

WRITERS FORUM

By GEORGE B. RUSS



FAISON

One cut of ten visits to our favorite tonsorial parlor is about how often we think of the "tonsorial artist" who trims our hair, clips the hair inside the nose and ears, douse the dome with lilac smell good.

If this were our week to tip him, we crossed his palm with a peice of silver. If this weren't his week to receive th' two bits, he is forgotten much sooner. Therefore, there is really no need to recall our visit with the guy who updates our outer sensuousness every two weeks. For all his efforts to improve what is left of the hair on heads, the Barber is the least recognized for his fine services.

Barbers come in as many different sizes, temperaments and degrees of proficiency as other craftsmen. Choosing a favorite Barber is left strictly up to the customer. One man's choice is another man's No, No!

My daddy was a Barber. The Star Barber Shop, at the corner of 6th and Nixon Streets, was one of the best tonsorial parlors in the city of Wilmington, at that time, but the Russ kids sported the Afro hairstyle decades before its recent popularity, therefore, I'm inclined to bypass Barbers who closely resemble Nat Russ. For a number of years, my Barber was a woman Mrs. Nora Allen. She was real nice and trimmed my hair to my liking. My choice wasn't a carryover from childhood days when mama cut my hair. Mrs. Allen made me feel that she appreciated servicing my steel-wool. There hasn't been a lot of Barbers in my life time, but most of these were excellent craftsmen.

The wonderland Barber shop was my haircut and shave station for a long time. Mister Sidney Verbal" was my number one Barber. And no one else clipped behind my ears until illness absented him from his chair and I was forced to take on a new Barber. After some deliberation, I chose W.P. Faison. The neat stocky, polite "Mister Faison" had been here all along and his own neatly trimmed hair and moustache attracted my attention more than his Bible reading when he wasn't busy. Nothing against studying one's Bible when and wherever one chooses, but I felt that W.P. Faison was being ostentatious. Even when I learned that he was an excellent teacher of the Men's Bible Class at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, I wasn't reconciled to the Bible study in the Barber Shop. When we are young and vainglorious, our lack of experience and knowledge beclouds our better judgment I didn't come with the better than to be critical.

The change over didn't come with the first sitting in Faison's chair. He is a fine craftsman ready, willing and efficient, but I continued partronzing Sidney Verbal's chair when he wasn't busy. As time passed, I found that Faison was available more often than my favorite Barber, so I abandoned my scruples and relaxed in chair No. 2. Calling me "Mr. Hill," my wife's maiden name didn't cement our relationship readily, but that gap was bridged and change over was quick and easy. Soon, I learned that he is a native of Clinton, and knows most of the second generation of Buntings, Sampsons and Faisons in my family, therefore a conversation topic was ready made as talking about the weather. Our rap sessions aren't limited to the folk back home. We talk of many things, My February visit produced: "A Thought For Today." Mr. W.P. Faison, "while thinking of the importance of music and singing in the church and organizations today. I wish to express a few thoughts regarding the provisions of an organized choir. An adequate musical program in the church should be presented by a dedicated group of singers who is set apart to sing to the glory and honor of God their lives must be motivated by the Holy Spirit. May I point out some references found in the Bible? These references point out the characteristics of spiritual singers. 1. Luke 2:9-14. The first choir of singers was organized and ordained in heaven by the Almighty God. He organized choirs of angels to sing to glorify his name. 2. The choir of angeles were sent down to earth to minister to the shepherds with songs of praise and adoration to the Lord, the inform the shepherds with songs of praise and adoration of the Lord. To inform the shepherds that the Saviour of the world is born. 3. Moses, after he led the children of Israel safely from Egypt, they sang the first hymns of praise and gave thanks to God for his mighty power and love for them and their deliverance Exodus 15:1-2. 4. King David organized the first choir on Earth. David organized a special group of singers which was made up of the Levites who sang the songs of thanks and praises to the Lord. (1 Coronicies 16:4).

All spiritual singing should be motivated by the spirit of God, that the singing should present the message of the Lord in Songs to the church to reach the people of worldliness. The meaning should be helpful in saving someone." Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spirituals songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19 End.

William P. Faison, chairman of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church's Descon Board for 45 years, joined the church when it was named the Good Hope Baptist Church.

In 1974 he was honored on his 76 Birthday by the pastor, Dr. William H. Fuller, officers and members of Mt. Zion Church. The theme of this festive occasion was "Birth Day Celebration." Descon Faison was born in Sampson County, Clinton, in 1898.

Deacon Willie P. Faison has maintained a standard of par excellence in his church work at Mt. Zion Baptist Church during the 45 years of his membership he was elected president of the Senior Choir in the early '30's. and has faithfully served for 26 years. For 28 years, he has taught the Men's Bible Class.

Deacon Faison is a quiet, unpretentious leader, he thinks twice before taking the first step, therefore, his suggestions offered to the pastor and membership are sound doctrine for building a more attractive progressive program for the church.

NCCU FACULTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN BLOOD PRESSURE TRAINING SESSION

Mrs. Gwendolyn Jones, an instructor in the Department of Nursing at North Carolina Central University, attended and participated in a training session designed to teach lay people to take blood pressure. The training session was directed by Brandolyn Clanton

and sponsored by the North Carolina Heart Association. This Durham High Blood Pressure Screening Program was held at the Modern W.D. Hill Recreation Center Feb. 10. Other training sessions are being scheduled at locations throughout the city.

A Potpourri of Recent Events

By GEORGE B. RUSS



COX MEMORIAL CHURCH

Sunday, Feb. 9 was inauguration Day at Cox Memorial UAFW Baptist Church, at 1632 Riddle Road, Durham.

Before 9 o'clock only a careful observer would have suspected that inside the walls of the stately church, majestically enthroned on the corner of Riddle Road and Kirby Street, a group was busy completing last minute details essential to the success of today's inaugural service. However, upon entering the glossy polished corridor, one's sense of small was immediately aroused by the trantazing spicy fragrance of pot-roast, meat loaf or beef stew. A judging by the aromatic fragrance, the meat was ready. Give or take a few minutes, the cook had been on the job for several hours. Other committeemen were quietly hurrying about setting things to order. "Geel!" I thought as I was ushered to the Senior Bible Class where deacon L.J. Matthew aptly conducted today's lesson: A Serving People let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. Titus 3:14.

As I was leaving the class, my nose sniffed for the pungent odor of spicy beef, but there wasn't a trace left, instead, the aroma of steaming coffee drifted toward me, so, I sauntered closer to the nifty set-up, gleaming white linen, cups, saucers, spoons, golden brown doughnuts, a sparkling coffee urn. Marvin Hudson, Jr. was in charge of the Brunch hour.

Sunday is the only day I don't clock watch, therefore, I sat blowing my coffee, and listening to the greeting a little more urbane than the others, "oh! how nice, you are in the father of Reverend Williams." Pronto! my attention turned in the direction from whence the oily voice had come. I decided that the handsome, middle-aged gentleman with the graying temples, seated at the table where several persons were pushing doughnuts toward him, was the source of my first interview.

Mr. Thomas Williams was affable enough, so, I began with small talk and soon he forgot that I was a stranger. I readily learned that he was the father of the Rev. J. Earl Williams, that, Rev. Williams is an only child. My scribbling made the hefty, well tailored gentleman slightly uncomfortable therefore, I explained that I was taking notes for his son's inauguration story. His manner implied thanks but no thanks.

The time was swiftly approaching for us to go to church, quickly I asked, where are you from Mr. Williams?" "I am from Grifton, Route 1 my church is Piney Grove. He also explained why his wife, Mrs. Mammie Williams, could not be present, Mrs. Williams wants very much to be here, but she could not make this trip."

Tell me, how do you feel about your son being a minister

Mr. Williams, eyes brightened and he smiled broadly, "I was proud of him when he went into the teaching profession, but I think the gift of God's ministry is a greater profession. I am greatly pleased."

Together, we walked toward the door opening into the sanctuary To be continued.

Lynn Hill, Jr. was selected to represent the Union Baptist Youth Department in the Annual Have A Heart for Mission Contest sponsored by the Durham County Youth Missionary Union. The contest was launced during the February 9th Union meeting held at Union Baptist. Winners in the Have A Heart For Mission Contest become candidates for the coveted crown in the Annual Shaw Contest. Other highlights of the meeting included the completion of Feb. 2nd work shop. Miss Eltona McNeill, consultant for the Work Shop, expressed exuembrance in the total outcome of the Work Shop. Teaching the Missionary Youth Parliamentary Procedure was the general idea of the Work Shop, however, young adult and senior leaders' interest was high on the exchelton. The Attendance Award Cup has returned to the Lincoln Memorial Show case.

Hospitality Committee: Hostess Brenda Peace, "Christian inspiration must be incorporated in social forms created not according to philosophical principles but after the pattern of the structure of life." The Magic power of your mind Walter M. Germain. Again, thanks for worshipping with us: Ms. Lula Cunningham, Mrs. Arnetta Cunningham, Shady Hill Baptist Church, Roxboro, assigned to Dea. Boyd, Ms. Fanney Bagley, Durham visiting Mrs. Margaret Hood, of 912 Delray.

Mrs. Elane Pratt and members of the family Miss Sharron Pratt, Billy Nicholson and daughter Modonna treked by station wagon to Hamlet to celebrate their birthdays with parents and grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Billy C. Nicholson, and friends.

A single, huge, 3 tier, white, green yellow and pink cake was the centerpiece around which a delicious family-style dinner was set.

The birthday celebrants exchanged gifts and in turn, were recipients of gifts from family and friends of Hamlet.

Potpourri Pill: The great money-lending flim flam, you mean all I have to do is guess which shell that little old pea is under." The Mark.

Funeral Services Held For Mrs. Rhoda McAllister

Mrs. Rhoda Pearl McAllister, a long time resident of St. Paul's died on Feb. 12, at the South Eastern Hospital, in Lumberton.

She was married to the late Sam McAllister, a member of the First Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 16 at the First Baptist Church. The Rev. S.M. Dixon officiated.

Survivors include five children, Mrs. Mozella Harvey, Durham, Mrs. Evelyn Richardson, Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Euella Sykes, St. Paul, Earl McAllister, Fayetteville, Samuel McAllister, Bridgeport, Conn., one sister, Mrs. Nora Glover,

I LOOKED AND I SAW

By Rev. C.R. Stone, D.D.

"BEING EVEN HANDED"

We have yet to get a full view of what some people can accomplish using their special abilities. Some of these abilities of ours are inherited qualities while others are acquired by some individuals through their extensive works. One thing, however, which all should agree on is that various skills of ours need to be brought to the surface in God's world for the benefit of all. I do not imply that men should get involved with useless competitions, but rather men could contribute some ideas which are useful in making the whole world better.

An individual who possesses a special ability with regards to being even-handed is a person having approximately the same strength in both hands. A person possessing this ability has the inside advantage: on some who have less abilities. For example, a person who is a woodcutter thus using an ax can beat the average person cutting down trees. Further, those of us who know woodcutters can easily discover who possess the skill of even-handedness by viewing the stumps which are present. In other words, the evenhanded man's work is entirely different from the uneven-handed individual. Of course, a person who cuts trees from a left position can team with a person who operates from the right position of that tree, thereby getting the same results as the even-handed man does.

Let us look for a moment at the work of some players in the field of baseball. A player in this particular sport is a special character if he is even-handed in this light means that one can hit the ball from the right or left side of the plate because he has unusual power in both hands. Further, a player with this kind of special ability is worth more for the sake of progress in baseball. Because his skill is special in nature, a player is worth more from a financial standpoint. It should be remembered here that although a player may be even-handed, he must keep on using his skills if he is to remain effective for future service.

In the field of Christian living, there is a command which calls on all who would enter Christian living, there is a command which calls on all who would enter Christian service to become even handed as soon as humanly possible. The command goes somewhat like this, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Those of us who seriously endeavor to put the law into practice shall eventually acquire the techniques necessary for even-handedness. Although we may have special abilities to perform this work given by our Fathers, all of us need to be constantly inspired by the Spirit of God in order that our hands may not become uneven along the way. The power in one of our hands may have a tendency to work more toward self gains than for others as a religious whole. Because of this, it is important for us to remember that as we endeavor to measure to others it shall be measured to us.

He who hath ears to hear—let him hear.

Epicureans Worship At Allen's Chapel Church

The Durham Chapter of the Epicureans, Inc., worshipped the second Sunday morning at Allen's Chapel A.M.E. Church in Woodsdale. The Rev. Irvin Knight is the pastor. Mrs. Dorothy Shell, who lives in Roxboro and is a member of the Durham Chapter, extended the invitation to the club.

Members attending were: Eppies Doris Armstrong, Lizzie M. Crews, Julia Freeland, Catherine Hemingway, Thelma Lee, Violet P. Rogers, Dorothy Shell, Bettye Smith, Richalean Tucker, Evelyn Waddell, and Esther Wiley, President of the Durham Chapter. Husbands attending were: Eppos W.S. Crews, William Lee, and Jethro Rogers.

After the service, the group formed a motorcade to Hillsborough where they enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Champagne Club.

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TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PRES. BUREAU BIBLE SOCIETY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60633

A RANSOM FOR ALL

"For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Tim. 2:5,6).

Man in his present condition is not fit to stand in the presence of a holy God. If we are honest with ourselves we will feel the need of a mediator, a go-between, who can represent us in the presence of God. Job felt this when, realizing this need, he cried: "Neither is there any daysman that might lay his hand upon us both" (Job 9:33).

"Thank God, a 'daysman' or 'mediator' has been provided for sinful man—a go-between, who can represent us before a holy God. This Mediator is Christ, Son of God and Son of man.

What a blessing to know that the Son of God became the Son of man so that the sons of men might become the sons of God! Though perfect and sinless, He died in disgrace upon Calvary's cross as a malefactor so that His payment for sin might be credited to our account and we might stand before God without one sin to our charge.

Though Christ's death for sin was credited to all believers, even of past ages, it was not proclaimed until sometime after the cross, when God, in grace, saved Saul of Tarsus, the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). This is why the Apostle declares that Christ "gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

It was when Saul, the chief of sinners, was saved on the road to Damascus, that God began to show to him that Christ and God now sent him forth to proclaim this glorious message.

This is why Paul's epistles are so filled with references to salvation through the cross, the death, the blood of Christ. And it is on this basis that the Apostle offers to all, salvation by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ, and proclaims to all the simple plan of salvation: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Special Events at Faucette Memorial C.M.E. Church

Faucette Memorial Church has been trying to Better the communication of the Church. Beginning on the 2nd Sunday in June, 1975 a special Sunday was designated as Fellowship Day set up by the Pastor Rev. Loomis Dillard. This Sunday is set up for our churches in the Durham area to come together and experience the real meaning of Fellowship, on the past Fellowship Day service Rev. L. P. Perry and congregation from Mt. Olive A.M.E. Zion Church host us in a beautiful fellowship service. Rev. Dillard noted that our churches have gotten away from the tradition of our forefathers, which have made the church what it is today.

The next Fellowship Service will be hosted by Rev. H.C. Wheelchel and Congregation of Russel Memorial C.M.E. Church.

Faucette Memorial C.M.E. Church has been on the move. The church is located 2124 Charles Street with services been held, Church School 9:45, Morning Worship 11:00 every Sunday. On this Sunday Feb. 23, at 3:00 p.m. the Junior and Senior Choir will celebrate their fourth anniversary. The Youth have planned a wonderful program. They have asked the public to please help make this anniversary a joyful occasion.

VISITING LECTURER SPEAKS AT NCCU

Miss Eileen Cooke, director of the Washington Office of the American Library Association, lectured at the North Carolina Central University School of Library Science Tuesday, Feb. 18.

The visiting lecturer is responsible for relaying news of Federal government activities to members of the American Library Association, and for supplying information and assistance to government agencies and Congress.

She was formerly a public librarian in the Minneapolis and Queens Borough, New York City, public libraries. She also worked in Minneapolis as a hospital librarian and was employed as a public relations specialist before going to the Washington, office of the ALA.

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