled

A Pre-Memorial Day Gospelfest will be held on Sat., May 26 at the St. John Baptist Church, 1439 Lawry St. (corner of Highland and Lawry), Rev. Tom Jenkins, pastor. It will feature the Sweet Singing Cavaliers, Los Angeles; Tornadoes of Las Vegas; Dynamic Sanders Brothers of Los Angeles and the Gloryland Singers of Las Vegas. The program starts at 8 p.m.

The Federated Choirs of Nevada will present a monthly musical at the Doolittle Recreation Center, Lake Mead and "J" St. on Sunday, May 27 at 3 p.m. The host church will be the Community Baptist of Henderson where Rev. Sam Roberson is the pastor.

Two big musical programs are planned prior to Memorial Day by the Community Church pastored by Rev. Sam Roberson.

CHURCH MOTHER OF WEEK:

Children Also Honor Mother:

VIOLA GRIGGS GETS DOUBLE RECOGNITION

It is a double celebration this week for Viola Griggs. Sunday was Mother's Day and this week Mid City Furniture, 501 N. Main Street, pays tribute to this week's CHURCH MOTHER honoree. Then, to put the icing on the cake (and there was cake Sunday), two of her children and a friend flew in from Chicago to help Viola Griggs celebrate the BIG DAY.

Viola Griggs, 80, a native of Endora, Ark., is the CHURCH MOTHER for the Community Bap-



Viola Griggs
tist Church of Henderson, pastored by Rev. Sam Roberson.

She moved to Las Vegas last year. "I just wanted to move near my

kids," said Viola Griggs. Her husband, James Griggs, a retiree, and his wife have 6 children—1 girl and 5 boys—some of whom live here in Las Vegas.

Visiting her during the Mothers Day observance were the daughter, Alberta Brown and son, Aaron Woods and a friend, Carrie Hudson—all from Chicago.

"She loves church work and maintains an excellent attendance record," said Rev. Roberson.



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