

# Religion

## FOCUS

### Pastor Jeanne Bryant dies

By ANGIE MARTIN  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Only a few people came to say goodbye to Jeanne Bryant. The pastor and founder of Disciples of Christ Holy Church passed away on Sunday, Jan. 3. She was laid to rest the following Friday when the first snow storm of the year made venturing outdoors dangerous. Another memorial service is being planned by Bryant's colleagues at the Baptist Hospital where she worked as a unit secretary.

Only a few short years ago, Bryant founded her church in the basement of Connie Mack's home. Mack, who served as Bryant's secretary, said that

*"God said I should open up for him a house of prayer. It was a unique experience. If you've ever heard the voice of God, nobody is there except God and you."*

-- Jeanne Bryant Alford

Bryant stepped out on faith in starting her small church. Mack said that it was evident to all, Bryant had a burning zeal to accomplish what God had told her to do -- to preach.

Known to many as a dynamic and strong speaker Bryant also could be heard to whisper a prayer in the early morning hours when a caller needed counseling. "She used to always say to continue to trust God and to hold on -- nothing is impossible with God -- hold fast to your profession of faith. That was basically one of her teachings," Mack said. "She taught others to trust in God and to hold on."

Bryant held on as well as she could after becoming ill almost a year ago. She was a graduate of the

Fashion Industry High School and later she attended Long Island University in Brooklyn in her home state of New York. Before moving to Winston-Salem in 1977 she had operated a night club.

Then she turned her attention and her work to God. She embarked upon an evangelism campaign in New York. In 1978 she served as an evangelist with various prison fellowships in Danbury.

Later she joined Baptist Hospital where Mack experienced Bryant's powerful Christian witness that affected others both inside and outside of the church. "She was a woman who stood firmly on God's word," Mack said. "Whatever God gave her, she spoke. She was a dynamic woman of God."

In addition to preaching, working and guiding her five children, Bryant attended classes at Forsyth Technical College. In August 1982 she stepped out on faith and founded Disciples for Christ Holy Church.

"God said I should open up for him a house of prayer. It was a unique experience. If you've ever heard the voice of God, nobody is there except God and you. It's the voice of thunder, and you've got to obey," said Bryant during an interview with the *Chronicle* in 1986.

So she obeyed. She started the church with only three congregation members. Times were hard then and often she doubted her ability to carry forth God's word.

"You don't think about the problems and oppositions when you've been told what God wants of you," she said. "When the Lord first spoke to me and told me to make a house of prayer, I said, 'Lord, I can't do this kind of work.' But I did it."

And she did it well. Mack recalls that Bryant's spiritual influence grew and that the congregation expanded over the years. In 1982 the church moved to



Pastor Jeanne Bryant died recently following a long illness. She was the founder and pastor of Disciples of Christ Holy Church (top file photo by James Parker).

a slightly larger facility near the Samaritan Soup Kitchen on Patterson Avenue. In 1985 the church moved to its present location on Ogburn Avenue. The following year the church received its church charter from the state of North Carolina.

As one of a small number of women pastors in the community, Bryant did not let stigmas, often attached to women preaching in the pulpit, deter her. "Souls are all I'm concerned with," she taught her congregation. "I've overlooked the skepticism of being a woman minister. If a person is truly anointed and sent by God, it doesn't matter if you're male or female. In the pulpit, I don't try to justify being a woman."

"She would tell you she loved you, and she would always tell you that Jesus loved you," said Mack. As Mack characterized her pastor's mission, Bryant led a unique one-on-one personal Christian counseling ministry that touched the lives of everyone she met.

Bryant had often described herself as a shy,

almost withdrawn person, said Mack. Mack said that somehow the Lord de-emphasized Bryant's shyness and fashioned her into a valuable vessel to be used in the building up others.

Bryant leaves behind five grown children. Two of them, Miriam Booth Cross and Addis Booth, reside in Winston-Salem. Her daughter, Aisha Booth Jones, lives in Kernersville.

Bryant also experienced the death of her mother when she was very young. As one of eight children left to the care of a single parent she nevertheless learned a way to make it through difficult times, a philosophy -- rather, a hope -- that she shared with others. She believed that even during hard times a person must "keep their hand in the hand of the Lord."

Looking forward, she had said, "I've found that in all my good times and laughter there's nothing I'm as satisfied with as the Lord. Preaching the word of God is my joy. To be caught up in the Spirit is my joy."

## CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JAN. 23

The Usher Board of Christ Rescue Temple will sponsor a breakfast and dinner sale with breakfast beginning at 7 a.m. Dinner sales will begin at 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The church is located at 1500 N. Dunleith Ave. For more information call 722-9841.

Saints Home United Methodist Church will present "AIDS and You" during its Youth Crusade from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The church is located at 1390 Thummond St. Fellowship and free pizza will follow the workshop. For more information call 723-3552.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24

Ordination services for evangelist Lee Faye Mack will take place at 7 p.m. at New Faith Holiness Church. The church is located at 1419 Woughtown St.

The Annual Installation of Officers service will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church at 6:15 p.m. The Rev. William S. Fails, pastor of Hanes CME Church will serve as the guest pastor.

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emmanuel Baptist Church will hold early Sunday morning services at 8 a.m. For more information call 788-7848.

St. Peter's Apostolic Church of God will sponsor Wednesday morning prayer meetings and Bible study each week at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. J. C. Hash is the Bible study teacher. For more information call the church office at 722-2285.

The Awakening Giants, an interfaith religious organization, has begun the first quarter session of its Educational and Cultural Center featuring workshops in storytelling for children, Tai-Chi Chuan, African Dance, African American History and Spanish classes. For more information call 722-1119.

St. Peter's Apostolic Church of God will conduct Inner Healing Services every third Saturday at noon. Mary Abbott will conduct the services. For more information call 722-2285. The church is located at 1031 Highland Ave.

### CHURCH NEWS DEADLINES

like *Chronicle* welcomes your church announcements and news from some lies at your church. The deadline for submitting church materials intramurday at 5:30 p.m.

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## CHURCH NOTES

### Religion-oriented television show to begin broadcasting

A new religion-oriented television show will make its area debut on cable television Sunday, Jan. 23, at 8 p.m. The premiere of "Biblia Magazine- 'The TV Show'" will air on cable channel 32.

The first show will feature a 90-minute segment on celebrations of the King holiday in the Triad area. The co-hosts for the television show, which will air three times a week, will be Dr. Serenus T. Churn Jr., Tim Jackson and the Rev. L.V. Lassiter. Jackson said the show will cover a variety of topics.

"The program will look at state, national and local issues with a religious emphasis," said Jackson. "We feel there is a need for this program because there is no medium to look at minority concerns."

Jackson said the weekly show also will include a five-minute segment on economic development.

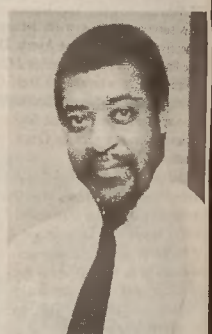
Jackson applauded the County



Churn



Lassiter



Jackson

Commissioners for taking the lead in helping to make the television show a reality. The initial broadcast on the King celebrations, Jackson said, will be underwritten in part by the Commissioners.

"The key has been the County

Commissioners," he said. "County Commissioner John Holleman has made sure that the program is aired over the education network. Previously, it didn't seem that the Commissioners have been as sensitive to issues of black concern. Maybe

this is a sign that they are becoming more involved. That's progress and that's good."

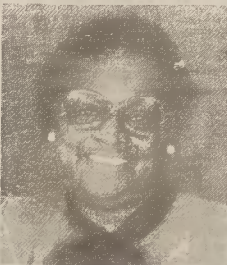
"Biblia Magazine" will be broadcast on WEJS, the area's new gospel-oriented station.

### Ordination services scheduled for Evangelist Lee Faye Mack at New Faith

Ordination services will be held for evangelist Lee Faye Mack at New Faith Chapel Holiness Church on Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

Mack will be ordained as a licensed minister with services conducted by Dr. Lawrence S. Tate, pastor and general overseer of New Faith Chapel Holiness Church.

Mack has been ministering for five years. She is a recruiter with the Winston-Salem Urban League. A community developer in the areas of housing, education and government, she has served on var-



Mack

ious committees and neighborhood coalitions.

Mack is also the board chairman of Broadband Homebuyers Association.

She is certified in the problem solving approach to community work by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

She has also been recognized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for her contribution to the Neighborhood Housing

Services program. Mack holds an honorary doctorate degree in human services from the Urban League, for recognition of unselfish dedication to the development of young minds.

She has five daughters, Hazel Mack; Clara Mack; Ruth M. Hopkins; Lenora Mack; Betty Mack and one son, Preston Mack.

New Faith Chapel Holiness Church is located at 1419 Woughtown Street.

### Theologian challenges Afro-Americans to achieve dreams

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. -- The fulfillment of the dream envisioned by the Rev. Martin Luther King in the 1960s is the responsibility of blacks in the 1980s, an Atlanta theologian said during a speech at Jackson State University.

"It's in your hands," said the Rev. George Thomas, an associate professor at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. "The dream that you have in your heart, is it a living dream or is it a dead dream?"

King's dream for equality and justice for all humanity exists through God's providence, Thomas said during the speech Friday.

"Beautiful dreams never die," Thomas added. "You can kill the dreamer, but bullets have no power over the life and death of the dream."

King, who advocated change through civil disobedience rather than violence, was assassinated April 4, 1968, in Memphis, as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel. James Earl Ray, an

escaped convict, pleaded guilty to the slaying and was sentenced to 99 years.

Congress set aside the third Monday in January to commemorate King -- a date close to King's Jan. 15 birthday. The first official holiday observance was in 1986.

At Jackson State, Friday's commemorative activities included an afternoon panel discussion following the theme "Reflections on Living The Dream."

State Sen. Alice Harden of Jackson said she attempts to live King's dream.

"My way of living the dream is in fact, I hope, reflected in my daily life," Harden said. "I hope you will seek to do that through love."

Improved educational and employment opportunities for blacks are positive steps toward fulfilling King's dream, Harden said. But blacks cannot make the dream real on their own.

"Let's put God first. In making the dream a reality, we are going to need someone bigger than you and I," she said.