

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 very profound change is going on in America... It is not a matter of civil rights, it is a matter of economic survival..."

Former Governor Jerry Brown

So much has "passed over" in the fleeting hours since our last conversation. As I write now, I am still overcome by the words which Governor Mario Cuomo put on the hearts of millions of Americans in his address to the Democratic National Convention Monday night. It has been a long time since I have heard such bold truth spoken from such high places.

As I listened, I knew that what I was hearing Gov. Cuomo saying were words that had been spoken over and over again by Black leaders — Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., et al — and more recently by the heart of the Rev.

Jesse Jackson. I was reminded of the words of the prophet, Kahlil Gibran, when he wrote:

"... what I say now with one heart will be said Tomorrow by thousands of hearts... I can't say a word and I shall say it now. But if death prevents me, it will be said by Tomorrow, for Tomorrow never leaves a secret in the book of Eternity. I came to live in the glory of Love and the light of beauty, which are the reflections of God. I am here, living, and I cannot be exiled from the domain of life, for through my living word I will live in death... I came here to be for all and with all, and what I do today in my solitude will be echoed Tomorrow by the

multitude..."

Can't you hear Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Jesse Jackson and so many others in those words? Thanks be to the God of truth, who has brought us to this time and place! Thank God for the fulfillment of the prophecy! Thank God for His chosen people! Gov. Cuomo's words were neither Democrat nor Republican — they were words of TRUTH. Gov. Cuomo was speaking to the "dry bones in the valley" — the living dead who are so caught up in the complexities of our times, that they have forgotten what American is all about. He was speaking to the ones of us who have given up on trusting and believing in the American ideals of democracy, because they have neither seen those ideals work, nor have they tried to put them to work for all the citizens of this great country.

Last week, I was led to

admonish our readers to talk to each other. I think it is fitting that we begin that conversation with what was proclaimed (by the best critics) as the most profound speech they had heard made before a Democratic National Convention.



Maudra Jones

Gov. Cuomo began his historic oration by citing a phrase from President Reagan's recent speech, in which the president stated, "... America is a shining city on a hill..." I will continue this dialogue with the exact words of Gov. Cuomo, as he spoke from his heart to the hearts of the American people.

"... perhaps, what Mr. President sees from the veranda of the White House is a 'shining city'... but there is another part of the city... there are people who can't pay their mortgages, and most young people can't afford one in this part of the city. There are more poor than ever... more families in trouble; more and more people who need help, but can't find

... maybe, if you went to Lakawana, where thousands of unemployed steel workers wonder why we subsidize foreign steel... Maybe, Mr. President, if you stopped in at a shelter in Chicago and spoke to the homeless there... maybe, Mr. President, if you asked the woman who had been denied the help she needed to feed her children, because you needed

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it. Even worse, there are people who sleep in the city streets — in the gutters, where the glitter doesn't show. There are ghettos, where thousands of young people without a job or an education give their lives away to drug dealers every day.

There is despair, Mr. President, in the faces that you don't see... in the places that you don't visit in your 'shining city.' In fact, Mr. President, this is a nation... Mr. President, you ought to know that this nation is more a "Tale of Two Cities" than it is just a 'shining city on a hill.'

Maybe... maybe, Mr. President, if you visited some more places — maybe if you went to Appalachia, where some people still live in sheds

the money for a tax break for a millionaire or for a missile... (sic). Maybe... maybe, Mr. President... but I'm afraid not — because the truth is, ladies and gentlemen, that this is how we were warned it would be. President Reagan told us from the very beginning that he believed in a kind of 'social Darwinism — survival of the fittest — government can't do everything'... We were told, so it (government) should settle for taking care of the strong and hope that economic ambition and charity will do the rest — make the rich richer and what falls from the table will be enough for the middle-class and those who are trying desperately to

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CHURCH MOTHER OF THE WEEK

She likes people —

Mother Ida Jackson Works To Keep Kids Straight and Counsels People with Problems

A native of Darnell, La., Mother Ida Jackson, church mother of the Ebenezer Church of God In Christ, 1072 Bartlett Ave., where Rev. Robert R. Tolefree is the pastor,



Mother Ida Jackson

is a true symbol "of what a church mother is all about."

Mother Jackson, 54, is from a family of five brothers and seven sisters — all now living in Las

Vegas except one sister who resides in California. Ida Jackson came to Las Vegas during 1956 with her half-brother and one sister — the remainder of the family came in later years.

"I help to keep the kids straight," said Mother Jackson. "I also listen to people's problems especially those who want to talk and pray about it."

She goes to church on an average of three times a week attending Bible Study on Tuesdays, General Church on Fridays and the evening church services on Sunday nights. "I help the church whenever they need me," she said. She is also the President of the Bible Band.

As to her avocations, she said that sewing is very restful; she likes to read good books and go places to visit people.

For 16 year she was employed at the Fremont Hotel but stopped last year due to health problems.

She has been a member of the Ebenezer Church of God In Christ

since 1980.

Each week, Mid City Furniture, 501 N. Main Street, salutes the area church mothers. They forward a lovely gift to the church pastors who, in turn, make the presentation to the honorees during the Sunday morning services. The week's honoree is Mother Ida Jackson.

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