

# We All Have A Way to Serve Him

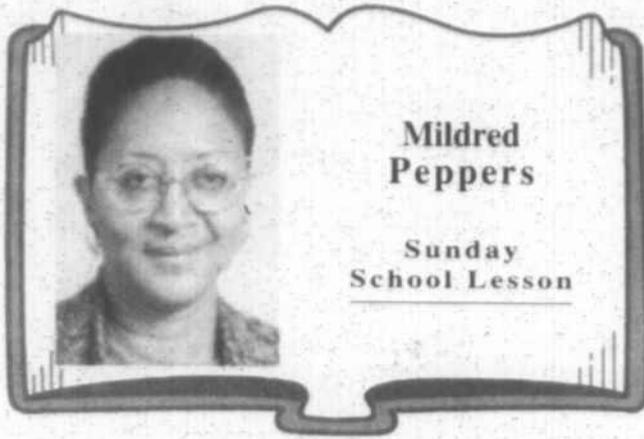
**Lesson Scripture:** II Kings 4:8-17

**Lesson Aims:** To understand that God equips each believer to uniquely serve Him, to recognize that God blesses unselfish acts and to make a deeper commitment to God's work.

**Background:** The period of the "Judges" ended with Samuel. It was this prophet, priest, and last judge that anointed Israel's first king (Saul) because the Hebrews wanted to be like their neighbors. David and Solomon followed as the next two monarchs that ruled the united kingdom. After Solomon's death, the kingdom split, forming two independent nations, Israel (10 tribes in the north) and Judah (2 tribes in the south). The split occurred around 931 BC. As always, God

sent His representatives (called prophets) to instruct the people whenever they began to stray from Him. Elisha, the prophet for today, was God's replacement for Elijah. While Elijah was a high profile prophet that confronted idolatry in Israel, Elisha was quite different. He quietly served the needy, caring for them compassionately as they suffered. He served as the prophet in the northern kingdom between 848 - 750 BC. As he traveled throughout the area, the Bible recorded eighteen encounters with everyday people. Our lesson today focuses on an unnamed woman in Shunem (SHOO nem).

**Lesson:** The village of Shunem is near the plains of Jezreel. Just west of the Jordan River, the fertile land allows this Shunammite



woman and her husband to be prosperous. An indication of their prosperity is the fact that they have servants to work their fields. As Elisha travels through the region, he meets this well-to-do woman, who invites him to her home for a meal. Apparently, he goes to this city on a regular basis and dines with this couple. The

woman recognizes him as a holy man of God. She suggests to her husband that he build Elisha a room on their roof and to furnish it. This room will provide lodging and some comforts as he does the Lord's Will. This unnamed woman from Shunem is sincere and gracious. In appreciation, Elisha wants to do some-

thing nice for her. He sends his servant to find out what she desires. Her response is, "I have a home among my own people." This means that she is content with her life and doesn't see the need for government favors. As the prophet and his servant discuss the matter, he isn't satisfied. The servant points out that she is barren. Don't forget the stigma associated with this in society. Elisha summons her, declaring that about a year from then, she will give birth to a son. She protests somewhat because the blessing seems such an impossibility. Sure enough, a year later, this Shunammite woman gives birth to a son!

**Application:** How refreshing it is to study a story where "I, Me, My" are not the primary focus! Her commitment to the man of

God is unselfish. What does this say to the 21st century believer? First, do the right thing for the sake of right. Stop expecting some selfish motive to be met. Serve because Jesus served. Being unselfish indicates a deep level of self control. Yes, we are human, but the Holy Spirit empowers us to over ride the physical. We can't do the work of the Master being selfish. Jesus teaches that greatness is achieved through unselfish service. Being faithful results in many blessings that far outweigh our selfish desires. Do some self evaluation asking God for the power to do good for goodness sake. What we do is a witness to what we believe. Does recognition or power motivate you? Do you need your name called? This faithful woman is nameless. Can we be satisfied with this?



Davis

## Professor Davis keynotes Connecticut MLK program

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Lenwood G. Davis, a professor in the Department of English and Foreign Languages at Winston-Salem State University, was the keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. /Slater Fund Celebration held in Norwich, Conn., on Jan. 16. The event was sponsored by the Norwich Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Norwich Free Academy.

Davis focused on his book, "I Have a Dream: The Life and Times of Martin Luther King, Jr.," which he published more than 35 years ago.

The speaker gave a brief history of Dr. King's life. Davis also read parts of a letter written to him by Dr. King, in which King states that he was flattered that Davis was interested in writing about his life and works.

Rev. King stated, "I must honestly say that I feel you could have chosen a much better subject, but the modicum of the modesty that I find welling up in me occasionally causes me to be flattered."

Davis, a noted historian, told the audience that Dr. King was humble and down-to-Earth. He told the crowd to continue to work toward King's goals.

"As Americans, we must continue to work towards the completion of Dr. King's dream," said Davis, who is currently working on several books, including "Women Inventors in North Carolina" and "North Carolina Inventors: Whites, Blacks and Indians."

# WSSU to Host Teacher Recruitment Fair

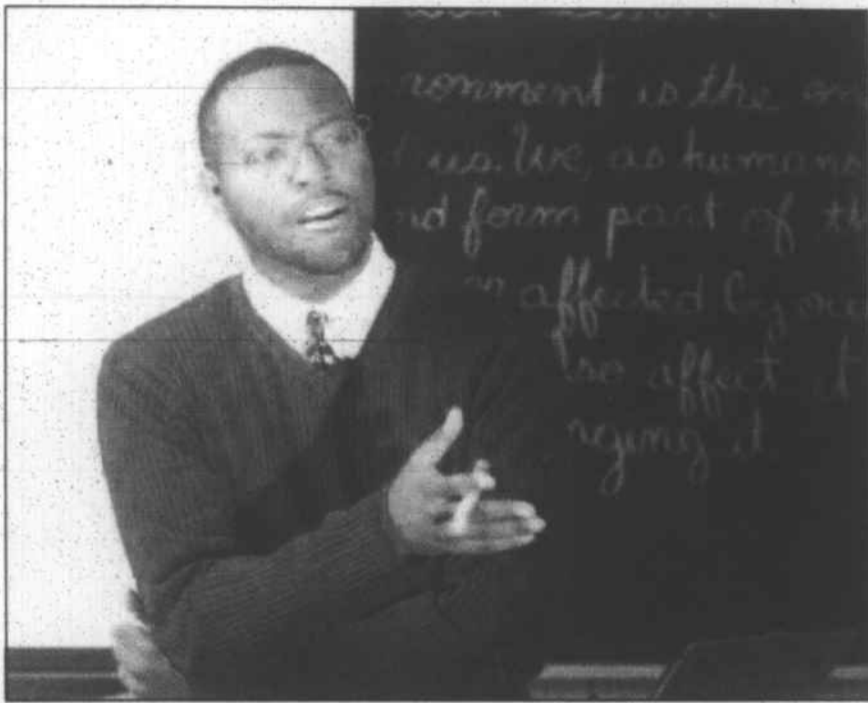
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

More than 70 school systems along the Eastern seaboard of the United States are coming to Winston-Salem State University to recruit prospective teachers during the university's annual Teachers' Fair scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 1 - 4:30 p.m., in the McNeil Banquet Hall of the Albert H. Anderson Conference Center.

The fair is free and open to the public. Participants are urged to bring several copies of their resumes. Professional business attire is required.

WSSU has hosted the annual Teachers' Fair for more than 25 years. This year's fair has attracted school systems from Connecticut to Georgia.

With a shortage of qualified teachers, school systems across the country are scouring the education programs



of the nation's colleges and universities for tomorrow's educators.

Students from various disciplines at WSSU and other universities in the region are encouraged to participate. Recruiters are interested in hiring education majors and those who are interested in lateral entry positions. Early arrival is recommended so that prospective applicants may have the opportunity to speak with as many school officials as possible.

Because on-campus parking is extremely limited, the general public wishing to participate in the Teachers' Fair is urged to park at the Bowman Gray Stadium. Shuttle service will be provided.

For more information about the fair, call the Office of Career Services at 336-750-3240 or check the WSSU Web site at [www.wssu.edu](http://www.wssu.edu).

This ad good Wednesday, January 28 through Tuesday, February 3, 2009

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