

Ms. Martin Believes A Clearer Understanding Of The Bible Will Help Free Blacks

By Milton Jordan
Ask Clarice Martin a question about Christianity, especially a question that examines the Bible's relevance for today, and the change in her demeanor is immediate and obvious. Her flashing smile melts as her dark smooth features give way to an intense seriousness. She ponders the question a moment, and then begins to speak slowly in a soft, melodious voice that sounds more like that of a singer than a scholar. Most times here answers are long and detailed, often including chapters and verses from the Bible, explanations of the original Hebrew or Greek texts and quotes from religious writers ranging from Moffatt to Leslie. Though she looks like the school teacher she was until just a few years ago, and displays a warm, bubbly personality between questions, Ms. Martin is a serious religious scholar. "I believe there is a great need for black biblical scholars," she said during along interview in her comfortable home, "and it was my interest in both the church and education that influenced me in this direction."

Martin, 29, a native of Riverside, California, is pursuing a doctorate degree this summer in New Testament studies at Duke University. She already holds a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary, plus undergraduate and post graduate degrees from the University of California and Wheaton Graduate School, respectively. "My goal is to teach," she said, "particularly to try to convey what it means to be both black and Christian. Most black religionists, scholars or preachers, usually attend predominantly white institutions of religious education, and neither the curriculum nor the overall purpose of the school addresses what it means to be black and Christian." From her perspective, being both "black and Christian" means knowing that christianity does not condone racism and oppression. "Christianity changes over the years," she explained, "but my blackness remains the same. And I believe we need to understand the scriptures in light of those things that apply specifically to us today." Specifically, Ms. Mar-



Mrs. Clarice Martin

tin, an attractive, slender woman with a broad, warm smile and soft, almond-shaped eyes, believes the Bible speaks strongly against racism. "One of the things that black people have to face," she said, "is the difference between what Christianity is and what we've been taught that it is." She believes the key to that understanding is being able to know, from intensive study, what

parts of the Bible are unique to the times in which they were written, and which are applicable to today. As examples of the difference, she cites two passages: "This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, un-

hankful, unholy, Without natural affection..."

This scripture, in II Timothy 3:1-5, according to Ms. Martin, is plainly applicable to today and the society that's extant now. But when questioned about the other passage, by the same writer, to the same evangelist, found in I Timothy 2:12, Ms. Martin said: "I'd have to check the context, but my feeling is that that statement must be understood in the light of time in which it was written. The verse says: 'But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.' From all indications, Ms. Martin's studies have created almost as many questions for her as they have answers, but the studies have also brought her foursquare in opposition to a lot of so-called Christian traditions. "For example," she said, "I don't believe the pictures we see of Jesus Christ truly picture what the Savior looked like. He was a Jew, and spent a lot of time outdoors. Therefore, you could conclude that he was rugged, well-built and tanned. I just don't believe he was pale and skinny, like the pictures we see of the cross. I don't think the man in that picture could have withstood the beating the

Romans gave Christ the night before he was killed."

She also opposes the idea of so-called Christians always looking out for their own self-interest.

"I think that if you are really Christian," she said, "then you should be more concerned about reaching out and helping other than yourself." But by far, her favorite point is that

Christianity should not be used to foster or support either racism or sexism. And she believes that blacks and women need a clearer understanding of Bible teachings to know that.

Durham's Weather

Seems To Be A Broken Record

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.
It may seem like Durham has been transplanted to a tropical rain forest on the Equator as steaming humid days punctuated with afternoon and evening thunderstorms have settled over the city for over a week. Durhamites can look forward to this pattern continuing for the rest of this week. Meteorologists at the Raleigh-Durham Airport say that this is the type of

weather pattern that usually prevails in this area from late June until August. While the temperatures haven't really been that high (in the upper 80's), the humidity has been ranging from 60-100 per cent which is causing more discomfort than the high temperatures (in the high 90's-103) that were recorded in downtown Durham two weeks ago. The storms have been very localized. While

some parts of the Triangle have been receiving just a little rain, other sections have been inundated by cloud bursts. A storm in southern Durham and Chapel Hill on May 21 flooded recreation areas and even trapped one Durham resident in her home. Lightning during these thunder boomers has been vivid and sharp. A Chapel Hill man sustained minor injuries when he was struck by lightning last week. Forecasters warn that these storms although localized can be dangerous. They are often slow moving therefore heavy rains can flood local low lying areas quite rapidly. When the weather is threatening residents should stay away from creeks and other small bodies of water that can become raging torrents. Lightning, one of the most powerful forces in nature can be deadly if you are around trees or electrical fixtures. Televisions and other appliances should be unplugged until the storm has passed. These storms can blow up on very short notice, therefore people are advised to keep an eye on the skies. The violent storms are often accompanied by high winds and hail that can cause widespread damage. Even small tornadoes can develop in these storms and these nasty

little "fellows" can touch down and disappear so quickly that they are not seen on the Airport's radar system. If a funnel cloud is spotted, you should first go to a safe area. Second, if possible, you should inform the police or weather bureau about the location and direction that the funnel is traveling. Above all NEVER chase a tornado with your automobile!

Don Burton In "Team Spirit" Exercise

Marine Lance Cpl. Donald C. Burton, son of Mrs. Mozell Burton of 1404 N. Alston Ave., Durham, recently participated in exercise "Team Spirit 82" in the Republic of Korea. He is a member of Third Battalion, 12th Marines, on Okinawa. "Team Spirit 82" was a joint exercise involving military forces from the United States and the Republic of Korea. More than 160,000 personnel and 31 U.S. 7th Fleet ships were involved in the monthlong exercise. After three weeks of training, "Team Spirit" culminated in a major amphibious assault exercise. Land, sea and air forces from both nations executed a three pronged attack that included a surface assault, a helicopter-borne vertical envelopment and an airborne paradrop to seize, occupy and defend exercise objectives.

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Cast Your Ballot! Vote For Your Favorite Minister

in the
**Friends of Edgemont-Few Gardens Center
Ministers Popularity Contest**

Rev. J.C. Cheek Increases His Lead

REV. J.C. CHEEK, pastor of Mount Calvary United Church of Christ, Durham, has increased his lead, now held for three weeks, as the Ministers Popularity Contest sponsored by Friends of Edgemont-Few Gardens Community Center begins to head toward it's closing months. The winner of the balloting race will be sent on a trip to the Bahamas, according to the Friends of Edgemont-Few Gardens. According to contest sponsors, REV. GRADY DAVIS, pastor of Union Baptist Church, is holding onto second place. REV. L.H. WHELCHER, is still running in third place, according to June 1 reports from the contest sponsors. REV. EARLE THORPE and REV. J.W. BARNES are tied at fourth place. REV. JOHN MONROE has slowly moved to fifth place. In the sixth place slot is REV. DAVID BELL. REV. ALEXANDER MOSELEY is now at seventh place. According to a spokesman for the Edgemont Center, the purpose of the contest, in addition to raising money for the center, is to "boost the black church and the black press, locally and nationally". The Carolina Times is cooperating with the contest by publishing the official ballot each week. To vote for your favorite minister, simply clip the ballot from an issue of The Carolina Times, complete it, and mail it to the Center. A \$1 donation must accompany each ballot in order that it be included in the official count. The center spokesman said the first prize for the contest is a trip to the Bahamas for the winning minister. Other prizes will be announced.

Contestants

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Rev. J.C. Cheek | Rev. B.A. Mack | Rev. V.E. Brown |
| Rev. Grady D. Davis | Elder Elroy Lewis | Bishop W.A. Jones |
| Rev. L.H. Whelchel | Rev. William Easley | Bishop John T. Moore |
| Rev. Earle Thorpe | Rev. Howard Haggler | Rev. Harold Cobb |
| Rev. David H. Bell | Rev. W.T. Bigelow | Elder R.A. Sloan |
| Rev. John L. Monroe | Rev. Leon Saunders | Rev. Marion Wright |
| Rev. James Daniels | Rev. J.W. Barnes | Rev. Bernard Morrison |
| Rev. Donald Fozard | Rev. Lowry Reid | Rev. Cureton Johnson |
| Rev. Lorenzo Lynch | Rev. Percy Chase | Rev. Johnny Leak |
| Rev. Alexander D. Moseley | Rev. Vernon Thompson | Rev. C.R. Stone |
| Rev. Z.D. Harris | Rev. J.R. Crutchfield | Rev. John L. Caldwell |
| Rev. Frizelle Yelverton | Rev. Arthur H. Parker | Rev. Mack Timberlake, Jr. |

Did you see YOUR minister's name in the list of nominees? Nominations remain open. Its not too late to nominate your minister. Do it today!

◀ OFFICIAL BALLOT ▶
Ministers Popularity Contest

Minister's Name: _____
Name of Church: _____

Voter's Name: _____
Number of Votes: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail or bring votes to:
Edgemont-Few Gardens Center
P.O. Box 1724
Durham, N.C. 27702

Mt. Calvary United Church of Christ

1715 ATHENS STREET
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27707
TELEPHONE: 688-5066

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SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1982

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship

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Bus Service for Church Sunday School and Morning Worship Services. Everyone is welcome to come and join us in all services.

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Marion Wright, Pastor

Sunday---10:00 AM & 6:30 PM
Wednesday- 7:30 PM
Friday--- 8:00 PM