

RELIGION

Church News

By Mary Wilson
Church Reporter



Deliverance Thru Faith is pleased to announce "Revival, Revival", with Evangelist Rodney Waller from San Diego, California, to be held Sunday, February 3rd through Friday, February 8th, 7:30 p.m. nightly, at Deliverance Thru Faith, 1517 North Las Vegas Blvd. All are invited! Come and be Blessed! Bring a friend!

"You can have what you say instead of saying what you have." Mark 11:24.

For more information call 388-9963 or 649-1702.

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Women's Aglow Daytime Fellowship is pleased to announce their monthly luncheon to be held at the Best Western Downtown Convention Center

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at Main and Washington. Date: Wednesday, February 13, 1991; Time: 11:00 a.m.; Cost: \$6.00. Reservations must be made by Monday, February 11, 1991. Please call Cathy Johnson at 796-8839. The guest speaker will be Dorothy Olague of Las Vegas, Nevada. Profile will be "Find out how GOD intervened and turned heartache and tragedy into Triumph Victory through JESUS CHRIST!!!" (Murder and Fire)

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The New Light Missionary Baptist Church, 1165 Lawry, Las Vegas, extends a welcome to all to attend their 26th Church Anniversary on Friday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17 at 3:00 p.m.

This years theme will be: "A Church With A Mission To Make Disciples" Matthew 28:19-20. Church pastor is Rev. John Henry, Jr.

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RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH & ACTION: — THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE —

by M. Abdul-Kaber Ramadan

Allah (Most High) says in the Holy Quran: 2:177: "It is not righteousness that you turn your faces to the east or west, but it is righteousness to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book and the Messengers; to spend of your wealth in spite of your love of it, for your relative, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer (Salat) and practice regular charity, to fulfill all contracts which you have made, and to be firm and patient in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic — such are the people of truth, the God-fearing."

When the Muslims stand for prayer (Salat), they face the northeast, the direction of the Ka'abah, the first House of Worship of Allah built by Abraham (Ibrahim), (see Quran 2:125:127). But Allah clearly rejects the turning of individuals to the east or west as an indicator of righteousness. Allah, in the Holy Quran stresses to us that the mere compliance with the

outward forms (the ritual of bending and bowing), does not fulfill the requirement of righteousness.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Many of you stay up all night in prayer (Salat) and your only gain is tired, fatigue and sore muscles." Why? You are only following the ritual with no substance.

What is even more hypocritical are people who profess to be Muslim and fail or refuse to pray (offer Salat), five times per day, or even once per day and never attend Juma (the Friday Gathering), at all. What a shame!

So, in returning to our theme, we see that Allah (Most High) in the Holy Quran and His Messenger Muhammad (PBUH), reject the outward ritual or act of turning one's face in a certain direction as righteous.

The first standards of "righteousness" for Muslims are described in the Holy Quran as: (1) Belief in Allah (see Quran 4:125 and 12:67), (2) Belief in the Last Day (the Resurrection and Judgement), (see Quran 6:51, 6:128, 20:102-104), (3) Belief in the Angels (see Quran 21:26, 66:6, 35:1, 4:136), (4) Belief in the Books: (Book of Abraham, Torah, Psalms, Gospel and Quran, Precious Books 3:3, 5:46-48, 61:6), (5) Belief in the Prophets (see Quran 2:285, 10:47, 13:7, 35:24, 40:78); The Holy Quran presents all the Prophets of Allah as honorable righteous men and Muslims must respect them all "We make no distinction (they say), between one and another of His Messengers (2:285 also see 2:253).

The five (5) Beliefs, plus the beliefs in Al-Qadr, the Divine Decree or that which is pre-ordained make up what we call the Principles of Al-Islam or the Islamic Belief/Faith System.

The belief in that which is beyond our five senses is a prerequisite to Faith (Iman) in: "And who believe in that which is beyond the reach of human perception." 2:3, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen." Bible

We continue this presentation of "Righteousness: the Islamic Perspective" from Sura (Chapter 2, Ayat [verse] 177), with the actions that indicate righteousness. For where there is Belief (Faith) there must be actions that reflect our faith, "Verily mankind is lost, except those who have Faith (believe), and do righteous deeds (actions): Quran 103:2-3.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Faith and actions (righteous deeds) are synonymous with a garden and a stream or river. Just as the garden is nurtured by the water of the stream of river, so is faith nurtured by righteous deeds (actions).

These righteous deeds in 2:177 include: "to spend of your substance, in spite of your love for it, for your kin (relatives), for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves."

So, Allah (Most High) commands and prioritizes the order of our charity, and we are admonished to forego — both our religious leaders and their followers — the practice of selfish

spending such as for new and expensive cars, clothing, jewelry, televisions (3-4 per household), videos, drugs and alcohol, partying... all the while claiming to be righteous.

Our government spends more on military build-up and defense than for social programs, education and health, but I occasionally wonder why the federal or state government should take care of our needs while we neglect them for our wants (pleasures). (see Quran 90:10-17).

Among those whom Allah (Most High) commands us to send our wealth on is for the freeing of slaves. By including this kind of spending within the requirements of righteousness, the Holy Quran suggests that the freeing of people from bondage (slavery) was, and continues to be, one of the social, political and cultural objectives of Al-Islam (see 8:67, 4:92, 5:89, 58:3).

And righteousness in 2:177 is, "To be steadfast in prayer and practice regular charity, to fulfill all contracts which you have made; and to be firm and patient in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are people of truth, the God-fearing." Again being steadfast in prayer (Salat) is a standard of righteousness (see Quran 2:110, 2:238).

Practice of regular charity demonstrates what many individuals say in words, but fail in actions. Then there are those who spend in times of plenty, but refuse to spend in times of adversity. (See Islamic, Page 7)

ATTENTION!!!

You are invited to become a part of
SECOND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located at

940 West Owens Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

P.O. Box 5072, Las Vegas, NV 89127

Sunday Services from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Fridays — Bible Study 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Rev. Jesse D. Scott, Pastor
646-1662
643-2434

ALEX COTTON TO PREACH TRIAL SERMON



Alex Cotton

Holy Trinity AME Church, 920 South Decatur Blvd., is pleased to announce that Mr. Alexander (Alex) Cotton will be preaching his trial sermon on Sunday, February 10, 1991 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Cotton was presented to the Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles/San Diego District, Rev. Edward P. Williams, Sr., at the Second Quarterly Conference held at First AME at Indio, CA on January 27, and will soon be presented to the District Conference. He will begin classes after admission to the Annual Conference at Los Angeles in August.

The community at large, and especially Mr. Cotton's family and friends are asked to come and encourage him as he delivers his first message as a licentiate in the AME church.

For further information call Holy Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church at 363-1044.