

WORLD-FAMOUS NEUROSURGEON RECALLS DETAILS OF GHETTO CHILDHOOD

Black Doctor from Detroit's Inner City Says God Gave Him the Talent; Mother's Guidance Helped Him Take Advantage of It

NEW YORK, Dec. 22 — A black man, who as a poor teenager from inner-city Detroit nearly threw his life away 21 years ago, is today a world-famous neurosurgeon with faith in God and a belief that anyone can succeed if they try hard enough.

Discussing his role as a member of the team that last year successfully separated Siamese twins who were joined at the skull, Dr. Benjamin Carson told a reporter for this week's issue of PARADE magazine. "I guess I would have been afraid if I didn't have so much faith in God. I never have the feeling He's going to let me get into something He can't get me out of."

Carson, who is director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, admitted that his religious faith makes him an

anomaly in a hospital setting. "It's not fashionable by any stretch of the imagination," he declared, "but I do believe, and I don't have any qualms about telling people."

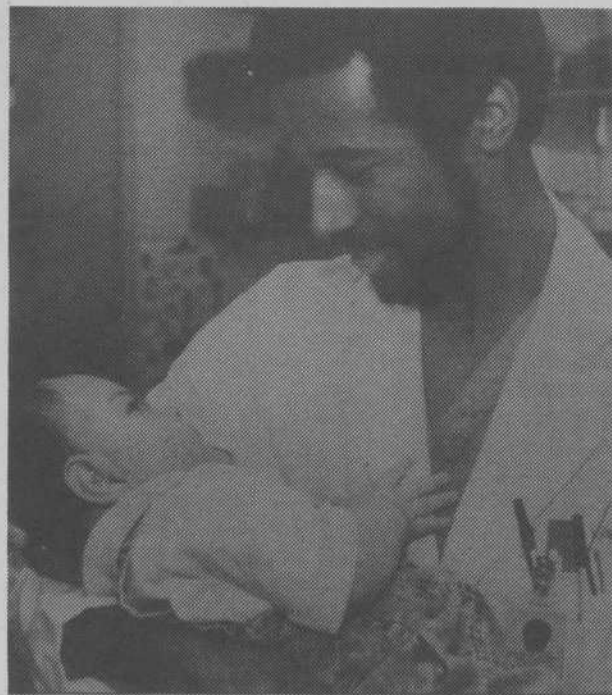
Recalling his childhood in Detroit when he nearly threw his life away, Dr. Carson said, "I had a pathological temper. It was out of control. One day I tried to stab another teenager with a ramping knife. He had on a large metal belt buckle, and it broke the knife. It struck me then that if he hadn't had that belt buckle or I would be on my way to jail or reform school, and he would be on his way to a hospital, or dead. I prayed to the Lord to take my temper away."

Dr. Carson credited his mother with keeping him out of trouble when he began getting "lots of negative

messages in society" as a youngster. "But my mother just put an end to those kinds of thoughts quickly," he said. "You might say she brainwashed us into believing that we could do anything."

By the eighth grade, which Carson spent in a largely white junior high school, he did so well that he won a prize as the best student in his class. That infuriated his white teacher, Carson recalled. "That teacher blasted the rest of the class for letting me be No. 1," he said. "Obviously, they weren't working hard enough if a black kid was No. 1. I'll never forget that."

"I just have never, under any circumstances, thought of giving up on anything I do," declared Carson. "The big difference between people who succeed and people



Dr. Carson holds one of the twins who were separated in a 22-hour operation using a surgical procedure he helped to develop.

JACK AND JILL PRESIDENT TO VISIT AFRICA

Dr. Eva C. Wanton, the National President of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., will be traveling to Senegal and Mali at the end of the year to assess the needs of children in drought-stricken areas of these countries. Wanton will be traveling with Africare's Director of Constituency Development, Melvin P. Foote, and will be visiting several Africare project sites.

The Jack and Jill Organization has committed to financing a \$40,000 Child Survival Project in Mali during their 50th Anniversary meeting held last July in San Francisco. An \$18,000 down payment was provided to Africare to begin the project with the balance forthcoming in 1989.

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY TO SUPPORT AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM THROUGH AFRICARE

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity recently announced its support for a range of projects to protect and improve the fragile African environment. To be implemented by Africare, the projects will address in various ways critical problems such as soil erosion, loss of soil fertility, and deforestation, all of which ultimately affect water resources, food production, the energy supply, and the availability of materials for housing and other basic needs in rural Africa. The fraternity hopes initially to raise \$100,000 for environmental programs in the cen-

tral African nation of Chad. Other African nations will receive similar support from the fraternity in years to come.

Restoring the fragile environment will be one of the major challenges facing Africa in the months, years and decades to come. Literally millions of trees will need to be planted and dramatically improved land management programs instituted if Africa is to survive into the next century.

In taking on this project, Omega Psi Phi joins numerous other national Black American organizations now supporting development programs in Africa through Africare. Other groups carrying on development programs include: Alpha Kappa Alpha and Sigma Gamma Rho Sororities, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, The Links, Jack and Jill of America, The Shriners, The Progressive National Baptist Convention, The National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses, the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, and The United Supreme Council.

who do not is not that the ones who are successful don't have barriers and obstacles," he said. "Everybody has barriers and obstacles. If you look at them as containing fences that don't allow you to advance, then you're going to be a failure. If you look at them as hurdles that strengthen you each time you go over one, then you're going to be a success."

On his own time, Dr. Carson visits schoolchildren throughout the country to encourage them to succeed. "I tell them that there are opportunities, and they have to be willing to take advantage of them," he said. "I tell them to take responsibility for their lives. I tell them that education gives them independence and an ability to control their own lives. That message has got to get across to our young people."

NATIONAL TEEN PAGEANT SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

DANVILLE, VA — Ronald Charity, President/Founder of the Black Teenage World Scholarship Program and Pageant announced recently that the annual program would be held during the month of July in 1989 and that Dudley Products Company of Greensboro, N.C. would, for the third year serve as national sponsor. Charity said, "We are excited, thrilled and delighted that Dudley Products Company, one of America's outstanding cosmetic firms, will once again participate in our program. Once again Mr. Joe Dudley is proving that he believes in the black teenagers of this Country." Persons interested in participating should write BTWSP, Inc., P.O. Box 1139, Danville, VA 24543.

The Black Teenage World Scholarship Program is open to teens 14 to 17 years of age who have at least a "C" Scholarship average.

Participants in the program receive scholarships, prizes, trophies and other prizes.

Dominique Patterson, Roanoke, Virginia and Kevin Richardson, Richmond, Virginia are the current Miss and Mr. Black Teenage World Titleholders. Both are High School Seniors.

Contestants compete in Sportswear (no swimwear), Creative Expression, Talent, Eveningwear and Personal Projection. During the program week Leadership Development Workshops and Personal Development Seminars are conducted for the male and female participants.

Petals of McRoy



Petals of McRoy

Your Full Service Flower Shop

Weddings, Parties, Etc.

Fresh Flowers

Silks

Plants

Trees

Wedding Rentals

Arch & Baskets

Owner: Freddie McRoy

Manager: JoAnn Johnson

1020 West Owens L.V. Nev. 89102

Phone 702-647-1087

