

Its history, heritage and plans-- for the future

OUR CHURCHES Yesterday and Today PART II

(For thousands of years men have stepped forward to act as God's intermediary to mankind. Why they chose that honorable calling only they and God can answer. Often they said God called them, and directed them to go forward in his name like Jonah. Obviously all of them were not called by God, but, of course, they and God have to settle that on Judgement day. In the black community, the called-ones are known as preachers, ministers, and there is no doubt about the positive effect they have on the people. They were in the forefront in the fight for blacks' freedom and justice, but in return for their services, they have to live in fishbowls and glasshouses. Everything they do and say are scrutinized by their congregations and the public at large. In many regards that is not fair because sometime they are expected to be better than the man in the street, and when they prove, sometime, that they too have feet of clay, they are often judged too harshly. In the next few weeks the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice will take its place alongside the general public, and look at the ministers in their fishbowl existence, and in some cases, although no harm will be meant other than an attempt to look at the preachers and ministers on all sides of the fishbowl, one will throw a few rocks at their glass houses, because obviously there is a darkside to them just like there is in all human and professions.)

As a continuation of this series, the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice has been provided with related material from our national news service. We found it to be rather timely to include in this service. The material is relative and objective. The material source is included with the articles -- Editor.



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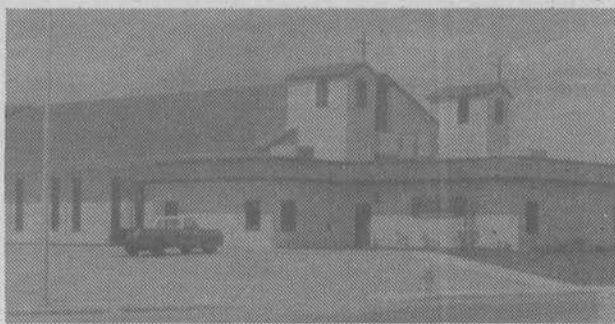
ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS

Helping To Establish Black Businesses Should Be A Primary Mission Of The Church

Rev. John Walker

The problem of unemployment is a major one among black people in the United States. The black church, with all its strengths can support and raise our business consciousness. This effort is within the framework of biblical teaching and this should be the thrust of the black church today. This is a strategy whose time has come and our pastors must lead us on...out of Egypt.

The fact is that we are free from slavery in theory, but we still do not account for even 1% of the GNP (Gross National Product), while, at this time, we as a people constitute a full 14% in this country. Strange that we have heard countless sermons, lectures, speeches and proposals, and still have not elevated ourselves from this quagmire of confusion and destitution. We also have encountered some of our most brilliant leaders and thinkers who have, their own way,



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attempted to arouse us, but what will it take? And when will it finally happen that we will catch on and take our faith, our religion, into our business?

I believe it can happen and the time has come. The time is now for an overt and concerted effort to push the development of business through our churches. The time is now for the church to really be about our Father's business. Of course, we must still keep the faith and the spirit of the church intact, but we can no longer ignore the reality of our lives that we are



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not prospering, because we do not see and fully recognize God's plan for us. The resources of the church can make it happen. Business is definitely a part--a vital part-- of God's plan for us and our churches must make it happen.

We can have our milk and honey right now if the church will cooperate and practice what it preaches. Without a doubt the black church, if it wants to make a major and lasting contribution, should fund and underwrite some viable black businesses and this, in turn, would produce much needed employment for our people. This also would put our faith in action and into a large social ministry that can do the most good.

The Black Church Must Get Off Its Laurels And Use Its Muscle

I believe "Charity begins at home," and as our ultimate social agency, the church must now give back and help to spawn a much needed black economy. Unemployment has reached a bitter and critical stage and the black church should take matters in hand, since it is our strongest institution and is a virtual "bank" of black talent and leadership. It is obligated to do something to alleviate this serious disparity. Sure, the plight of the people can be blamed on external forces, but the church must share in the blame, for it has done little or nothing to undergird the people. Virtually, it has not practiced what it has preached. To correct this, the black church must get off its laurels and use its muscle.

Every self-respecting church should develop a business institute that will seriously work to establish black businesses and help overcome the vast and unfair economic gap that strangling our portion of society. This undertaking is urgent, in effect, it is an "agenda" for 1986 and the future. Other words, let us really go about our Father's business tangible ways.

When the black church becomes more business oriented and creates the means by which many of its members can make a living, then it will be helping to fulfill God's promise of prosperity to his people.

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See the EDITORIAL on page 2
as relates to this series

The following familiar passages from the Bible, we hope, will serve as informative, educational and thought-provoking for our many readers. It is included as a part of this series.

I Timothy, 3rd Chapter, Verses
1 through 16

This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use

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