

Martyrs Nothing New In The History of Mankind

There are only a few Negroes and probably no whites who will believe that the Rev. Elton Cox, state field secretary for the Congress of Racial Equality, is in earnest about burning himself in the street, Bukhlist style if racial segregation is not ended in Chapel Hill. If and when the Rev. Cox carries out his threat, in an effort to bring freedom to his race and the white people of this country, as well, we see nothing so unusual about it. Without its martyrs the freedom mankind now enjoys would be hard to visualize.

Socrates, drinking the hemlock in Athens, Christians dying in the Roman arena, Christ going to Golgotha, John Brown to the gallows and thousands of others, who have willingly given their lives for the rights and freedom of others, bear testimony to the truth so eloquently spoken over a century ago that the blood of martyrs is the manure that nourishes the tree of liberty.

It is hard for those of us who are the beneficiaries of the sacrifices made by others to understand a dedicated life or those who are willing to walk to their death for a cause. The reason for this is that for a majority of us life consists in the abundance of things, our bank account, our bonds, houses, land and for many of us a Cadillac car.

So we are not convinced that Rev. Cox or others who have indicated that they might make a human torch of themselves in the street are bluffing. The agony of the body, suffered in such an act cannot be any worse than the agony suffered in the soul by Negroes in this country who have seen their wives, husbands and babies sold from their sides on the auction block, lynched in the streets or elsewhere. One hundred years of such insults, abuses and headaches can bring a

people to such a state of desperation, despair and despondency that it is not unlikely for them to produce martyrs who are willing to pay the supreme price for the freedom of others.

Finally, lest we doubt that there are those now living who would be willing to risk all for a cause we quote below the statement of Carl Braden, a white civil rights fighter of our own time, who was recently sentenced 12 months in jail for refusing to answer questions of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Those of us who know Carl Braden are satisfied and convinced that he meant every word he uttered.

The statement of Mr. Braden is as follows: "I am sure the Court understands that I do not really have contempt for the Congress of the United States. I acted as I did because I firmly believe that Congress is wrong in creating a committee to investigate so-called un-American activities. This committee seeks to investigate in a field in which Congress cannot legislate without violating the First Amendment.

"The First Amendment guarantees our right to privacy: to say, think, and write what we please; to belong to organizations of our own choosing, and to complain to the government when we don't agree with what it is doing.

"I do not believe we will ever bring about full civil rights in the South until these fundamental liberties are completely restored and exercised. I am willing to risk my freedom, and even my life if necessary, to regain our basic liberties and to establish equal rights for all. Thank you very much for your courtesy."

SUCH THINKING IS WHY WE ARE LOSING OUR WORLD LEADERSHIP



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

REV. HAROLD ROLAND

Offer Yourself to God in Order to Give Hope to Some Hopeless Soul

"All hope that we should be saved was taken away."
—Acts 27:20

Life without hope is meaningless. Hopelessness means emptiness of life for one who has come to that state of affairs. Hopelessness means you have nothing left to hold life together. It means you have no binding ties for life. It means a joyless life. It means a joyless life. It means without a tomorrow. In utter hopelessness why should I want to live for a tomorrow. Every human being should pray God that he should never come to the dead end of darkness which is hopelessness. What is the message in this passage? The message is that we must strive diligently to keep the spark of hope burning in the soul.

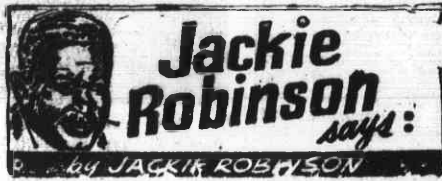
I have seen some people who stood near this dead end street of life. The man I met on the railroad track one day was near this dead end street of life but some how the faint spark of hope that was left in his soul was rekindled and he

took life once more by the hand. The great mission of Christians and the church is to keep the spark of hope burning in the souls that may be heading to the dead end street of hopelessness. The Church, at its best, is to keep hope burning in the soul of human beings. Some things can happen to us and shove us down this lane to this dead end street of hopelessness. But Jesus has given us a redeeming mission: "Rescue the perishing and care for the dying." Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

We must find people in the name of Jesus and step them before they reach the dead end street of hopelessness. Man by nature needs hope. In Christ we have a hope that is an anchor for the soul. Christ is the hope of a world of sin. Christ and Christ alone will save us from the dead end of hopelessness. In this our world there is a growing feeling that humanity is tending in the direction of this dead end of hopelessness. How shall we escape? Christ and his redeeming love is our one hope. God so loved the world that he gave his Son to save us from the dead end street of hopelessness.

Let us then be on the alert to keep the fires of hope burning in the souls of men. Preachers, how can I become a spreader of the hope that is found in Jesus. You can look for opportunities to show little bit of love. You can show a concern for the weary, exhausted and embattled soul. You can offer a helping hand in some place of dire need. In love you can tell a lost soul that a Savior died to save him from sin and give new hope for the hopeless. Yes, just a little word or a little deed may turn someone from the dead end street of hopelessness.

Offer yourself to God to give hope to some hopeless soul this day—tomorrow may be too late.



For many years, the city of Atlanta has been regarded as one of the more enlightened Southern communities. This city has been blessed with progressive government; government which has recognized that freedom must ultimately come to the Negro.

Atlanta's present Mayor, Ivan Allen, Jr. had the huge Negro vote behind him when he sought office, running against an avowed and ardent segregationist.

Atlanta, culturally, is a mecca in which some of our finest institutions of higher learning are located. The social awareness of the Negro in this city is very high and the militancy of the Negro man on the street had grown in gratifying proportions.

One of the powerful factors in Atlanta's progressive attitude is the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION distinguished, crusading, Pulitzer prize winner Ralph McGill, its editor, has breathed a flaming liberalism into this publication.

In spite of all this, Atlanta, as we write this column, has become a bloody arena. Die-hard segregationists are holding out against the attempts of civil rights representatives to desegregate eating places as a first step to challenging every remaining vestige of racial bias in the city.

Mayor Allen protests that much has been done in Atlanta

to promote racial equality. He speaks the truth. But, in Atlanta today — as in hundreds of cities across the nation — the Negro has awakened so completely to his situation that his answer to the achievements of the past is that "progress is not democracy's most important product." At any rate, not progress which takes baby steps to appease the right of our people to full justice.

What the Negro wants is "freedom now" and, no matter how many people may scoff at this, he is determined to get it. That is why freedom fighters in the city of Atlanta are going to jail and demonstrating. The Ku Klux Klan has now entered into the picture. Each day, violence is becoming more alarming.

It is the opinion of this column that President Lyndon Johnson has, in the Atlanta situation, a real challenge and an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and leadership that he means all these fine words he has been uttering. It was all very well and good for the President to invite all the civil rights leaders to the White House in what was virtually his first official act. Mr. Johnson wants to make it plain that he is truly committed to racial justice, he might well make a statement in his news conference with regard to the Atlanta situation.

Such a statement would not only prove to the Negro peo-

ple that Mr. Johnson is willing to go all the way in the fight for civil rights. It would also encourage and embolden the many moderate whites who are on our side, but who just aren't saving it out loud. How about it, Mr. President?

Heroes of Emancipation

JOHN JONES

John Jones was free-born in North Carolina about 1817. While an apprentice tailor, he taught himself to read and write. Jones lived in North Carolina until 1845 when he and his wife, moved to Chicago with a total capital of \$3.50.

Jones became a militant reformer and waged a relentless struggle against slavery. He developed a close friendship with abolitionists John Brown and Frederick Douglass and made his home on underground railroad station.

Jones built a highly successful tailoring business from which he amassed a large fortune. As a result, he was able to lead and finance the fight to repeal the Illinois "Black Laws." He made speeches, wrote pamphlets, organized Negroes and whites and acted as a lobbyist in the Illinois State Legislature.

He was elected twice as Cook County Commissioner, the first Negro in the North to win this high elective post. During his tenure in office, he was instrumental in securing the enactment of a law abolishing the segregated schools in Cook County.

He died in Chicago in 1879.



The way I started to begin this column, I would have reminded myself of the stereotype of the old Southern attorney who reminds the all-white jury: "After all, this defendant is a nigger."

I started to say — and I think I'll say it, anyhow, that we ought to remember that those folks in Panama are colored folks. That is, most of them are. You have to remember that there are a lot of white folks who believe in integration after dark.

Anyhow, to come to the point, whenever I hear these legislators not all from the South, either — warning that the United States must not give in to Panama because it will only mean that she will demand more, it strikes a familiar chord. That's what they say when the Negro in America asks for freedom.

I don't know all the intricate implications of the U. S. — Panama struggle. I do know that, while in the service, I spent one day and one night in Panama. At a USO dance, I met a girl named Amagranda — a Panamanian girl.

Amagranda wasn't in the mood for dancing. She was in the mood for talking. We walked off from the USO dance and for two hours, I heard one of the most bitter, passionate denunciations of the American white man that I have ever heard in my life. It was all the same old recipe. The arrogance, the looking down upon the people whose skin is not white, the discrimination in facilities (at that time), the gold which was paid to white workers from America and the silver paid to the Panama people.

Small wonder that a man who thinks as Barry Goldwater does should view with alarm the fact that the United Nations voting majority rests with colored people of the world. The story in Panama and the story in Latin America have the same theme. The white man has held this tier of racial hatred by the tail too many years.

The tier is ready to turn and devour him.

It doesn't sound pretty — but not all truths do.

What Other Editors are Saying

The present furor over cigarette smoking and its relation to lung cancer and other diseases is one which involves more than merely getting cigarette smokers to stop smoking altogether or to smoke less. In addition to the manufacturing of the commodity, which involves millions of dollars yearly in wages and advertising, there is the factor of thousands of others who make their living growing tobacco.

The scientific panel, composed of smokers and non-smokers, was unanimous in its report that lung cancer is caused, among other things, by

the cigarette habit. There is one mistake that must not be made. There must be no prohibition legislation such as was tried with liquor many years ago. Prohibition led to more drinking, to bootlegging and spawned smuggling.

A program of education should be conducted on a broad scale, so that all might know the facts. Those who wanted to continue smoking cigarettes could do so. Those who wanted to stop could do so. And those thinking of becoming smokers could have the facts on which to reach a decision. —PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

A Symbol of Hope and Justice

By Alice Dunnigan
CHICAGO — It was not an easy task to reach the top in his chosen field of employment but due to natural ability, continuous training, stubborn determination, enduring persistence and hard work Henry W. McGee finally reached the summit.

McGee now serves as personnel manager for the Chicago region of the Post Office Department, a position in which he administers personnel matters for more than 61,000 employees in some 2300 postal installations in Illinois and Michigan. He is the highest ranking Negro in the postal service west of Washington. He is well prepared for the job by both experience and training. In addition to having had 33 years of service as a postal employee, he holds a bachelor of science degree in personnel management from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a master of arts degree from the University of Chicago.

In explaining his preparation for his post the 54 year old personnel manager said he received a "sandwiched-in" education. "I sandwiched it in between my work, my family and everything else." And finally after 33 years, "my job caught up with me." This meant that he had to give up his part-time study to devote full time to his work.

McGee says that during the 17 years that culminated in his winning his master's degree, his family had earned enough college degrees in line a wall of his home. And no two members of his family were in a university at the same time. "This was a matter of economy," he said.

When his wife Attie Bell went to school, McGee said he couldn't afford to go. And when their children were in college their education came from the family budget. McGee was a teacher when the children were graduated his wife went back to school. Not until she finished did McGee go back himself.

McGee studied pre-med for two years. But this was during the tough depression years and said McGee, "there just wasn't money to continue my studies." In 1929 he took a job as a substitute clerk in the Chicago Post Office.

In 1931 he married Attie Bell, a young lady who had also finished two years at Crane Junior College. Their first child, Henry Jr., arrived at about the same time as the great depression and substitute work at the Post Office became more and more scarce. McGee found it necessary to seek a job with more permanency, so he accepted a position as an insurance salesman.

In 1935, the year the McGees' second child, Sylvia, was born, his insurance company promoted him to district supervisor. Soon thereafter the post office went on a 40 hour week schedule and more postal employees were needed. McGee said he had to choose between a career with the post office or one with the insurance company.

He chose the post office because, "it was steady full-time work, and that meant a lot during the depression years." Although it was a struggle to support a family in those days, McGee never gave up the idea of going back to school. He remembered the advice of his older brother, who constantly urged him to go back to school because "you can't get too much education."

Mrs. McGee apparently had the same idea because it was she who first announced that she planned to return to college and take teacher's training.

So, in 1944 when Henry Jr. was 12 and Sylvia was 9, she enrolled in Roosevelt University. She received a bachelor of arts degree in 1948.

That was a "memorable year," McGee recalls. "It was the year my wife graduated our child Sylvia was born, my wife became a teacher and I enrolled in the Illinois Institute of Technology."

Backing for the Civil Rights Bill

About the only thing we can say about the first round victory won by House supporters of the civil rights bill is that so far so good. We would caution those in and out of Congress not to become too happy over winning a skirmish against the southerners who are opposing the bill. We predict they will come back fighting hard and strong and will try every trick in the bag to stall off passage of the legislation even in the mildest form.

In the meantime we warn supporters of the legislation to write, wire and urge their representatives in the House and the Senate to give their full support to passage of the legislation. Also we urge leaders throughout the South, where most of the opposition to the civil rights bill is coming, to continue without relenting a determined register and vote campaign. Here in North Carolina where the Negro vote is only around 250,000 another 100,000 new registrants would change entirely the determination by Congressmen of this state to help defeat the bill.

The registration books are scheduled to

open around the middle of April for approximately 30 days before the Primary in May. Our ministers will be truly preaching the gospel if they will urge their members to do their Christian and civic duty by registering and voting in every election. The goal for North Carolina is 400,000 Negro voters and until it is achieved there is little that can be done but complain and whine about the conditions which the race faces.

Especially is there much work to be done in the eastern section of the state where in many instances Negroes, if they would register and vote, could acquire positions in city county and state governments, by virtue of their overwhelming numbers. In fact there are several congressional districts in which Negroes could elect a member of their own race to Congress if they could be aroused to register and vote. It is therefore in eastern North Carolina that we call for a concentration of effort the next time the registration books are opened which will be in April.

The Belated Realization of a Former Governor

It is interesting to note the statement recently made by Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges to the effect that discrimination of "conservative estimates place the annual economic loss to the nation caused by racial discrimination at \$30 billion." Secretary Hodges' belated realization of the tremendous loss all the people of the United States are suffering because of discrimination is ironical in that the now secretary of commerce served as governor of North Carolina for four long years without making any serious attempt to do anything about it.

This brings us around to the present situation where we wonder if the present governor of this state is aware of the tremendous loss the people of North Carolina are suffering annually because of discrimination. If Governor Terry Sanford is aware of it we are also wondering what he is honestly doing to rid North Carolina of such an expensive burden.

A visit to any of the state offices in the capital city of Raleigh will reveal the fact that only in the most menial jobs, where the salaries are the very lowest, are Negroes given an opportunity to earn a living. The same applies in city and county offices all over this state.

It ought to dawn upon high state, county and city officials that members of a segment of the population who are forever kept on the bottom of the economic ladder cannot shoulder their part of the cost of government to say nothing about becoming potential consumers of our manufactured products.

It is our hope that Secretary Hodges' statement will awaken white leaders of the South to the realization that the freedom fighters they now resent with so much determination may be a blessing in disguise, in that they may serve to awaken the South to its foolhardy traditions and customs which have made it the most poverty stricken section of the nation.

SHIPMATES

MOST of us imagine that our little problems are peculiarly individual, but if we do any reading or make inquiries we quickly discover that everybody seems to be in the same boat.

With almost no exceptions, every man thinks his family is extravagant, that he is overworked, that his wife drags him out too often in the evening, that she criticizes him more than he deserves.

The major complaints of the women are that their husbands are stingy, or that they don't earn enough money, that they are unromantic and that they are selfish.

Only by an occasional exchange of notes do most men escape the conviction that their married life is a total failure. That others have the same troubles comes to them as a soothing surprise. Women, I am informed indulge in the same kind of confessions, and, like the men, are buoyed up by the miseries of their friends.

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