

# "Grace In The Spring"

As the saying goes: "Spring has sprung." The trees, flowers, grasses, etc., that were killed in the winter by the cold wintry blasts are being resurrected now. And how beautiful is the handiwork of the Lord, in His resurrection of His earthly creation. The coming and passing of the seasons also testify of the faithfulness of God. God promised Noah there would be the coming and passing of the seasons, (Gen. 8:22).

Spring testifies of the resurrection of Christ, and also the resurrection of a dead sinner. Yes, every sinner by nature is dead in trespasses and sins, (Eph. 2:1). Man is a trinity, body, soul and spirit. In the fall, man died, spiritually. Adam stood for us all, so when he died spiritually there in the Garden of Eden, we all died, (Rom. 5:12). Man did not evolve as the infidel scientists teach man evolved.

Every sinner is dead and polluted in his own blood, but God in His great love sends the Holy Spirit to breathe on that dead sinner and He says; "live." And that sinner is made alive in Christ, (Ez. 10:6, Aph. 2:1). Now the question I am asking you; have you been made alive in Christ? Just as the warm winds of spring blew across the fields and made the plants spring up, new buds are seen, then the blossoms, and new blades of grass spring forth. So it is in grace. The blessed Holy Spirit breathes on dead sinners, awakening them to their lost condition. And then you see yourself in the face of the glory of God, that is, you are far from God, condemned to die and justly so. I am talking about the resurrection of a dead sinner under Holy Spirit Conviction, (Jn. 16:7-11).

You may have lived in religion and in your church all your life. You thought you were saved; now under the awakening power of the Holy Spirit, you see that you are lost. You were lost all the days of your reli-



J. M. Little

gious profession; but didn't know it. I remember one time when I was under conviction I made this statement to a godly soul; it seems the gulf between wider. And she replied, "It has been there all the time but you didn't know it." My friends, I realize it is not a pleasant thing to be awakened to your lost condition, seeing that you are out of Christ. But let me hasten to say this; it is a blessed and most gracious thing to be awakened to your lost condition now if time. What if you had gone out into eternity thinking you were saved and you were not? It would have been the loss of your poor soul in Hell. As in nature, some flowers and grasses, spring up immediately, so it is in grace. Some sinners are awakened and have a greater knowledge of with the thought; "If I condition than others. Some are very slothful as was Lot in leaving Sodom, (Gen. 19). Some are hungering more after Christ, while others who say they are lost are dilly-dallying by the wayside with he thought; "If I belong to the Lord He is going to get me, so I'll go on and enjoy myself, now."

What a tragedy! I know of such a soul who took that attitude several years ago; she is still lost today. Some of you here told me seven years ago almost that you knew you were lost. And after seven years you still are not saved! What is the trouble, my friends? You said you knew you were lost, but you have gone away backwards. To what? What was there for you to turn back to?

You were warned not to trifle with your convictions, and I know some of you had impressions, but now you are hardened. I told a man more than once; if you don't turn to the Lord, there will come a day when you will not let me talk to you about Christ. The last time I talked to that man he had joined a false cult. How sad.

A sinner's resurrection to new life in Christ begins with Christ, (Eph. 2:4-5). The Lord Jesus Christ always takes the initiative in a sinner's salvation. You have heard all your life; "If you make one step, God'll make two." There is no such doctrine as that taught in God's Word! I know I'm cutting across your grain.

## Salvation Army Center Names Black History Trivia Contest Winners

Ontario "Sonny" Davis, Gary Booker and Nathan Frazier were the three categorical winners in the Salvation Army Belmont Center's Black History Trivia Contest.

This marks the second year the center, located on Belmont Ave., has sponsored a contest. The youth compete against others in their particular age category. Davis, the son of Greg and Helen Davis won the six to nine year old division title.

He is a fifth grader at Tryon Hill Elementary School and has one sister, Ebony. Davis would like to become a professional sportsman and he enjoys basketball and football.

Davis is just one of several youngsters who visit the center for recreational activity. While there he decided to accept the challenge of the contest. The male or female who found out more about the history of the black race and successfully answered the center's questions won the trophy.

"The contest is a way for the young people to discover what we often take for granted," commented Clarence Johnson, director of the center. "There are many inventions that black people are responsible for."

Gary Booker, a senior at Garinger Senior High School walked away with the title of the 16 to 18 year olds. "I learned because of the contest that Rebecca Lee Harris was the first black in the field of nursing. She helped to open up the field to more blacks," he continued. "I also learned more about other famous blacks: Booker T. Washington, Jesse Jackson and facts about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King that I did not know."

Some of the names on the test Booker was already familiar with. "But I had to do research to find out about many of them. Many of the names Booker explained had not been introduced to him in school. "Many were not mentioned in my Social Studies books."

Booker competed to learn, but he also wanted to regain the title since he also won the trophy for his age group last year.

The son of Roosevelt and Roberta Booker, the trophy recipient would like to major in Business Administration at Johnson C. Smith University.

Nathan Frazier is the winner of the 10 to 12 year old competitors. A sixth grader at Windsor Park Elementary School, Frazier is the son of Milton

and Linda Frazier. He has two brothers, Milton Jr. and Nelson. He enjoys playing soccer, football, basketball and baseball and would like to become a professional football player.

As a frequent visitor to the center where he enjoys playing air hockey and basketball, Frazier decided to enter the contest to learn. "I picked up the sheets and went to the public library to look up the answers. I learned about John Thomas, who played in the NCAA basketball tournament and that Jesse Owens won four gold

medals in the 1936 Olympics."

Frazier is a member of a Pageland, S. C. church and plays on the football police team and the Salvation Army basketball team.

Booker is a member of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church and is Teen Club president at the Belmont Center. He is also a member of the VICA Club at Garinger.

Sonny Davis is a member of Steele Creek AME Zion Church and has received several trophies in karate. Even as a fifth grader he has already received the distinction of the brown belt.

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Contestants pictured above are (L-R) Clayton Perry Sr., business manager of South Boulevard Chrysler-Plymouth and member of the Charlotte Business League; Kelly Alexander Jr., director of Alexander Funeral Home, Inc., and president of the North Carolina State Conference of NAACP branches; and Omar Leatherman, president of South Boulevard Chrysler-Plymouth, Green-Leatherman Associates, Inc., and General Rental Car, and a member of the Charlotte Business League. Each contestant had a

team of 11 NANBPW members to help raise funds. Kelly Alexander Jr. had the winning team, which was co-chaired by Joan Jackson and Barbara Mitchell. Clayton Perry was first runner-up, with a committee co-chaired by Debra Rouse and Connie Smith. Second runner-up was Omar Leatherman, whose committee co-chairpersons were Jackie Cain and Sarah Coleman. The evening's festivities included a fashion show coordinated and commented by Shirley Thomas and dancing to the music of Calvin Davis Jr.



The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Ensemble, shown performing during the 29th Annual Omega Talent Hunt, will appear in concert at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, located on Hoyts Rd. on April 14 at 4 p.m. Benefits from the concert will go towards the church's building fund. The Men's Club of St. Michael's Church are sponsoring the Ensemble and are accepting donations of \$2 for the gala event. Door prizes will be awarded to lucky ticketholders who do

not have to be present to win. Pictured, first row, l to r: Percial Thomas, G. Williams, Sidney Smith Sr., T. Johnson, D. Sanders, and F. Warren. Second row, l to r: Sterling Woodard, Marshall Smith, Nigel Ayton, Douglas Spears, A. Hampton, Charles Gillespie, and Robert Carter. Back row, l to r: Lloyd Stigler, Shaford, and Richard Maxwell. (Photo By Peeler's Portrait Studio)

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