



**PRE-CONCERT GET TOGETHER** - The famous Staple Singers get together prior to headlining Scholarship Concert at Auditorium theatre, Chicago, May 10. A talented family group, they are (from left, standing) Roscoe "Pop" Staple, and son, Pervis, who manages group. Seated are daughters Cleotha and Mavis. (NPI Photo).

**TWO MINUTES**

WITH THE BIBLE  
BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PRES.  
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When St. Paul was at Ephesus his proclamation of the gospel caused such a stir that the idol makers, who were losing money, protested until "the whole city was filled with confusion." Soon somebody started a chant: "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" Others joined and the chorus swelled until "all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" (Acts 19:34) and the town clerk, referring to the religion which surrounded this pagan goddess, said confidently: "These things cannot be spoken against" (Ver. 36).

But later, at Rome, the apostle was informed, with reference to those who had accepted the truths he had been proclaiming: "As concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against" (Acts 28:22).

We wonder which side our reader would now prefer to be on: that of the superstitious

multitude or that of the minority who place their faith in the Bible.

Millions worshipped the goddess Diana from a thousand years before Christ to two centuries after, but who knows her today? Where is the evidence of all the miracles she is supposed to have wrought? Her glory is little more than a memory and the religion which revolved around her name is a thing of the past.

But the Bible, for all these centuries and more, has stood unchanged and unchangeable. It has weathered, not barely, but handsomely, all the storms of criticism and opposition and has proved to be indeed the Word of God. Read the Bible and especially the part meant for us today; the epistles of Paul. Depend upon it, act upon it and don't hesitate to stand for it, even when in the minority, for where the most vital things are concerned, majorities have often been wrong.

**MEDITATION**

A SERMONETTE  
BY COLIN DOUGLAS

"Awake, thou that sleepest," -- Eph. 5:14.

Whenever life seems routine and dull to us, it is because we are drifting along in habits of thought and activity that give us no real challenge. We are drifting along in a half-awake condition. We have lost all sense of purpose in living.

There is far more to all of us than we ever arouse and utilize. We not only do not exert ourselves to full capacity, but we miss the wonders and joys that life has to give to us. To awake is to revolutionize the pattern of our lives.

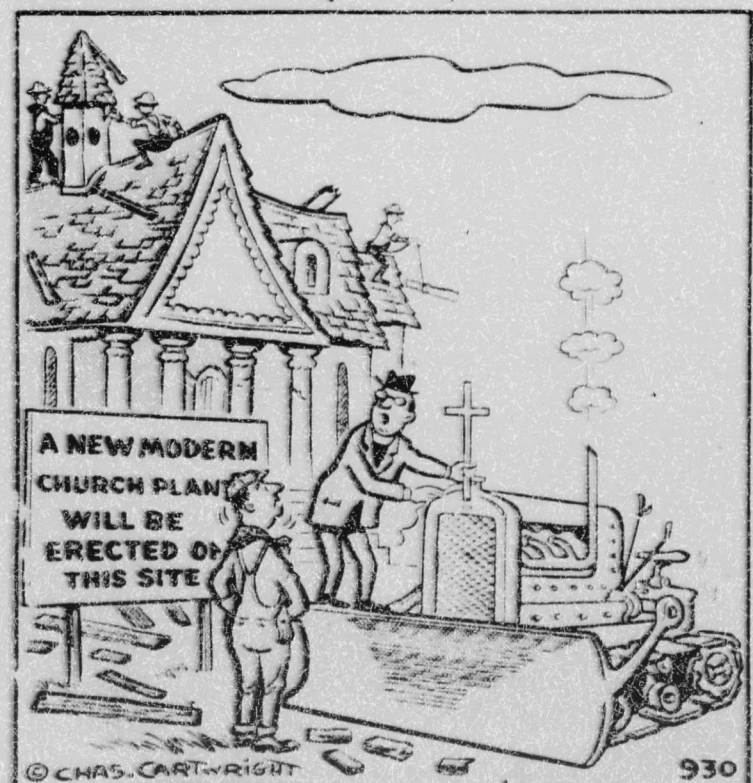
There is a responsive Divine Spirit within each of us. When we take the attitude of arousing ourselves to greater awareness of all that we are and all that life is and has to offer to us, we find ourselves capable of greater joy in living. We awake to the variety of interesting things to be done in our world. We awake to the needs of other persons. We awake to the spiritual richness of human associations. We awake to appreciation of the creative efforts of others that lend so much value to our personal lives.

Most important of all, though, is the fact that we awake to our spiritual selves, that we are the beloved children of the One Father, and that His will for us is successful and joyous living. Place yourself and all your affairs in His loving care and keeping, and keep your faith centered and poised in Him. Know always that His ways are above human ways, that His justice is above man-made justice, and that His love is greater than human love, and that His power is mightier than the might of man.

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." -- Psalms 27:14.

Although the number of farm workers has dropped from 14 million to 5 million since the beginning of the century, their productivity has increased greatly. Fifty years ago, the average farm worker produced enough food to feed seven or eight people, while today he produces enough for more than 40 individuals, according to the Labor Department.

**Church Chuckles** by CARTWRIGHT



"I hope it will make wrecking the old church a little more palatable to certain longtime members!"

**RELIGION and RACE**

BY NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL AN "ACTIVIST" CHURCH

LOS ANGELES - The Rev. Channing Emery Phillips, 41-year-old Congregational minister from Washington, D. C., who became the first Black American to be nominated for the U. S. Presidency, has called upon the church to drop its "pletism" cover for wickedness, and replace it with an "activist" role. Speaking at the Grant AME Church, pastored by the Rev. John Hurst Adams, Rev. Phillips declared, "The church must accept not only the institution of love, but seek that power to make it effective."

LAYMAN NAMED JURIST  
CHARLESTON, S. C. - The first Black man in modern times to be named an associate judge of the local municipal court, happen to be a Methodist layman and official. He is Richard E. Fields, a member of the United Methodist General Board of Christian Social Concerns.

ORDINATION  
NASSAU - Two young Black Bahamians were ordained last Sunday to the priesthood by the Rt. Rev. Bernard Markham, Lord Bishop of Nassau and the Bahamas. The priesthood candidates were deacons Warren Harold Rolle, 27, ordained at St. Agnes Church; and Kirkley C. A. Sands, 24, at St. Luke's Church, Rock Sound.

JOB BOOST  
NASHVILLE - Staff members of the United Methodist Board of Evangelism have overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution to "accept whatever adjustments are necessary" to assure a larger proportion of ethnic minority employees at all levels in the board's operation. The members also pledged support to the general secretary, Dr. Joseph H. Yeakel, in his "continuing efforts to include Black leadership on the executive level as well as all other levels."

MINISTERIAL CAGE SPONSORS

CHICAGO - Four local churches joined with the Chicago Urban League in co-sponsoring a Ministers' Invitational Basketball tournament Friday in Dunbar Vocational High school gym, to promote community support of youth-serving programs and to increase participation of young people in the programs. Teams involved in the tourney was from the churches in the area -- London, Tabernacle of Faith and Angelic Baptist churches, and Bethel Lutheran church.

**Presbyterians Plan 181st Gen. Assembly**

SAN ANTONIO - Major decisions on issues facing one of the largest Protestant denominations in America will be made here next month at the 181st United Presbyterian General Assembly. The event is scheduled May 14-21 in the San Antonio Convention Center.

About 2,000 persons, including approximately 840 commissioners (voting delegates) are expected to attend. The Assembly will be preceded by a Conference on Evangelism May 13-14.

This will be the first time the General Assembly of the 3.2 million member United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. has met in San Antonio. The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. -- which merged in 1958 with the United Presbyterian Church of North America to form the present denomination-held its 1917 Assembly in Dallas.

Subjects expected to come before the Assembly this year include:

- # The tax exempt status of churches.
- # Conscientious objection to war.
- # Problems of world hunger and what the church can do to alleviate them.
- # The role of the denomination in helping racial and cultural minorities, with emphasis on the "Brown Power" movement of Spanish-speaking groups.
- # The ecumenical involvements of the denomination.
- # Reorganization of the church's government, with emphasis on proposed changes at presbytery and synod (regional units) levels.
- # The church's ghetto investment policies.

Commissioners also will consider pronouncements (statements to the church at large from the Assembly) on crucial social concerns.

Automobile accidents in 1968 injured more than 4,400,000 persons on America's highways. Driver error, according to The Travelers Insurance Companies' annual statistics, was responsible for more than 80 percent of last year's highway casualties.

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**GOD'S WILL**

The greatest commandment is that we should love our God  
This is a free choice that man has, but it God's desire that all would seek Him. He is our heavenly Father, and desires only the best for us.

**ATTEND CHURCH**



The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

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