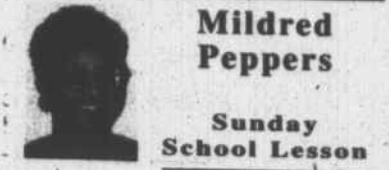


RELIGION

Joseph's journey from favored son to slave



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

Lesson scripture: Genesis 37:3-4, 17b-28

Lesson aims: to further see the dangers of favoritism and to appreciate how God uses imperfect people.

Background: Since the reconciliation (Genesis 33), Jacob settled in Shechem (a city). He bought land from Hamor, who was the father of a son called

Shechem. Trouble arose with Dinah (Jacob and Leah's daughter). Jacob and Hamor made provisions to settle the dispute (Genesis 34:1-23) but Simeon and Levi attacked the men, killed them all and took the women and wealth. Jacob got on them but seemingly not harshly enough.

God led them back to Bethel and Jacob ordered his family to get rid of all of the idols (Rachel brought them from her father's tent). In lay terms, this was a revival. They acknowledged their sins at Shechem and committed to God. The covenant was reconfirmed (verses 8-15).

From Bethel they headed toward Bethlehem. On the way, Rachel (favored wife) went into labor. She died after giving birth to the 12th - Benjamin. At the end of chapter 35, Jacob was restored to Isaac and he died at the age of 180. Both sons, Esau and Jacob buried him.

Chapter 36 gives the genealogy of Esau. He was the father of the Edomites.

Lesson: At this point in the saga, all 12 sons of Jacob/Israel are in the covenant line. They and their offspring will be referred to as "children of Israel" or "Israelites" (Richard's Complete Bible Handbook).

Joseph, the favorite son, is the firstborn of Rachel. Jacob is proud of this son born to him in old age. Jacob makes him a colorful coat.

Joseph is a dreamer and has the gift of interpretation. He shares his dreams with his brothers. He also tells on them. They dislike him more and more.

While the older brothers are tending the flocks in the fields, Jacob sends Joseph to them to check on things. They see him coming and begin to plot against him. Reuben suggests not to kill him but to leave him in a pit. They do just that!

When the Ishmaelites

(descendants of Midian, son of Abraham and Keturah) are passing by on their way to Egypt, Joseph's brothers sell him as a slave. The brothers dip the coat in goat's blood and take it to Jacob for identification. Jacob believes that his favorite son has been killed by a ferocious animal.

Application: As we study the Bible, the revelation of God using imperfect people is profound. The biblical characters are liars, deceitful, shortsighted, jealous, vengeful and at times, they do not acknowledge God. Yet, through it all God patiently

works with them. There are instances where He isn't patient and He uses us in spite of our attempts to run.

Favoritism breeds malice and backbiting. Can't we see that? Feuding leads to rejection, and relationships and communities are split. God has a way of making us wrestle with our imperfections. The main thing to remember is to persevere. Joseph does just that. Some scholars suggest that he was a type of Christ.

Next week, we will examine how a tragedy in today's lesson becomes a blessing in the future. We must remember that God's favor isn't earned.

Goler Memorial AME inaugurates Downtown Ministries

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The inauguration of Goler Memorial AME Zion Church's Downtown Ministries was celebrated Aug. 4 at noon.

Exciting happenings are occurring at Goler Memorial, an institution that addresses the

whole person, offering many opportunities for personal and spiritual growth, moments of beautiful music and inspiration, joy and praise.

Employees and employers from downtown enjoyed the noon hour by listening to a mini-concert performed by saxophon-

ist Tony Chambers and vocalists Rev. Beverly McMillian, Betty Bowman and Sandra Scales. Each presented soul-stirring renditions to the audience.

Noon services are held on Tuesdays, and Bible studies are held on Wednesdays at noon.

The Rev. and Mrs. Seth O.

Lartey presented plaques to several community leaders and employers from downtown. They included: Dee Smith, director of the Winston-Salem Urban League; Alderwoman Joycelyn Johnson, East Ward; Bill Tatum, NAACP president; Ron Drago, president of United Way of

Forsyth County; Graham Pervier, Forsyth County manager; Nigel Alston, vice president of Integon Corp. and a community activist; Arthur Barnes, general manager of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority; and Ernie Pitt, publisher of The Chronicle. Rev. Dr. Lartey invites the

community to participate in services, enrichment sessions, volunteer opportunities, Bible studies, learning institutes - all held throughout the week at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church, 630 N. Patterson Ave. For more information, please call the church at (336) 724-9411.

St. John Apostle Church of Christ honors Pastor Millner

There will be a belated birthday and pastoral anniversary for Elder Harry E. Millner, who has been the pastor of St. John Apostle Church of Christ for 17 years and is going into his 18th year. The 17-year celebration will take place Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. at Holiday Inn Select, 5790 University Parkway in Winston-Salem.

The speaker will be Dr. James C. Richardson Jr., pastor of Mount Sinai Apostle Church of Christ in God in Martinsville, Va.

Millner was born on Aug. 13, 1942, in Martinsville, Va. He is the son of Mira W. Millner and the late Tony Lee Millner Sr. of Martinsville. He has two brothers, Tony Lee Millner Jr. of Martinsville, Va., and James Herbert Millner of Atlanta. He also has a sister, Judy Elaine Niblett of Martinsville.

He was raised in Martinsville. He is a life-time member of Mt. Sinai Apostle Church of Christ in God in Martinsville. He received his elementary and high school education in Mar-

tinsville, graduating from high school in 1960.

He graduated magna cum laude in 1969 from N.C. A&T State University with a B.S. degree in history education. He graduated in 1970 with a master's degree in social science education and in 1986 with a master's degree in school administration.

He has taught for 31 years, three years as an instructor for N.C. A&T State University and 28 years as a teacher with Guilford County schools. He works

at Jamestown Middle School as a behavior improvement specialist. He works with in-school-suspension students.

He is a Vietnam era veteran. He served with honor in the U.S. Army from 1964-66.

He is married to Jeanette Richardson Millner, and they are the proud parents of two adult children: Margaret E. Bowser, a teacher in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System; and Marlon Millner, who is employed with American Digital Media of Fort

Lauderdale, Fla.

The Millners have one grandchild, Ruth Naomi Millner, who is a student at Downtown Middle School in Winston-Salem.

The Millners have been active in church for 50 years.

If you wish to attend the 17th annual celebration, please notify Gloria M. Sharp, 1300 Pleasant Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27107, phone - (336) 788-3184. There is a charge to attend.

St. John Apostle Church of Christ is at 1131 E. 21st Street in Winston-Salem.



Pastor Harry E. Millner

Shiloh Baptist to celebrate 107th anniversary

The 107th anniversary celebration of the historical Shiloh Baptist Church will begin Saturday with a church picnic at Rupert Bell Recreation Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Games and a talent show will be held during this fellowship period.

The anniversary service will be held Sunday morning with Dr. Phillip McPhee, pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Cathedral, Nassau, Bahamas, bringing the special anniversary sermon. The

culmination of the activities will be a musical program at 5 p.m. featuring the choirs of Shiloh Baptist Church.

McPhee was named the regional director with responsibility for recruiting and assisting persons interested in attending Bishop College in Dallas, Texas. He is a graduate of the school of religion at Bishop College, where he earned a B.A. degree in religion and philosophy. He earned a doctor of divinity degree at

Richmond, Va., Seminary. In 1994 he received a doctor of laws degree, conferred on him by Dr. Benjamin Robinson, president of the Richmond, Va., Seminary.

McPhee is the first vice president of the Bahamas National Baptist and Educational Convention. He serves as moderator of the New Way Progressive Baptist Association. He is the assistant director of community affairs at the Ministry of Youth and Culture. He is the pastor of

the historical Mount Calvary Baptist Cathedral and the fast-growing church on East Street South, New St. Luke's Baptist Church.

He is married to the former Charlene Diggins, who now serves as a deaconess at Mount Calvary Baptist Cathedral. They have three children, Phillip Jr. and Charlene McPhee.

Shiloh Baptist Church is at 916 E. 12th St., Winston-Salem. Dr. Paul A. Lowe Jr. is pastor.

Shiloh Baptist celebrates pastor's anniversary

Special to THE CHRONICLE

Shiloh Baptist Church, 544 East Depot Street in Mocksville, will celebrate the seventh anniversary of its pastor, the Rev. Donald Ray Jenkins, and break ground for a basement renovation on Sunday.

The Rev. Kevin Craig Ingram, the pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Fork, will conduct the 3 p.m. anniversary service.

Dinner will be served at 1:30. Jenkins preached his first sermon at Shiloh on the fourth Sunday in February 1992 and was extended a call to pastor the

church on the third Sunday in August of the same year. Since he assumed the pastorate, he has overseen the purchase of 3 1/2 acres of land next to the church, the renovation of the upper level of the sanctuary and the paying off of all indebtedness. He has also stressed Baptist doctrines, church discipline, and Christian education.

Married to the former Linda Diann Swann of Laurinburg, Jenkins received his undergraduate training at North Carolina Central University in Durham and Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh. For his graduate training, he attended the University

of North Carolina at Pembroke and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

In addition to his pastoral duties, he teaches English and African American culture at Winston-Salem State University.

After the anniversary program, the church family will break ground for the renovation of the church basement. The \$40,000 renovation, not including furnishings, was Jenkins' brainchild. Beachamp and Associates will be the general contractor. John Fuller of Fuller Architectural Service drew the blueprint and will serve as a consultant. Both the contractor

and the architect are from Davie County.

The church has been engaged in a special fund-raising drive over the last year to raise money for the renovation. As a result of the efforts of members and friends, Shiloh Baptist Church will be able to pay the contractor and the architect fully upon the completion of the work. This is a first in the church's history.

St. Peter's World Outreach Center to honor pastor and first lady

Special to THE CHRONICLE

On Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. St. Peter's World Outreach Center and its members will kick off a month-long celebration honoring Pastor Dr. James C. Hash Sr. and first lady Joyce Hash.

The theme for the celebration is "Visionaries on the Move for God." The scripture for this year's theme comes from 1 Timothy 5:17.

Pastor Hash is a vibrant and charismatic preacher and teacher of the Word. His ministry is known for teaching believers how to have deep-rooted faith in God's Word and how to apply God's Word on a daily basis. Pastor Hash has a television and radio ministry called The Healing Word. In addition, Pastor and first lady Hash have numerous other accomplishments and are deeply involved in

the community.

The men's, women's and singles' departments of St. Peter's are sponsoring the opening ceremony, which will feature guest speaker Pastor George Brooks of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro.

St. Peter's World Outreach Center is at 3683 Old Lexington Road, Winston-Salem, and has a growing congregation.

James M. Dunn, executive director emeritus of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and a visiting professor at the Wake Forest Divinity School, will teach a course on "Christianity and public policy" this fall.

Members of the community are invited to take the course, which will be held on Tuesdays from 6:45 p.m. until 9:15 p.m., and may be taken for credit (\$1050) or audit (\$75). The first class will be August 31st. To register, call the Divinity school office at (336) 758-5121 by Wednesday, August 25th.

Dunn had been executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee since 1981. The Committee deals with issues of religious liberty and separation of the church and state for nine Baptist conventions and conferences in the United States.

The Wake Forest University Divinity School opens this fall with 25 students.

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