

Growing Closer Together Is Common Goal

When the Delta plane landed in Charlotte Margaret Kanipes, Angela Christopher and Archelaus McLean were gathering their thoughts and experiences from the Young People's Connectional Board Meeting of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Just returning from the venture in New Orleans, La., the threesome represented Greater Bethel AME Church, located at 201 Grandin Rd., and pastored by Rev. Levi Brown.

"The Young People's Department (YPD) is growing closer together in its common goal," stated Archelaus McLean, a Johnson C. Smith freshman who attends Greater Bethel. Ms. Christopher explained not only the goal, but also the theme of this year's convention, "We go, grow and glow for Christ," she smiled.

During the two-day session workshops emphasizing leadership, teen problems, parliamentary procedures and the constitution of the YPD Missionary were offered.

"The people were very nice and quite helpful," Ms. Kanipes, Ms. Christopher and McLean found time as well to sightsee. The citizens and taxi cab drivers told us where to go and where not to go," Ms. Christopher continued.

Ms. Kanipes, a senior at Independence High School, was also excited about meeting Shalamar and Midnight Star. The groups, which included several individuals from the AME Church, also rode the ferry across the Mississippi River.

Ms. Kanipes is president of the Charlotte Young People's Department. She is also on the Usher Board and active in the church's Sunday School. At Independence she has been chosen to



IN THE LOBBY: Margaret Kanipes, Angela Christopher and Archelaus McLean relax after landing and returning from the Young People's Connectional Board

Meeting held last weekend in New Orleans, La. (Photo By Teresa Simmons)

serve on the Annual Staff. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kanipes.

McLean is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris McLean of Raleigh. While he attends Johnson C. Smith, he is actively serving as vice president of the Raleigh YPD's and fellowships at Greater Bethel.

Ms. Christopher is the area director of the Vera L. Holt Area of the Western North Carolina Conference. She is also active in several other areas of the church in which youth spiritual advancement is the main concern. She is also a member of the Senior Missionary Society of Greater Bethel.

At the airport to meet the three- some were Mrs. Kanipes and Adeline Williams, both members of Greater Bethel.

Sunday School Lesson

INTRODUCTION

Two thousand years from now some professors from a respected university may teach that President Kennedy died from a fall off a horse. And probably there will be those who will believe it because some think that anything written by a person who got his Ph.D. from a prestigious school has to be accurate. But those who will take the time to study the evidences of history will laugh up their sleeves at such teaching - two thousand years from now.

Why don't people in the 1980s believe that President Kennedy died from a fall? Because there are still too many people around who witnessed the events of that tragic afternoon in Dallas when the President was assassinated.

For the same reason, people in the first century did not challenge the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead. Isn't it interesting that when Peter talked about the resurrection to the masses of people on the Day of Pentecost and shortly thereafter, no one laughed about that or called it a hoax? (Acts 2:24; 3:15).

There were too many witnesses who saw the resurrected Jesus to deny it. Years later Paul wrote, "He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep."

LESSON BACKGROUND

There was no doubt about it - Jesus was dead. The flow of blood and water that issued forth when a spear was thrust into His side proved that He was dead. The captain of the guard declared He was dead. Luke, a physician, wrote Jesus had died. The apostles and Jesus' friends who witnessed the crucifixion were so certain that He had died that they didn't believe the reports of the resurrection at all at first. Jesus' enemies came to watch Him die and would not have left until they were convinced that He had really died.

Have you got the picture? They thought they had Him in the tomb to stay forever and ever. But that was Friday. Sunday is coming - and Sunday came.

THE LESSON

"Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciples, whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'" (John 20:1-2). Mark 16:1 tells us that Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, and Salome came to the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus' body. Mary is called "Magdalene," probably because she was from a Galilean town named Magdala. She seems to have been the leader of these women on that day, which may be why John mentions only her. An angel of the Lord had rolled the stone away from the entrance to the tomb, (Mat. 28:2). That was a disturbing sight for those women. It would have been as if you had just buried a loved one, and later you found that the grave had been dug out.

Mary ran to Peter and to the other disciple, John. She didn't simply report what she saw, but her interpretation of what those things meant was misleading. She reported, "They have taken away the Lord - and we know not where they have laid him." It is clear that she thought Jesus was still dead.

How many times have we seen something and then reported falsehood about it? Sometimes what we think we see is not what is really happening. We must all be careful about running to someone else with a report. That's a good way to get a rumor started, and once a rumor is started it is hard (if not impossible) to kill, especially if it is reported that "so and so saw it with his-her own eyes."

Hearing Mary's report, Peter and John ran to the tomb to get firsthand information. John reached the tomb first, surveyed the open entrance, and stood back. But impetuous Peter went right inside when he got there. He saw an amazing sight, but was perplexed by it. He saw the linen wrappings that had bound Jesus, and he also saw the face napkin neatly rolled up in a place by itself.

Mary had said that someone had taken the body of Jesus. But if that was the case, why were the bandages lying in the tomb? And why was the napkin that had covered His face lying there by itself, carefully wrapped up?

Peter did not have the beginning of faith. Luke reports that he left the tomb only "wondering," trying to figure out what had occurred (24:12). But that John's faith was only in its germinal stage is indicated by the fact that when he and Peter left the tomb, they simply went home! If he had been fully convinced that Jesus was alive, surely John would have made haste to share his belief with the others. Furthermore, when Mary later that day reported to Jesus' followers that the risen Christ had appeared to her, no one believed her. Still later that day, Jesus Himself rebuked the apostles for their hardness of heart in not believing the report of those who had seen Him.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her. She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know Jesus. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her, "Who is it that you are looking for?" Jesus said to Mary. She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni (this means 'teacher')."

So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her, (John 20:11 - 13; 14, 18).

It is amazing that Jesus appeared first to Mary! In that day women were not valued as highly as men. But Mary wasn't looked upon as an insignificant, inferior person by Jesus. What happened on that day ought to cause the humblest person to be assured of his or her importance in the eyes of Jesus.

Spring Carnival

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Involvement Council (YIC) is planning a Spring Carnival complete with rides, games and clowns to be held April 17-21 at Freedom Mall.

In an effort to make it a community event, YIC is soliciting community organizations who will put game booths in the Carnival. These organizations will make money by selling game tickets to the public. An average non-profit group can make several hundred dollars with a game booth.

The YIC was created by the Charlotte City Council and the Mecklenburg County Commission last summer. It is designed to help students in grades nine through 12 learn more about their government and community. It is also charged with helping teens develop leadership skills, responsibility, and respect for themselves and others. This first Spring Carnival will be the YIC's major fund raiser. The Carnival is being sponsored by the YIC, Charlotte's Parks and Recreation and Freedom Mall.

If you have questions about the YIC or the Carnival, please call coordinator, Phillis Shoemaker at 335-1683.

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Dr. William D. Crawford, Chiropractor

I was born in Marion, S.C., and later moved to Dillon, S.C., where I was educated in the public schools there. I am a 1977 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, where I majored in political science. While at Smith, I was a member of the football team and was elected to the 1977 NAIA team. I joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and worked in the community to improve education by assisting in a tutoring program organized within the fraternity. In 1979, I decided to attend Chiropractic College in Davenport, Iowa. I am a 1984 graduate of the Palmer Chiropractic. In an effort to establish a practice in Charlotte, I've already begun to re-acquaint myself with friends. In the weeks to come, I hope to have an opportunity to meet with as many of you as possible. Please take time to stop by the clinic located at 2506 Beatties Ford Rd., Suite No. 6, to say a friendly hello. I look forward to seeing you and your family. Chiropractors have been around for some 80 plus years. Since then we realized there are many disorders that lack the chiropractic attention needed. You must visualize what purpose the nervous system holds and how it links everything else together. It truly represents a network, one which inter and outer connects the entire body.

The spine, which chiropractors mainly concern themselves with, is the base resting place for the above nervous system. Your spine is a very important tool, but you must not abuse it or it comes back to haunt you. There are many of your friends seeing chiropractors and feeling better. I welcome you and your friends to know more about the spine, its functions and mechanics. I would be happy to discuss any problems you may be having. My office hours will be from 9 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. 'til 7 p.m.

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