

Reading Together

by Dorothy W. Robinson

The Black Minister's Burden

Julius Lester, a black writer whose work consistently shows a deep love and profound respect for his people, has told a story of the black minister in a novel, *Do Lord, Remember Me* (Holt, 1984).

The image which Julius Lester presents in this book is vastly different from the image of the black minister which we frequently see portrayed by comedians on television.

Do Lord Remember Me is a day in the life of Rev. Joshua Smith who, upon facing his approaching death, is in the process of writing his own obituary. Through the memories of his life, the book gives a panoramic view of black history and of the role which the black minister has played in that history.

Joshua Smith's life begins at the turn of the century, when the hatred of post-Reconstruction days threatened to destroy black people. It was a time when hate-mobs ran rampant, and black men, in particular, were the victims of physical, mental and spiritual slaughter. It was the worst of times for black families struggling for survival.

While still a young boy, Joshua Smith had to take responsibility for his family, learning to do whatever was necessary for their good. He learned early to swallow his pride in order to obtain whatever he needed for their survival. He learned to step out alone in the face of fear or disapproval if necessary for their protection. This was his training for becoming a spiritual leader.

It was good training for, during his ministry, he was required to show the same committed love for his people as a whole which he had shown for the members of his own family.

It took love and commitment to be able to go against comfortable church members who directed him not to assist a rejected and despised black sister.

It took courage to be able to go out on a dark night to help a widow retrieve the body of her lynched husband.

It took humility to be willing to shuffle and sing as the price for getting a young boy out of jail.

These were not the years of black pride. These were the years when black people were hanging on to their lives by a very slender thread. Rev. Joshua Smith ministered to the needs of his people as the times dictated. Walking out on a sharp edge to do what he believed to be right for the good of his people.

Do Lord Remember Me prompts the reader to make a judgement of those ministers who led the people during pre-Civil Rights days. Do they deserve honor? a badge for courage? a revered place in the annals of black history? Anyone who reads this beautifully written book will most certainly answer yes!

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NNPA FEATURE

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



Are You Self-Destructing?

Are you your own worse enemy? Are you doing the things that are best for yourself, or does your behavior contribute to your own destruction? If you discovered that you were doing certain things each day that made happiness and success more difficult to achieve, would you stop doing those things? I certainly hope so.

Let's examine some of your activities to determine how valuable or costly they are. Self-destructive behavior could be the way that you treat others, that ultimately causes you problems. Here is your self-protection quiz:

1) Did you antagonize someone who is important in your life and who could make things difficult for you.

2) Did you unwisely accept the advice of someone whose judgment is no better than your own?

3) Did you allow a constant complainer to cause you to feel bad by telling you about all of his/her dreadful problems?

4) Did you obligate yourself to do something that you knew would be extremely difficult for you?

5) Did you let yourself be pulled into a depressive state by constantly (and unnecessarily) reliving a sad or bad experience?

6) Did you unfairly criticize and disrespect yourself simply because you failed to accomplish something?

7) Did you allow yourself to lose your own assertiveness and independence because you

became too dependent on someone else who could do the job no better than yourself?

9) Did you fail to express your need for support and love and, therefore fail to get it?

10) Did you hold your emotional pain or anger about an unpleasant event within yourself — and unnecessarily increase your stress?

11) Did you say or do something dishonest that may come back to haunt you at a later date?

12) Did you do something that contributed to the already huge hostility that exists in our world?

13) Do you hold within yourself unrealistic feelings of guilt — especially for things that are by no means your fault?

14) Are you neglecting to build up an important relationship?

15) Are you failing to listen and respond to the needs and messages of others who desperately need your support?

16) Do you perceive of yourself as being valueless when you know that you have many underdeveloped and adequately developed capabilities?

17) Are you becoming a social wallflower — but blaming others for a decision that you made?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, make an urgent effort to change your answers to an emphatic "No"! In today's troubled society, when most people are totally consumed in the

task of bringing their lives under a semblance of control, you can be a beacon of light. But you must adopt an assertive attitude toward your own life. If you are treated unfairly for the simplest of reasons, speak out immediately. Get off your rear end now and take control of your own life. No one else will.

Room For all in African Nation

Mozambique Marks Path for Southern Africa

By Charles E. Belle

Ronald "ride horse" Reagan reads Mozambique as a Marxist-communist country in darkest Africa. As so many picture stories like "Out of Africa" are still being seen in this flagwaving nation, we need to get a clearer picture of this place which is next door to South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Yes, it's borders are numerous, dangerous and destiny driven by white and black African standards. Only the Indian Ocean which extends the entire length North and South along the coast of Mozambique's eastern border is neutral in the anti-apartheid wars in Southern Africa. A rare event occurred last month when in a meeting in San Francisco at the World Affairs Council of Northern California, Ambassador Valeriano Ferrao, Ambassador of Mozambique to the United States was given an opportunity to mention the truth about the state of Mozambique.

What makes the 1.4 million predominantly Black Southern African nation, Mozambique unique from the start in Africa and the United States is its Ambassador of Mozambique to the United States, His Excellency Valeriano Ferrao, Ambassador Ferrao, 46, a hero of the Socialist state, and member of (FRELIMO) Front for Liberation of Mozambique is not a white or Black African, but of Indian

ATTENTION!

The Building Fund Committee of the Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church will present the black gospel drama, *Hallelujah...Anyhow*. Starts 8:15 p.m. on May 9 and 10.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churches are urged to send their services and program announcements, typewritten, to the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Church Reporter, Mary Wilson, at 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Articles must be mailed or delivered to the above location no later than Monday noon of each week.

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TRUE LOVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1941 North "H" Street Las Vegas, Nevada

Rev. I.W. Wilson, Pastor

648-3603

Theme: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Scripture: 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28-31, 13:1-7

Sunday School Program

Sunday, May 11, 1986 6 p.m.

All Church Schools are invited to share with us in this service

Sister I.T. Clark, Superintendent

Brother Ted Kelly, Asst. Superintendent

Rev. I.W. Wilson, Pastor