

Religion

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Focus On Religion

A haven for soul savin'

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

If you ever want to know the exact whereabouts of the dope and liquor houses in Happy Hill Gardens, Verlie Fields will be glad to serve as your tour guide.

The 28-year-old Fields -- or more recently, the Rev. Verlie Fields -- is a qualified guide to the seemingly quiet low-income housing project where he grew up. Fields also knows where the houses of "ill-repute" are located. They're on his target sheet.

Last Saturday, the newly-named assistant minister at Free Street's Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church carefully orchestrated the first of a series of outdoor crusades, turning up volumes on donated amplifiers for the whole neighborhood to hear.

The "Reach Out For Jesus Christ Crusade" was an inspiration Fields says he received from God. The crusade was held last Saturday in a vacant lot of the 800 block of Mock Street, across from an apartment he shares with his mother.

"I want to be out there with the people," Fields says. "A lot of people won't go into a church, but will come to an outdoor service."

With his strategy mapped out, Fields sits on the sidelines of the crusades while the ministers he recruited spread the Gospel. The crusades will give young ministers such as Darryl McConnell, Ronnie Harrell and Reginald Eldridge an opportunity to help him smooth the wrinkles in the Happy Hills, Cleveland Projects, Piedmont Park and Kimberly Park Terrace neighborhoods, Fields says. The crusades are scheduled for the next three Saturdays

at 6 p.m.

Fields, who became a minister in January, says he knows the practice of an outdoor ministry isn't new to his neighborhood or anywhere else, but it's worth a try.

He walks through the neighborhood, Bible in arm, proud to be a new born-again Christian, waving and nodding to all he passes. Every now and then, someone calls his name and he acknowledges the greeting.

"I attended Livingstone College and came back," Leonard says. "I've been through a marriage and I came back. I had two little children and I came back. Then I left again. Now I'm back again

"I want to try to make something of Happy Hill and let the people know what it's like to be a Christian."

-- Rev. Verlie Fields

for the fourth time.

"So I said, 'This time instead of just trying to think of how to get out again, why not try to turn Happy Hill into Happy Hill?'"

When Fields walks by a house that's on his target list for ministering the Gospel, he grimaces and remembers a boyhood friend about his age who was stabbed to death there.

As the walk through the Happy Hill neighborhood continues, he points out what had been the well-manicured home of an elderly couple, long since deceased. The house is now a haven for alcoholics and a fifty-cent shot of alcohol.



Elder Darryl McConnell Jr., kicks off the Reach Out For Jesus Christ Crusade with

an inspiring sermon (photo by James Parker).

"I want to try to make something of Happy Hill," Fields says, "and let the people know what it's like to be a Christian."

The kids need to know that life doesn't begin or end with drugs," he says. "They need to know its more to this community besides block parties and drugs."

After rounding out the crusade in Kimberly Park Terrace, Fields says he will bring the Gospel back home to Happy Hill on August 22-25 next to Rising Ebenezer's vacant lot, across from a popular neighborhood hangout.

Fields compares the outdoor crusades to the "ghetto blasters" that scream the sounds of disco

and rap music. "It's heard whether you want to hear it or not."

"I think the crusades will draw the people," he says. "There's a possibility of someone who's an alcoholic standing on the street corner hearing the word of God, accepts Christ as his savior, sobers up and never takes another drink."

Like a child with a new toy, Fields holds onto his inspiration with admiration and he envisions the souls that can be saved, but he says that's only the beginning he says.

"If I could get into Buena Vista I would," Fields says. "There's a certain part in our hearts that can't be filled by money."

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 26

•The Ministers and Deacons Union will meet today through Friday, July 27, in Mt. Glory Missionary Baptist Church at 214 N. Dunleith. Each meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Meetings also are scheduled for 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 29.

FRIDAY, JULY 27

•The 12:10 Luncheon sponsored by the Downtown Church Center will meet from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. at Mountcastle Forum in the Sawtooth Building at Winston Square. C. Douglas Carroll, director of the city-county planning department, will be the guest speaker. The topic will be "Change: How It Affects Winston-Salem."

SATURDAY, JULY 28

•A "Reach Out For Jesus Christ Crusade" will be held in the Cleveland housing projects on the open lot at 17th Street at 6 p.m. The Rev. Verlie Fields will be the guest speaker.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

•Morning worship will be held at 10:30 at Macedonia Holy Church in Kernersville, with the Rev. K.D. Fulton as the guest speaker. At 3 p.m., the congregation will worship in the Church of Philadelphia Apostolic at 1711 Cleveland Ave. Holy communion and foot washing will close out the service.

•The Revival Gospel Singers will be in concert at Love's Temple Church of God at 30th Street and Ivy Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Contributions will go toward the church building fund.

•The Emmanuettes Children's Choir of Emmanuel Baptist Church at 1075 Shalimar Drive will celebrate its first anniversary at the church at 4 p.m. The Rev. John Mendez is the pastor.

•Group No. 4 of the Capital Funds Drive of the Church will sponsor a gospel music celebration Sunday, July 29, at 3 p.m. in the Cleveland Avenue Christian Church. The church's Angelic Choir and other local church choirs and groups will be featured. The Rev. J.O. Williams is the pastor.

•Bishop Alfred Sides will be the guest speaker at Mt. Gideon Apostolic Holiness Church at 4698 Indiana Ave. at the 3 p.m. worship service and at the "Fruit of the Spirit" service at 6 p.m. There will be nine speakers. Mother Naomi Peay is the pastor.

•The missionaries of St. Stephen Baptist Church at 2071 Bowen Blvd. will host their annual "Rainbow Tea" at 4 p.m. The Rev. Wayne Hines of Rocky Mount, past state president of the Young Adults of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionaries Convention of North Carolina, will be the featured speaker.

•The General Missionary Department of Galilee Baptist Church will sponsor a "100 Women In White" service at 7 p.m. The Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker. All missionaries are urged to attend and wear white.

The Chronicle welcomes church calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should also include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Church Calendar, P. O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Mondays at 5:30.

Church Notes

Mrs. Georgia Smith

headlines Missionary Day

Mrs. Georgia Elizabeth Mickle Smith, president of the Missionary Society at Hanes Memorial CME Church at 819 Highland Ave., will be the 11 a.m. speaker Sunday, July 29, during the church's Missionary Day observance.

Mrs. Smith holds several positions in local, state and national CME organizations, and is vice-president and manager of the North Office of Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. At Hanes, she is the president of the Chancel Choir, a member of the Stewardess Board No. 2, Creative Club, Shanta-Malia Choral Ensemble, Board of Christian

Education and Board of Evangelism. She is a native of Winston-Salem and is a graduate of Naomi McLean's Stenographic School. Mrs. Smith is married to Warren J. Smith Sr. and they have three children.

Music for Sunday's service will be provided by the Women's Chorus, with Mrs. Peggy McLaughlin, Mrs. Pansy R. Wilkerson and Mrs. Dorothy Archie as directors and accompanists.

Mrs. Helen Penn is the chairperson of "Missionary Day" and the Rev. Anzo Montgomery is the pastor.

Funerals

Mrs. Hattie Mayes, retired RJR employee, passes

Mrs. Hattie S. Mayes

Mrs. Hattie S. Mayes, 511 Edna Street passed Thursday July 19, 1984 at the Forsyth Memorial Hospital. She was a native of Anderson, S.C., and had resided in this city approximately 75 years. She was a retired employee of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Industry and of the Baptist Faith. 1 daughter, Mrs. Thelma B. Mayes, Winston-Salem 1 grandson, Rickie Mayes, 1 great grandchild 1 son-in-law, Mr. Arthur Mayes, Winston-Salem 4 sisters, Mrs. Janie Martin, Mrs. Dora Martin both of Anderson S.C. Mrs. Rosa Ellis, Philadelphia, Pa. Mrs. Ariene Higgins, Winston-Salem, N.C. 1 granddaughter in law, other relatives and friends. Funeral services for Mrs. Mayes were held Monday, July 23, 1984 at the Gilmore Memorial Chapel where Rev. / S.F. Hairston officiated with interment in the Evergreen Cemetery. The body reposed at Gilmore's until the funeral hour.

Arrangements entrusted to and services were conducted by Your Loving Friends, Gilmore's.

Mrs. Beatrice Durant

Mrs. Beatrice Durant, 1201 E. 9th Street, passed Thursday, July 19, 1984 at the N.C. Baptist Hospital. She was a native of Belton, S.C., a retired Nurse and a member of the Alpha and Omega Metaphysics Church. She is survived by: 1 step-daughter-in-law, Mrs. Ehtel Durant, Washington, D. C. a devoted niece, Mrs. Nettie Bradley, Seneca, S.C. other nieces, nephews, and friends. Funeral services were conducted Sunday July 22, 1984 at the Alpha & Omega Meta Physical Church were Bishop Edward Campbell officiated assisted by Elder Rubena Duncan with interment in the Evergreen Cemetery. The body reposed at Gilmore's until the funeral hour.

Arrangements entrusted to and services were conducted by Your Loving Friends, Gilmore's.

Mr. Ben D. Lindsay

Funeral services for: Mrs. Ben D. Lindsay, 423 E. 14th Street, passed Wednesday at his home. He was a native of Lancaster, S.C., but had resided in this city most of his life. He was a retired employee of the Shepard Vaneering Co. He was survived by: the wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Lindsay, of the home 4 daughters, Ms. Evelyn Lindsay, Ms. Gwendolyn Lindsay and Mrs. Pricilla Rawlinson all of this city. Mrs. Angela Montgomery, of Philadelphia, Pa. 1 son, Mr. Ben David



John Heath



Bishop Lawrence Tate

Missionary at New Faith

The Missionary Society will continue its convention Thursday through Sunday, July 29, at the New Faith Chapel Holiness Church at 1419 Waughtown Street.

There will be evening sessions, with services beginning at 7:30

p.m. Speakers for the week will include Evangelist Jeannie Bryant Alford, the Rev. John Heath and Bishop Lawrence Tate.

The convention will adjourn Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the church.

Lindsay Jr. of this city 9 grand and 4 great-grands, a host of other relatives and friends. Funeral services will be conducted Sunday at 2:00 p.m. from the Gilmore Memorial Chapel where Rev. John Heath will officiate with interment in the Evergreen Cemetery. The body will repose at Gilmore's until the funeral hour. The family will receive friends Sunday evening at Gilmore's from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by Gilmore Funeral Directors.

Mr. Javon Massey

Mr. Javon Massey, 7800 E. Jefferson Street, Apt. 1413 Detroit, Michigan, passed Tuesday unexpectedly. He was a native of Lancaster, S.C., and a member of the New Bethel Baptist Church. He is survived by: 2 sisters, Mrs. Blondena Anderson and Mrs. Ora Ruthland, both of this city 3 nieces, 2 nephews, other relatives and friends. Funeral services are incomplete at this time. The family may be contacted at the home of a sister, Mrs. Blondena Anderson, 3502 N. Cherry Street.

Arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by Gilmore Funeral Directors.

Mr. Clarence Hugo Turner

Mr. Clarence Hugo Turner of 1701 Oneka St. Apt. D, High Point, N.C. passed on Saturday, July 14 in the Veterans Medical Center in Durham, N.C. His remains were removed to Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home. He was a native of Roanoke, Va. and was reared in Winston-Salem, and attended the local public schools, including Carver High School. He resided in Detroit, Michigan for 15 years. He was a veteran of U.S. Navy, after which he lived in Greensboro, for 5 years. Later moving to High Point, N.C. to make his home for 6 years. He was of the Baptist Faith. His survivors are one step-daughter, Miss Cheryl Ann Greer of Compton, California, one sister, Mrs. Laura Turner Bailey of the city, two brothers, Mr. Lee Harrington Turner of Ypsilanti, Michigan, & Mr. Kenneth King Turner of Vernon, Texas, one aunt, Mrs. Incz Gaither of the city, three nieces, three nephews, five great nieces, three great nephews a devoted friend, Mrs. Pearlene Bennett of High Point, N.C. other relatives and friends.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home in charge of services.

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