

# Religion

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## Focus On Religion

### 'We are on the Lord's side'

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

When the Napper sisters were growing up, their father, the traveling Rev. Warren J. Napper, took his daughters to church with him everywhere he went.

No matter how hard they squirmed or hid under church pews, frowned or played 'possum, Rev. Napper would call on his daughters to sing a selection for the congregation as he sat almost impatiently at the piano waiting for them to take their places.

Now it's some 25 years later and Constance Napper, the group's manager who's considered the stronghold of the six-member singing clan, says there's only one sure thing that would put an end to the Napper Singers.

"Until I die," says Constance. "Until I die they'll be together."

Of the Napper family's 11 children, six are girls. Constance, Carolyn Napper (the assistant manager), Belinda Napper Daniels, Wynette Napper Wilson (the youngest of the sisters), and Berlene Napper Smith (the oldest of the group) say they've sung in and around Winston-Salem for most of their lives.

"We've been singing ever since we've been able to talk," says Belinda. Twelve-year-old Calvin Napper, Carolyn's son, is the group's drummer. "He's been beating the drums since he was nine months old," says Carolyn. "He was playing with spoons and forks then."

Their album, "We Are On The Lord's Side,"

was released a little over two months ago and is their second recording attempt. Five years ago, the sisters recorded an album in Charlotte with the Brooklyn All-Stars, a popular quartet-type gospel singing group as their musicians. The album went on the charts, says Belinda, but they never heard it or saw it.

Locally, the Napper Singers' album can be heard on gospel radio station WSMX-AM.

This time, getting their brand of traditional gospel harmony out on the airwaves wasn't as disheartening, but there have been problems.

When the Nappers toured in the Chicago area a couple of weeks ago with Shirley Adams and the

*"We were being used and this is why we didn't let anybody help us with this album this time, because there are a lot of swindlers out there."*

-- Belinda Napper

Adams Singers, the "Horseman," a popular gospel radio disc jockey from station WLAC-AM, met with the sisters and Belinda says that's when they found out there was a master copy of the album.

"We just got our master copy," says Belinda. "The man at Granite City Studios tried to keep it. We had to go through some changes to get it and he's still got our master plate."

With the master copy or plate, material and music can be reproduced and distributed for sale at black market prices, leaving the artist with no royalties.



The Napper Singers have learned that even in the gospel music industry, some people can't be trusted (photo by James Parker).

Although they're still learning about the recording business, the Nappers say now they realize it was a lack of experience and first-hand knowledge of the recording industry that left them holding an empty bag five years ago.

"We had gone in the studios and recorded the album," says Belinda, the sister who keeps everyone smiling. "It hit the charts, but we never heard it. We never knew what happened to it."

So now, the Nappers act as their own distributors.

The thought of someone claiming an exclusive copyright to the album has occurred to the sisters. Constance took care of all the legalities involving the most recent album, she says, completing the proper paper work to make sure the material is not reproduced without the Napper name.

"We were being used," says Belinda, "and this is why we didn't let anybody help us with this album this time, because there are a lot of swindlers out there."

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## Church Notes

### Elijah speaks to group

Thomas J. Elijah Jr., president of the Winston-Salem Urban League, will be the guest speaker at the "12:10" Luncheon, sponsored by the Downtown Church Center on Friday, Aug. 31 at Mountcastle Forum in Winston Square.

The luncheon, which begins at 12:10 p.m. and ends at 12:50 p.m., is sponsored by member churches of the Downtown Church Center and WSJS Radio. It is open to the public. The cost of the meal is \$3.

The program is one of a series about topics of community interest.

Elijah has been president of the Urban League for the past seven years. Before coming to Winston-Salem, he was with the New York Urban League as director of the Queens Borough for ten years.

Prior to that, he was a housing consultant for the real estate company of Braislen, Porter and Wheelock of New York City.

Elijah is a graduate of Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and is a certified real estate manager, a licensed real estate broker and a housing development specialist.

His topic will be "The Business Community and Jobs in Winston-Salem."

Member churches of the Downtown Church Center are Augsburg Lutheran, Calvary Moravian, Centenary United Methodist, Christ Moravian, First Presbyterian, First Baptist, Green Street United Methodist, Home Moravian, St. Paul's Episcopal and Winston Friends Meeting.



Thomas Elijah

Burke Johnson

### Syndicated program expanding

"Inspirations Across America" is a two-hour gospel radio program that currently is aired in more than 30 key markets across the country and is

still growing.

Six months ago, when Anderson Media Services rolled out the nation's first nationally syndicated program, it was still growing.

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## Funerals

### Mrs. Genevieve Brown dies in Baptist Hospital

Mrs. Genevieve Brown

Mrs. Genevieve Brown of 1451 Addison Avenue passed Friday morning, August 24 at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital. Mrs. Brown was a native of Newberry, S.C., having lived here for the past 40 years. She was a member of the Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church where she was a member of the Stewardess Board and was a retired employee of the Export Leaf Tobacco Company.

Mrs. Brown is survived by one son, Jerry Brown of the home; one daughter, Mrs. Gloria Brown Stevenson of this city; one brother, Derry Gray, Jr., of Newberry S.C.; two sisters, Mrs. Luvenia Gray of this city and Mrs. Mattie Harmon of Newberry, S.C.; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00, August 29 from the Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, where the Rev. James A. French officiated. Interment followed in the family plot of the Evergreen Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Russell Funeral Directors, "Dedicated to serve you better."

Mrs. Ruth S. Roberts

Mrs. Ruth S. Roberts of 1328 Belews Street passed at an early hour Monday morning, August 27 at her home following an extended period of illness. Mrs. Roberts was a native and lifelong resident of this city. She was a graduate of the Columbian Height High School and had attended the Slater State Normal School which is now Winston-Salem State University. She was a musician of note, having studied music under the direction of the late Prof. John R. Hawkins and Prof. John T. Diggs. She was a member of the Waughtown Baptist Church where she served as a member of the Missionary Society. She was a pianist of the Gospel Choir. She was a member of the Senior Citizen Group, a member of the Rhythm Band and a member of the Concerned Women for Justice. She was the founder of the Modern Choral Group.

Mrs. Roberts is survived by her husband, Mason W. Roberts, Sr., of the home; two sons, Mack Ray Roberts of Riverside California and Mason W. Roberts, Jr., of Kileen Texas; three daughters, Mrs. Moccille R. Chisholm of this city, Mrs. Ruth R. Campbell of the home, and Mrs. Margaret Pitts of the home; two adopted daughters, Mrs. Laurine Sanders of Chicago, Ill. and Mrs.

Maxinne Boulware of this city; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Arrangements are pending at this time. Service will be by Russell's "Dedicated to serve you better."

Joe Roy Tatum

Joe Roy Tatum, formerly of Tobacco Road, Winston-Salem, N.C. died Tuesday in Oberlin, Ohio where he had resided for the past two years. He was a native of Stuart, Va. but had spent most of his life in Winston-Salem.

Tatum was a retired employee of the Frank Borden Hanes Family whom he had served for approximately 35 years and a member of St. Andrews United Methodist Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Shirley McGee of Oberlin Ohio; a son, Joe Roy Tatum, Jr. of Oberlin, Ohio; his mother, Mrs. Addie Tatum of Stuart, Va.; four sisters, Mrs. Lucille Hill of Fiedale, Va., Mrs. Virginia Logan, Mrs. Dorothy Tatum and Mrs. Inez Agnew all of Stuart, Va.; five brothers, James, Fay and Kyle Tatum all of Stuart Va., Ralph Tatum of Fredericksburg, Va. and Charles Tatum of San Antonio, Texas; other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were held Sunday 1:00 P.M. at St. Andrews United Methodist Church with Rev. C.E. Strickland officiating. Interment followed in Piedmont Memorial Gardens.

Forsyth Funeral Directors

James Worth "Pete" Scales

James Worth "Pete" Scales, age 72, of 260 Success Ave., Bridgeport, Conn. died Thursday August 23 in Bridgeport. He was a native of Tobacoville, N.C. but had resided in Bridgeport for approximately 40 years. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mable Moore Scales; a daughter, Mrs. Diane S. Nelson; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three sisters, Mrs. Addie Sprinkle of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Emily Scales of Newtown, Conn. and Mrs. Otelia Greenwood of Bridgeport.

Funeral Services were held Sunday at 5:00 P.M. at the Morton's Funeral Home in Bridgeport, Conn.

The family may be contacted locally at the home of a nephew, Mr. R.B. Scales - 2334 Waterbury Street.

This is a courtesy of Forsyth Funeral Home.

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

•New Zion Baptist Church at 158 N. Highland Ave. will host its annual "Old Fashion Revival" today and Friday at 7:30 p.m. Guest evangelist will be the Rev. J.L. Stowe, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Lexington.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

•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. Thomas Elijah, president of the Winston-Salem Urban League, will speak on "Some Perspectives on the Business Community and Jobs in Winston-Salem."

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

•Annual homecoming services will be held at 1 p.m. at Lloyd Presbyterian Church on N. Chestnut Street. The Rev. State W. Alexander will be the guest speaker. The Rupert Bell Chorale will provide the music. Participants are urged to bring picnic baskets and folding chairs for the outdoor dinner.

•The members of Revelations of Faith Holiness Church will host installation services for their pastor, Evangelist Sarah C. Rowdy, at 6 p.m. in the Masonic Temple at the corner of 14th Street and Highland Avenue. Bishop T.R. Rice of Mercy Seat Holiness Church will officiate and the Rev. Essie McCollough of JAC Memorial Chapel will assist.

•Revival services will begin at 3 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church in Kernersville and continue through Friday, with services through the week at 7:30 p.m. Sunday's guest speaker will be the Rev. R.Q. Allen of Goodwill Baptist Church in Arcadia. The Rev. George W. Brooks, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro, will be the guest speaker for the rest of the week.

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.

## Hickory Grove revival set

Annual revival services will be held at Hickory Grove AME Zion Church in Clemmons from Sunday, Sept. 2 through Friday, Sept. 7.

The 11 a.m. speaker on Sunday will be the Rev. Robert H. Bailey, pastor of the church.

Sunday's 3 p.m. speaker will be the Rev. Jerry A. Quick,

pastor of Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church in Winston-Salem.

Nightly services will begin Tuesday at 7 o'clock.

Among the guest speakers will be the Rev. Paul Thoms, pastor of New Hope AME Zion Church, who will speak Tuesday night.

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