

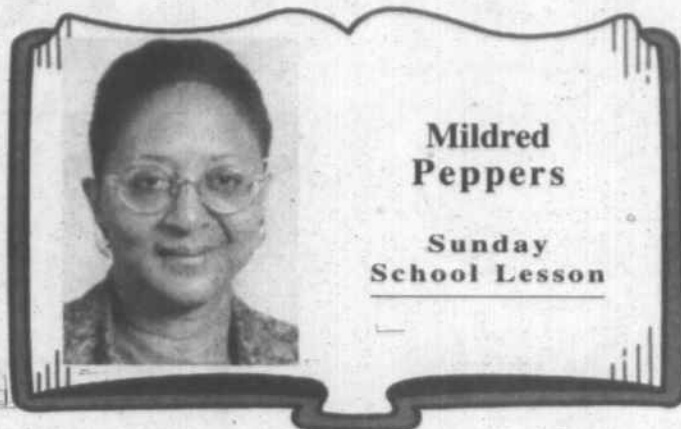
Are you willing to stand for what is right?

Lesson Scripture: Daniel 1:8-20

Lesson Aims: To explain Daniel's commitment to God, to recognize that obedience to God is expected even in complicated situations, and to commit to live for Him no matter the cost.

Background: The four kings of Judah that followed Josiah did not continue the revival. Instead they did evil, bringing God's judgment to the kingdom. God used Babylon as His instrument. Note that Babylon was pagan, implying that God is powerful enough to use anyone for His will. We must also remember that God created everything and can do as He pleases. Babylon captured Judah in three waves. Each time they entered the kingdom, more and more of their freedoms were taken away. The initial invasion was in 605 BC. The

invading army took their first captives (today's lesson). They returned in 597 BC and again in 586 BC. Our study today (and the remainder of the month) comes from the book of Daniel. This Old Testament book covers the personal account of Daniel (and others) in captivity, along with his prophetic visions of the "political future of the Mediterranean world" (Richards' Complete Bible Handbook). The distant future is also found there. The book takes the author's name as he gives a first hand account of what happened. Babylon treated its captives differently from Assyria. They deported the best of the captives to be trained for administrative positions. Their king was Nebuchadnezzar who had just defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish establishing them as the new world power. Let's begin our study.



Mildred Peppers
Sunday School Lesson

Lesson: Once the captives arrive in Babylon their transformation begins. Their training will last for three years. All of the captives names are changed; Daniel 1:1-7 notes that for the people in this lesson. It isn't stated exactly why the king's diet is offensive to Daniel for the Law allows them to eat meat and drink wine. It could be that the food was used for their

pagan gods or that Daniel recognizes the king's aim (transforming them into Babylonians)! Daniel is truly committed to God. Because of this, Daniel requests that he and his friends be allowed to eat vegetables and drink water. This is not a mandate to be vegetarian. The request is to demonstrate the Lord's provision when one is faithful. Now when the training period is complete, the men in-charge

could lose their lives if the trainees came up deficient in any way. Daniel has favor with these eunuchs because of God. His proposal is for ten days! After that period, the four are to be compared with the others. Lo and behold they look better than the others! Melzar put all of them on the pulses and water diet. God blesses the four with knowledge and wisdom. When the training period comes to an end (three years), the four are found to be ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers in the empire.

Application: Too often we Christians compromise our beliefs in complex situations. We say all of the right things when there is no threat to our security. When the threat comes, a lot of times we hide, or just simply say nothing. God wants us to stand fast on His teachings even in the face of adversity. How do people

recognize God's children? Our speech and our actions proclaim our identity. Are we willing to stand for what is right in God's sight? Like Daniel and his friends, do you stand or do you allow the world to change you? Our society is more complex but God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Are you willing to take the stand whatever the consequences may be? Sure we wear or carry a lot of symbols (Bibles, jewelry of all sorts), but do we live according to God's standards? In the face of adversity, do we stand like the four or do we fade into the woodwork? Let's take a personal inventory to determine the areas of compromise in our lives. Then commit yourself to stand in those areas. This stand will not be for your glory but for God's. See you next week. Please continue to pray for my husband.

Women's conference planned at Emmanuel Baptist

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The women of Emmanuel Baptist Church will celebrate its annual Women's Day. Accenting Emmanuel's theme for this year, "Living by Faith, the women of Emmanuel" will be "Leading the way towards a Faith lift." Under the leadership of Sonya Weak and Harriette C. Evans, chairperson and co-chair respectively, Women's Day events will be held Friday, April 11 - Sunday, April 13 at the church, located at 1075 Shalimar Dr. where the Rev. Dr. John Mendez is pastor.

The celebration begins Friday, April 11 with a semi formal Father/Daughter and Mother/Son Ball from 7 - 9 p.m. in the church multipurpose room. There will be refreshments, dancing, picture taking and more.

Saturday, April 12, the ladies will kick off events at 7:45 a.m.

with a warm-up mile walk to Salem Lake followed by a continental breakfast and morning aerobics with Ernestine Griffin. From 10 - 11 a.m., motivation speakers will be presented with a noon day health and beauty vendor expo. To conclude Saturday's events, Emmanuel will be transformed into a coffee house with Karaoke from 7 - 9 p.m. Poetry, skits, and dances will be a part of the fun evening.

On Sunday, April 13, back by spiritual demand, the Rev. Edna West, associate minister of Union Baptist Church will deliver the Sunday morning 10 a.m. worship message. The public is invited to come and support the Emmanuel women leading the way for all women towards a faith lift.

For more information, contact the Emmanuel Baptist Church office at 788-7023.

Calendar

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Overdale Ave. They will also release their much anticipated CD "Psalms From the Heart." Featured vocalists on the CD are Bishop John Heath, Bishop Steve Williams, Minister Beverly Alexander. Gospel Dream winner Cristina Perrin will be performing. For more information, call 336-287-9867 or 336-918-9437.

Spring Community Day
United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church is staging a Spring Community Day on April 12 from 12 - 4 p.m. Events will include: music, games, food, clothing and toy give-a-ways, health care screenings and voter registration. The church address is 450 Metropolitan Dr. The event is free to the public. Call 761-1358 for more information.

Holy Trinity

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The workshop continued with a presentation and exercise by Sis. Latoya Stevenson. She explained to the crowd about budgeting and prioritizing.

After she made suggestions on how the family can better budget their money, the participants were split into groups.

Groups were given a different family to scrutinize the same way as the example.

As the workshop came to a close, Sis. Trenia Miller explained the importance of each person and family taking the information they learned and applying it at home. She expressed that God is empowering His people to "Maximize Their Potential Through Radical Change."

Co-Pastor Ernestine Miller, who is a consultant with the finance ministry, was then asked to make comments about the workshop's presentation. Miller encouraged everyone to take what he or she had been taught and not let it go to waste. She expressed that in her opinion, the best investment is always to sow seed because it yields some 30, 60, and sometimes a 100-fold return, which is better than any bank could offer.

The next Finance Workshop is coming this Fall. For details, call the church office at 336-744-9293. Richard C. Miller, Sr. is the pastor of Holy Trinity.

Women's conference

A Women's Conference will be held at Dreamland Park Missionary Baptist Church on April 12. Registration will be from 8 - 9 a.m. Keynote speaker is Minister Parthenia Galloway from Morning Star Baptist Church. Other speakers are Minister Velma McCloud from Piney Grove Baptist Church and Quanita Whitlock of Destiny Christian Center of Greensboro.

The conference theme is "Are The Women of Today Rearing Their Children by The Power of God?" (Proverbs 22:6). The conference is free. The church is at 2340 Dunbar St. Rev. Ronald C. Fisher, Sr. is pastor. Chairperson is Yetta J. Cain.

Praise Fest Cafe

Rich CDC Singles Program are holding their Praise Fest Cafe' on Saturday, April 12, from 7 - 10 p.m. for ages 14 and older. There will be comedy, poetry, Holy Trinity's Majestic Dancers, Tribe of Judah, special soloist and much more. The activities will take place in the fellowship hall of Holy Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church, 651 Akron Dr. For more information, call 744-9293.

April 13

Concert at Konnoak Hills

A concert featuring the Band, Adult Choir and Handbell Choirs of Konnoak Hills Moravian Church will be held on Sunday, April 13, 4 p.m. at the church, 3401 Konnoak Dr. A love offering will be received to benefit Sunnyside Ministries.

Hallelujah Day

The Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church family invites one and all to their annual Hallelujah Day service which will be held April 13 at the 11 a.m. service with Pastor Hart speaking. The afternoon special guests will be New Direction Christian Center and church family from Lexington N.C. The speaker will be their pastor Bishop Donald Newkirk at 4 p.m. The church is at 1905 N. Jackson Ave. Pastor Paul W. Hart is pastor and First Lady is Sandra D. Hart.

Beginning April 14

Spring revival
The High Point Educational

and Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.

will have its Annual Spring Revival on April 14, 15, and 16 nightly at 7 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church located at 3230 Heitman Dr. The guest Revivalist for this occasion is the Rev. Wesley McLaughlin, pastor of Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church in Petersburg, Va. For more information call 336-509-8717.

Calvary Hill to celebrate pastoral anniversary Sunday

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance, Inc. extends an invitation to all to come and fellowship with them as they honor the 27th Pastoral Anniversary of their Founder, Teacher and Pastor Bishop Claude C. Turner and Minister Virginia W. Turner.

The celebration will begin Sunday, April 6 at 11 a.m. with Elder Sherman R. Hart, associate minister of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. The conclusion is with Bishop Joseph P. Lowery and St. Matthew's Apostle Church at 4 p.m. The church is at 4951 Manning St.



Bishop Claude C. Turner and Minister Virginia W. Turner

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Thurs., April 10, 11:30 a.m.

Golden Corral
180 Hanes Mall Circle
Winston Salem (I-40 to Stratford Rd. to Hanes Mall)

Wed., April 16, 11:30 a.m.

Golden Corral
1507 Cotton Grove Rd.
Lexington
(Hwy. I-85 to Hwy. 8N, Exit 91)

Thurs., April 17, 11:30 a.m.

Sagebrush
1562 Yadkinville Rd.
Mocksville
(I-40 to exit 170)

Wed., April 23, 11:30 a.m.

Golden Corral
180 Hanes Mall Circle
Winston Salem (I-40 to Stratford Rd. to Hanes Mall)

*Rate is for Blue Medicare HMO™ standard plan, 2008.

Benefits, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2009. Please contact Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina for details.

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