

Novel 'Fire And Blackstone' May Cause Gnashing Of Teeth

NEW YORK - The Rev. John R. Fry has long been concerned with the plight of the poor -- especially the poor blacks, it was as editor of Crossroads magazine and later as news editor of Presbyterian Life magazine that he first became involved with the civil rights movement. His commitment grew as he participated in the inception of the East Harlem Protestant Parish, went on to serve churches in Spring Valley (New York) and Cincinnati, and ultimately became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago -- right in the heart of the poor black ghetto section

called Woodlawn. When he undertook his Chicago post in June of 1965, he found himself faced with an alarming situation: the citizens literally lived in fear of the nightly gang war being carried on between the Blackstone Rangers -- a notorious South Side black youth gang numbering 4,000 -- and their rivals, the Devil's Disciples. Fry and his staff hoped to help the Rangers become a force for peace by letting them use the church building for "wholesome" activities. Understandably but most unfortunately First Church was soon judged "guilty by association."

Skepticism led to scandal. First the already blatantly uncooperative Chicago police raided the Church on the rumor that the Rangers were storing their weapons there -- an accusation which received widespread publicity. Then in 1968 came the nationally televised hearings held by Sen. John L. McClellan's Senate subcommittee, at which Fry was charged with using OEO funds to "pay off" gang leaders, and permitting six and pot parties right within the Church. Fry was given no opportunity to defend or even explain his actions or those of his staff.

In September of 1969, however, the tide of accusations began to turn in Fry's favor when a "blue ribbon" Presbyterian committee held a retaliating investigation. Not only was Fry cleared of ten charges of "improper conduct" with the Rangers, but three of the opposing witnesses at the McClellan hearings have been branded as perjurers. Lippincott's November 21 publication of FIRE AND BLACKSTONE, telling Mr. Fry's side of the story for the first time, is certain to add fuel to the already heated argument.

Black Editors, Publishers Plan 10-Day-Stay In Israel

Eight editors and publishers representing leading Negro-American newspapers will spend 10 days in Israel on a unique fact-finding tour arranged through the Urban Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The eight, all members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, will study Israel's social and economic experience for application to the black community here. As guests of the Israel government, they will examine educational institutions, youth projects, kibbutz activities, health and safety projects and the Jewish state's technical assistance programs for African countries.

According to Kenyon C. Burke, director of ADL's Urban Affairs Department who will accompany the group, interviews have already been arranged with Israeli government and civic officials. In addition, Del Shields, executive director of the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers will record interviews in Israel for subsequent use on black-oriented radio stations here. Mr. Shields is a broadcaster for Station WLIB in Harlem.

The newsmen making the trip are Richard Edwards, managing editor, Amsterdam News, N.Y.; Robert E. Johnson, Jet-Johnson Publications, Chicago; John H. Murphy, publisher, Afro-American, Baltimore; Tom Picou, managing editor, and John Sengstacke, editor and publisher, Chicago Daily Defender; Longworth M. Quinn, managing editor, Michigan Chronicle, Detroit; Garth C. Reeves, publisher, Miami Times, and Howard Woods, publisher, St. Louis Sentinel. They will leave from Kennedy Airport, Sunday, November 16.

next time you have a special problem or a seemingly adverse situation to cope with, give the force of your thoughts to the idea that God is ever at hand, and that it is in your power to extract the greatest good from every condition in life.

"Count your blessings instead of counting sheep." By concentrating your mind and thoughts on the good that is in everyone and in everything, by making a practice of "walking always on the sunny side of the street," you will attract others to you, attract more good and more happiness and more joy into your life. This is not difficult. No habit is difficult to acquire -- and the habit of looking for the good and positive is just as easy to acquire as is the habit of spotting only the negative.

Speak to the Father. Tell Him: "Henceforth I will face life with courage, for Thou dost give me a spirit of faith. I will walk with confidence, secure in the knowledge that Thy loving hand is in mine to guide me through every step of the way."

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear." --Heb. 13:6.

Martin Luther King Square

The recently dedicated 110-unit Martin Luther King Square in San Francisco, Calif., is one of the first of its size to be completed by a non-white, non-profit sponsor and a non-white prime contractor, reports the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

An investment in Your Future

ATTEND CHURCH

I am Thankful... for good health, and for the food that I

have each day. I am thankful for those near and dear to me that I can love, and in turn love me. I am thankful for the freedom of my nation, and that I can worship as I please. I am thankful that God loved me so much, that he provided a way for my salvation. I am thankful that he is a forgiving Father. I am thankful that I can attend Church and worship my Lord



LEAVING WHITE HOUSE CHURCH SERVICES-Washington: Will Allen Caldwell, 6 (left), and his brother, Herbert Jr., wave to photographers at the White House November 16, where they were guests of President Nixon at Church services. With them are their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Caldwell, of Detroit, Mich. Young Will suffers from bone cancer. (UPI).

TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

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

CONFIDENCE IN DEATH

In the thirty years of my ministry I have seen many people approach death and have seen some die.

Some, who knew Christ as their Savior, were ready, even eager, to go to be with Him. Some passed from this scene with songs or words of praise on their lips. Others, who had failed to prepare died in mortal fear, not merely of death, but of what lies beyond.

These things do not always run true to form, however, for I have also seen the most hardened unbelievers go out of this life joking and seemingly unafraid, while, on the other hand, I have seen sincere Christians cringe with fear at the approach of death. These human reactions did not change the fact that the unbelievers had reason to be afraid, while the believers need not have been.

The Word of God tells us that "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27,28). It is the "after this" that makes men so afraid to die. They fear the truth of Rom. 14:12, that "every one of us shall give account of Himself to God."

But wait; I didn't quote all of Heb. 9:27,28. The full passage reads as follows: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after the judgment; so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him

shall He appear the second time apart from sin, unto salvation." This can mean only one thing: that Christ died for us and bore the judgment for our sins, the "second death."

This is why Heb. 2:9-15 declares that "by the grace of God" Christ "tasted death for every man . . . that through His death He might . . . deliver those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

MEDITATION

A SERMONETTE BY COLIN DOUGLAS

"Set your mind on the things that are above." --Cor. 3:2. Have you ever heard a person say that he lacks the power to concentrate? Often what that person really means is that he does not seem able to concentrate on the things that are most important to him. Whether we realize it or not, we are always concentrating our thoughts somewhere. And often it comes as a surprise to us to realize that we have actually been concentrating on the very things that we have been trying to let go of. What do you give your thoughts to? There is where your power of concentration is being spent.

When we decided to concentrate on that which is Spiritual -- of God -- we change the direction of our thoughts. The



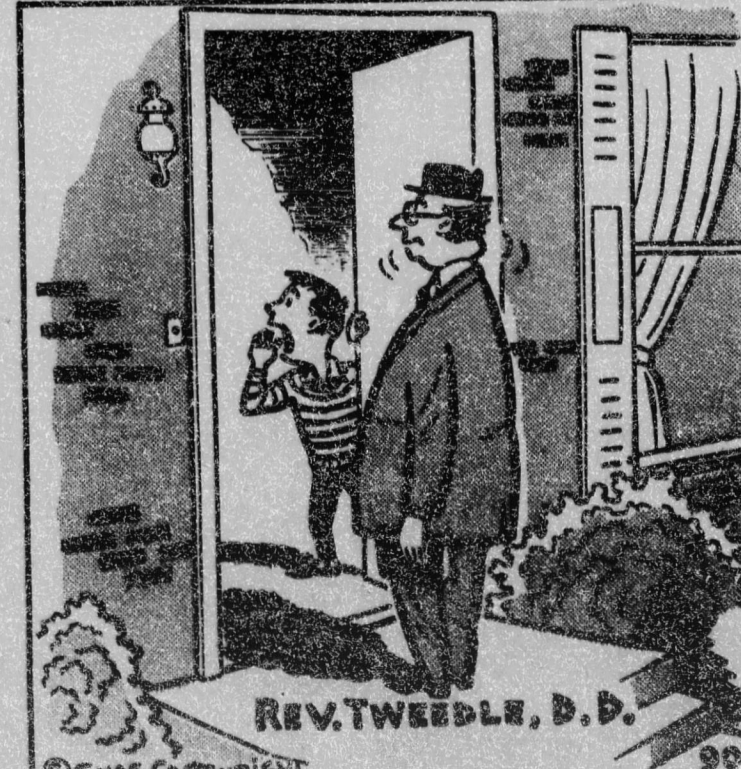
The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we 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.



Coleman Adv. Ser.

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Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



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