

ATTEND AME CHURCH'S BI-ENNIAL SESSION IN TENN.—The above persons attended the Eleventh Bi-ennial Session of the Connectional Laymen's Organization of the African Methodist Church, which convened at the Sheraton-Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tenn., August 4-9. Left to right are: Mrs. O. M. Carr, first vice president, Charlotte; Mrs. Bessie P. Hall, corresponding secretary, Raleigh; Mrs. Cassie Baity, chaplain, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Odessa Norris, recording secretary, Greensboro; Mrs. A. A. Smith, High Point, district president; Mrs. France Enzlow, Greensboro, Joseph C. McKinney, second Episcopal district president, Washington, D. C.; Comie Enzlow, local president, Greensboro; Miss Gertrude Judd, delegate, Greensboro; and Bryant W. Bethea, conference president, Raleigh. All are members of the Western North Carolina Conference. Not shown are Belton Bethea, district president, Laurinburg; and Vernon C. Cowan, district deputy, Asheville. (See story).

TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PRES.
BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY
CHICAGO 35, ILLINOIS



A FREE GIFT FOR YOU
It seems that everything is going up in cost these days. Nothing comes down, everything goes up—up—up. Wages too are going up, but not as fast as the cost of living, for our dollars are decreasing in value all the time. That's why former President Eisenhower suggested we begin calling them dollarettes.

We should thank God, though, that there is one thing that has never gone up in price—the salvation of our souls. No price was ever put on this and none will be, for several good reasons: 1. Because God is not impoverished, that He needs our money. 2. Because if salvation could be bought, the rich would have an advantage over the poor. 3. Salvation was fully paid for by God the Son on Calvary's cross, and to charge one penny for it now would be to cast reflections on His finished work.

Even in Old Testament times God made it clear that sacrifices and good works could not buy His favor. In Isa. 55: 1-3, the prophet cried: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto Me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto Me; Hear, and your soul shall live...?"

Years later, after "the gospel of the grace of God" had been committed to Paul, he declared that believers are: "Justified freely by God's grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24). "For the wages of sin is death, but the (free) gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). "In whom we have redemption, through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7).

MEDITATION

A SERMONETTE
BY COLIN DOUGLAS

"Judge not, that ye be not judged." -- Matt. 7:1

It has been said that criticism is the commonest of human failings. Certainly we must agree that it is a habit which contributes nothing of happiness to anyone. Nothing seems to escape a critic's sharp tongue, from the way world affairs are conducted to the manner in which his food is cooked.

The habitual critic is sometimes prone to defend himself with the argument that life would be very dull and uninteresting if we were to label everything perfect, or even just good. One good rebuttal to that argument is that there is small similarity between criticism and discrimination.

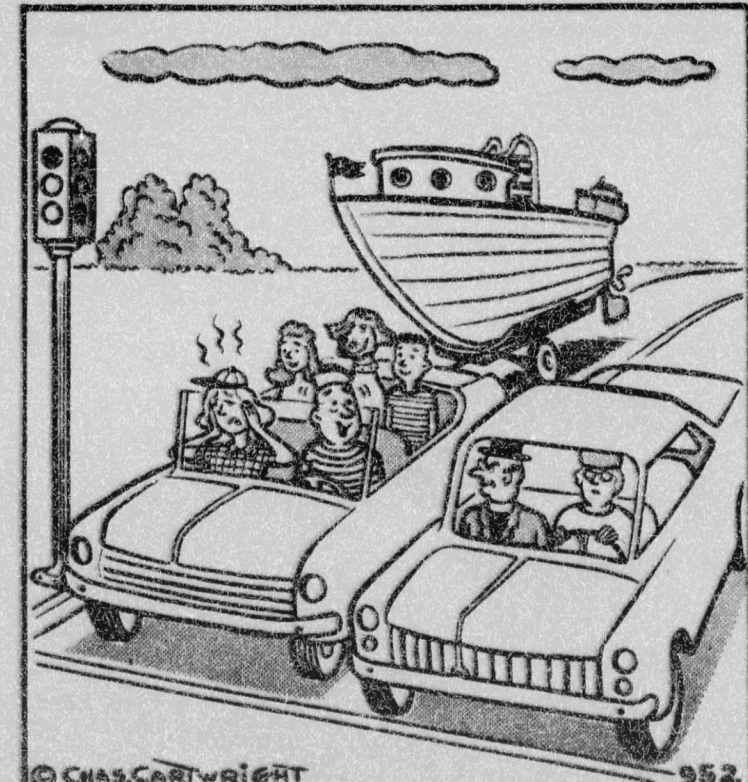
The principal difference is the quality of LOVE. The discriminating person judge another person, a situation, or even his food, with kindness and consideration, and never

with ill-humor. Like Emerson, he perceives that "out of very defects are shadows of our virtues." Even "just criticism" is a well-meant but unenlightened attempt to straight out something that more often than not is not fully understood.

One of the best habits to acquire is the one of blessing everybody and everything. Bless not only yourself, but your environment. Bless your dwelling place, be it large or be it small. Bless those who share it with you, be they family, friends, or strangers. Walk hand in hand with God throughout every day, and in the shining light of His presence you can meet life victoriously and joyously. You will see everything through His eyes... everything Good, everything Loving, everything Perfect.

"In Him we live, and move, and have our being." -- Acts. 17:28.

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



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RELIGION and RACE

BY NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

WORTH SOMETHING

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A group of South Central United Methodist Jurisdiction social concern, health and welfare leaders were told last week, "If the Black power movement accomplishes nothing else, it has dispelled the notion among white people that Black people are satisfied with their second class citizenship." Making the statement was the Rev. Woodie W. White, executive secretary, Commission on Religion and Race, United Methodist Church, who added "Black power attempts to give a Black man dignity and help him to see himself as a child of God through his blackness."

DREAM COME TRUE

CHICAGO — A 40-year-old dream of Bishop Louis H. Ford, pastor, Greater St. Paul Church of God in Christ, was realized last week when special dedication services were conducted in the newly remodeled and expanded church building. The bishop, who now heads the First Diocese of Illinois, encompassing more than 870 churches, is a member of the general board of bishops, and general coordinator of the International body of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., dreamed more than 40 years ago, while a boy preacher in the cotton fields of Mississippi, that one day, he would pastor a church that will be one of the nation's historical landmarks. The church is situated next door to and owns the Window Clarke's house, Chicago's oldest residence.

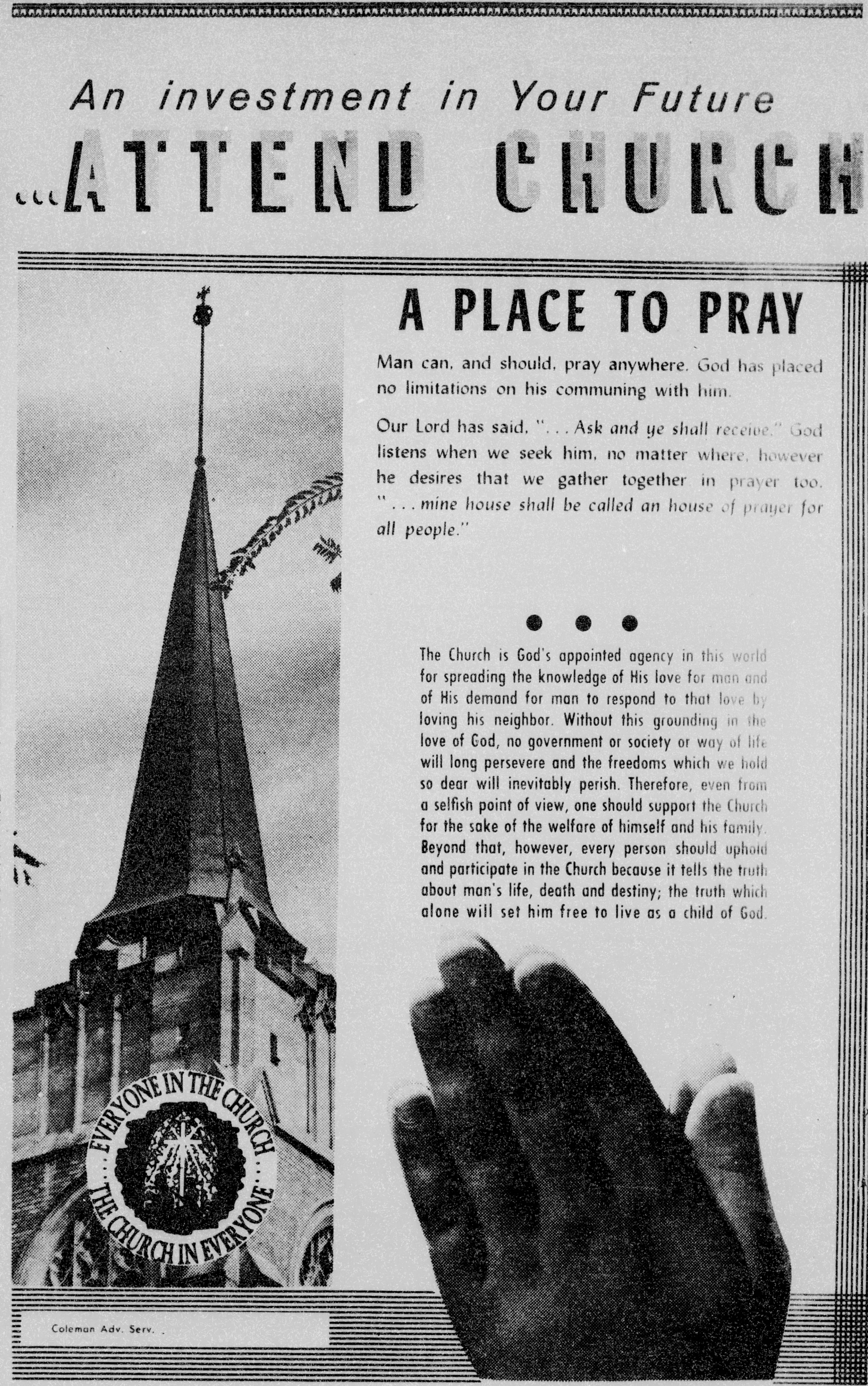
THREE CITY AID

NEW YORK — The Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) has just distributed three grants totaling \$21,000 to help community organization projects in various parts of the country. The Committee for a Unified Newark, headed by play-wright-author Lerol Jones, received \$12,500 to assist its voter education and registration program; POWER (People Organized With Economic Resources), Inc., Beaumont, Tex., received \$10,000 for its community action, economic development, youth leadership training-recreation and employment programs; and the National Tenants Organization, Washington, D. C., \$1,000 to defray costs of operating a technical center to deal with minority persons' housing problems.

DOING IT ANYWAY

SEATTLE — Although the general board of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) repudiated the manifesto demand made by James Forman last May, it is nonetheless being asked to double its current \$2 million urban emergency fund. Some 8,000 persons attending the five-day biennial general assembly of the denomination are being asked to approve the re-deployment of \$30 million within the next four years to combat poverty, hunger, and other urban problems.

At the end of June 1969, the home property inventory of the Federal Housing Administration totaled 22,768 dwellings, a drop of 12 percent below the 25,885 recorded a year earlier.



Coleman Adv. Serv.

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