

McKissick

(Continued from front)

salary. McKissick responded, "I don't need people going around here worrying now about my money and everything. When I loose money, I make money...All my life I have been saving."

On U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, the lawyer-preacher commented "Senator Helms was created in the image of God. All men got created the same way...Thank God for Senator Helms because he makes me do my duty."

Answering the two questions in his sermon's title, McKissick continued with what might be called a thesis of his life's work. "Pay Caesar's taxes," said McKissick, "because by paying Caesar's taxes, you help God do his work. God is ever powerful...We must use that system here and through that system can we better worship God, because that system is the thing that God has here that we must change in order to carry out his work."

Modern day Caesars, McKissick claimed, could be opponents to the majority black Durham City School Board. "Did they ever talk about the board when it was all-white, McKissick questioned.

That's Caesar again." On hand to hear the sermon were City School Board members John Lennon and Thomas Bass. They were among about 150 others, mostly black, except for the predominantly white news media representatives, in the audience. Among the audience were Natural Resources and Community Development Secretary Howard Lee, Durham Life Broadcasting executive Asa T. Spaulding, Jr. and members of McKissick's family.

Throughout the speech, the emotional audience responded with 'amens', 'alright, go ahead and preach' and 'tell it like it is'.

Testimonials of McKissick's character and his involvement in fighting against racism, and for Christianity were presented by several of his friends, and family establishing that McKissick began preaching long before his trial sermon.

"Floyd has been preaching a long time," remarked W.P. Edwards, a deacon at Union Baptist Church. "We loved him when he was in school(NCCU Law

School), we loved him when he taught Sunday School ... and we trust him as a preacher."

John Edwards, a former Soul City employee, who is currently head of the N.C. Office of Economic Opportunity, recalled when McKissick first came to Durham. They shared many experiences in civil rights battles. McKissick, he said, traveled North Carolina and began preaching in the 1960's at great personal sacrifice.

Imprisoned Wilmington 10 defendant Rev. Ben Chavis, after saying McKissick was "a man of God", commented "it is not what Floyd says, but what God says though him."

McKISSICK NOT TO HOLD REGULAR MINISTERIAL DUTIES

Questioned after the sermon, McKissick said he would not perform regular ministerial duties such as visiting the sick, and counseling people with spiritual problems.

His ministry will include occasional sermons delivered in churches that invite to preach.

McKISSICK'S CALL BY GOD

Following McKissick's announcement that he intended to seek the

ministry, there were the usual whispers questioning his sincerity.

As a youngster deciding on a life career, As a youngster deciding on a life career, McKissick told of his grandfather's urging him to become a minister. His grandfather told him, "as a minister, there is the ability to render a greater range of service to your people than as a lawyer."

McKissick didn't choose the ministry, but, according to Dr. Grady Davis, McKissick's minister, he had been disturbed about not becoming a minister in recent years.

The incident which influenced McKissick's acceptance of the ministry, said Davis, was an automobile accident last spring. McKissick was trapped for 45 minutes in the wreckage of his auto on I-85. His head was badly injured in the wreck.

When Dr. Davis visited McKissick in the hospital, he said McKissick related that while he was being freed from the wreckage, "I was talking with God. I was conscious, and I was aware that they were working on trying to get me out of there. But I was talking with God. God told me to preach for him."

100th Anniversary of Exodus from South To Kansas Celebrated

TOPEKA (NNPA) — The 100th anniversary of the exodus of some 40,000 blacks from the South to the "free" state of Kansas was celebrated here last week.

The Kansas State Historical Society joined with a statewide committee of blacks, led by journalists Clarence Garrett and Clarence Scroggins and model agency head Wanda McDaniels, in planning and conducting the observance of the 1879 exodus.

Features of the week-long observance include a parade, speeches, a pageant, and exhibits in the municipal auditorium, depicting the trials and triumphs of the exodusters.

One of the major leaders of the exodus movement was Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, a former slave of Tennessee. As the klan, nightriders, and plantation owners of the old Confederacy began to re-enslave blacks as sharecroppers and to deny them their civil rights and voting rights, Singleton and the other leaders assisted thousands of blacks in finding their way to Kansas where dozens of communities like Nicodemus and Baxter Springs were established.

It is reported that in 1880, when General William Tecumseh Sherman accompanied President Hayes to Kansas, he visited with a number of exodusters, always looking for those who had come from Mississippi, because he had heard so much about their exodus.

One black from Yazoo City, Mississippi, told him about the hard time and violence in that state. when he described to Sherman that whites drove blacks from the polling

booths, the general advised that he and others should have armed themselves and insisted on voting.

The exoduster is said to have told General Sherman, "You may know a lot about the army, Suh, but you sho don't know nothing about black folks voting in Mississippi."

Blacks were not the only immigrants who made their way to Kansas during this period. Many Europeans, especially Mennonites from Russia, also found their way there. An the immigration didn't just happen, historians point out. The state, like others of the region, advertised extensively for immigrants, offering cheap land, low taxes, and military exemption on religious grounds.

The state's population increased from 364,000 to 996,000 between 1870 and 1880, the black population rose from 17,108 to 43,107 during that decade.

EVER-READY CLUB HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Ever-Ready Club was held at the home of Mrs. Reowa Barbee. The meeting was brought to order by the president, Mrs. Esther Moore. The theme for the meeting was "Try It You'll Like It". After the business meeting, a lovely repast was served.

Those attending were: Mmes. Annie Chavis, Lizzie Chavis, Bessie Jones, Clara Taylor, Dorothy Holloway, Felecia Revels, Mary Paterson and Leir Lee. The next meeting will be held the first Sunday evening in September at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Holloway.

SHARE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED — People sixty years and older have learned a lot and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program needs that knowledge and those skills. Volunteers are needed to escort out-patients from one department to another in a clinic, and to drive elderly persons to medical appointments. A group of senior club willing to host parties at a hospital for patients on the fifth Sunday of any month is also in demand. Everything for the parties will be furnished.

If you are willing to help, please call Ms. Mary Ingram or Ms. Helen Pressley at 596-9311, Durham Technical Institute. Transportation can be arranged or mileage reimbursed.

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