

RELIGION TODAY

Power To Change

...and grow

BY FRED AND JOANNE WILLIAMS



WOMEN NEED TO PRAY
The first topic in this series is on prayer. Prayer is probably the most important, yet most overlooked, thing that a woman of God can do. All women of God need to pray for their communities, their families and themselves. Women from all walks of life need to pray.

1. Mothers need to pray. Mothers who are women of God need to pray. Mothers need to take time out from raising their children to pray. Mothers need to stop housework for a little while to pray. Mothers need to pray for their children and their husbands. Mothers need to pray.
2. Career women need to pray. Women who have left home for the career world need to pray. They need to take a few minutes in the morning, lunchtime or afternoon to pray. Career women need to pray for their co-workers. They need to pray for their work, that they would do a good job to the glory of God. They need to bind the forces of the devil in their workplace. They need to pray against the spirits of lust, greed and

covetousness. They need to pray for their bosses and administrators. Career women need to pray.

3. Senior citizens need to pray. Women of God who are retired need to pray. Women of God who are at home alone can spend much time interceding for their churches, their families, their friends. Senior citizens in retirement centers and rest homes need to pray. They can pray for other residents. They can gather together with other residents to pray. Senior citizens don't have to be alone, they can spend time with God in prayer.
4. Teenage women need to pray. Christian teenage children need to pray. They need to pray for the strength to overcome peer pressure. They need to pray against the evil forces of illegal drug use, illicit sex and ungodly music. Christian teenagers need to pray that they would be able to reach their potential in Christ. They need to pray for their relationships, their academics, their families and for their problems. Teenage girls need to pray!

(Continued next week)

Gov. Martin Enlists A.M.E. Zion Church Aid In NC Literacy Battle

CHARLOTTE—Churches, such as the A.M.E. Zion Church, which has 75,000 members in North Carolina, are a powerful force in fighting illiteracy, Gov. Jim Martin told people gathered at a meeting of the denomination.

"As one of the largest and most potent forces of our state, I call upon the A.M.E. Zion Churches of our state to join us in ensuring a better life for all our citizens," Martin said last Thursday.

Martin said the success of North Carolina's economy could be undermined by the state's continuing problems of adult illiteracy and high school dropouts.

"In practical terms, North Carolinians, if they are going to be part of the industrial development of our state, must have at least 13 years of schooling," Martin told the General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church at the Charlotte Convention Center.

"It's been estimated that we will have at least 500,000 new jobs by the year 2000," he said. "Will we have a citizenry ready to take advantage of expanding opportunities?"

"It's clear we must take decisive, forceful action if we are to continue our economic growth," he said.

In his address, Martin said the problem of illiteracy is directly related to economic development and he listed some of the actions taken by his administration to combat it.

One of these, he said, was last week's report of the Governor's Commission on Literacy, which was chaired by William Friday, the former president of the University of North Carolina System.

"The report contained 40 specific, excellent recommendations which, if carried out, should go a long way toward upgrading literacy in our state," Martin said.

Martin also lauded other state programs, including one in which illiterate mothers go to school to learn with their children, and another that was featured on CBS-TV called "Motherhead" that teaches women prisoners to read to their children.

Martin said he hopes to announce in a few days a proposal to develop daycare programs to serve four-year-old children "who are most at risk to drop out of school later and become illiterate."

Roman Catholic Priest Removed For Demonstration

Opelousas, La. (AP)—The Rev. A.J. McKnight, the Roman Catholic priest who led protesters in a sit-in at the St. Landry Parish School Board, has been removed as pastor of Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas.

McKnight complained at his mass last Sunday that the Diocese of Lafayette gave him only 24 hours notice to vacate the premises.

The Rev. Leonard Olivier, vicar of black Catholics, has been sent to fill in at the 10,000-member church, said to be the nation's largest black Catholic church.

McKnight, who was Holy Ghost pastor for more than six years, said he plans to remain in St. Landry Parish.

He took part in the 1987 protests against the school board's choice of locations for three consolidated high schools.

In February, McKnight was convicted on a charge of obstruction stemming from the protest. He chose to go to jail for four days instead of only one day and pay a fine.



SUPPORTING RIGHTS—The National Urban League's 1988 theme, "Working together to Make a Difference: Rights, Responsibilities, Results," receives support from Eastman Kodak company's exhibit at the national conference in Detroit. Kodak's exhibit, produced in conjunction with Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, graphically depicts "The Rights of All Blacks and the United States Constitution." Tel-Sing Smith, left, Schomburg Center exhibit staff, and Esie Calhoun, Kodak's Director of Public Affairs Planning, discuss final details before show opening. This exhibit is part of the Schomburg Center's Traveling Exhibition Program which Kodak is supporting with a \$500,000 five year grant.

Modern Day Evangelism Viewed As Man-Centered

BY CORNELIUS STAM

In his great Epistle to the Romans, St. Paul introduces himself immediately as a "bond-slave of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle," to proclaim God's good news about Christ.

Paul's "Gospel of the grace of God" was essentially about Christ. He was always talking about Christ. His epistles are filled with Christ. Christ, in his message, was everything. This is in striking contrast to much of our modern preaching and evangelism, which is not Christ-centered, but man-centered.

The gospel Paul proclaimed was God's good news about Christ and His power and glory in defeating Satan, overcoming death, paying for sin and nailing the law to His cross.

This is why the apostle calls His message "the good news of the glory of Christ" (II Corinthians 4:4) and "the good news of the glory of the blessed God" (Timothy 1:11). To enter experientially into the truth of this good news is the greatest blessing one can possibly enjoy.

In verse 4 of his introduction to the Roman Epistle, the apostle declares

that Christ was powerfully declared to be the Son of God "by the resurrection from the dead."

Now the resurrection of Christ had been both prophesied and proclaimed as a historical fact before Paul, but to Paul was committed a special message of good news in connection with the resurrection. In his God-given message, Christ was raised from the dead to demonstrate that as God the Son He had paid the full penalty for sins that would have sunk a world to hell. Thus the apostle writes to Timothy, his son in the faith:

"Consider what I say, and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David (this is how Christ had formerly been known), was raised from the dead according to my gospel, wherein I suffer trouble as an evil doer, even unto bonds" (II Timothy 2:7-8).

Read the Epistles of Paul and see how salvation by grace through faith always hinges upon the finished work of Christ for our redemption. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Freewill Baptist Women Hold Kinston Confab

The General Woman's Department of the United American Freewill Baptist Church held its annual homecoming celebration recently at the headquarters building in Kinston.

Theme of the annual event was "Togetherness."

Ms. Mattie A. Thompson of La Grange is president of the General Woman's Department.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Ms. Betty McNeill of Linden. Ms. Mabel Gerald, president emerita of Cape Fear A Home Mission Convention, extended words of welcome. Music was rendered by the Bible Way Freewill Baptist Church Choir of Linden.

Ms. Janie Harris of Kinston offered a special prayer for worldwide conditions.

Ms. Mildred McNeill, pastor of Bible Way, delivered the gospel message.

Ms. Thompson, the president, greeted the assembly and thanked all who are continuing to support the department. She pledged herself to be the very best president that she could be—working up to her highest potential.

Ms. Virginia Woodard of Brown Chapel, Wilson, delivered an address. A pageant, the "Fifty State Parade," was presented under the direction of Ms. Leola Dixon, Ms. Mabel Miller, Ms. Memory Brown and Ms. Emma McIntyre. Ms. Joyce Best of the Northwest Annual Conference reported \$1,400 and was crowned homecoming queen. The runner-up was Ms. Annie Gant of Northwest B Conference who reported \$435. The total raised was \$5,277.02.

Remarks were made by General Bishop Johnnie E. Reddick. He thanked those who attended the National Association of Freewill Baptists Convention at St. Petersburg, Fla. He urged parishioners to continue their efforts in kingdom-building.

A fellowship dinner was held at the Antioch Freewill Baptist Church with Northwest Conference serving as host.

The officials of the Women's Department are Ms. Mattie A. Thompson, president; Ms. Rosa Lee Jones, vice president; Ms. L.M. Durham, financial secretary; Ms. E.M. Minter, recording secretary; Ms. K.C. Forshee, treasurer; Ms. Carrie U. Best, executive board chairman; Ms. Gladys Baldwin and Ms. Mildred Dawson, chairperson, program committee.

Dr. J.E. Reddick is general bishop of the denomination.

Processing times for home canned fruits and vegetables vary widely. Recommended times and pressures have been determined by rigorous USDA tests. They are based on the food, jar size, and type of preparation. For up-to-date figures, call your county home economics agent.

ATTEND CHURCH

KALEIDOSCOPE

BY MURIEL W. BURT

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Communication techniques are among the marvels of modern civilization. Countless numbers of newspapers and magazines are published throughout the world in languages and dialects to reach populations worldwide. The miracles of radio, wireless, television, telephone, and satellite bring continents, nations, and people into instantaneous contact with one another. Nations are closer now than cities were when our country was founded.

The benefits of these inventions are numberless. In the areas of health and safety we are alerted and warned of dangers from severe weather such as approaching hurricanes, thunderstorms of unusual intensity, tornadoes, hailstorms anticipated, possible freezing temperatures of risk to crops and livestock, and blinding snowstorms of blizzard proportions.

Medical science makes excellent use of these resources to inform citizens of health hazards. Such dangers as hypothermia with sudden drop in temperature, and the possibility of skin cancer in over-exposure to sun are examples of warnings brought to the attention of the public through the media. Hazardous waste sites have become a much-talked-of danger on television programs and are frequently discussed in newspapers.

Facts concerning AIDS consume much space in attempts to inform the world population of this new threat to health.

Financial ups and downs of nations, political highlights of elections and coups, drastic changes in laws, upheavals in governments, world crises such as droughts and impending starvation, racial unrest and resulting uprisings, prison riots, breakthroughs in international relations are all brought to the attention of people worldwide through the rapid means of communication which science has brought to our eyes and ears.

Although the media do come under attack occasionally for the way they handle coverage of certain situations, we should all be grateful to live in a land where freedom of expression is upheld by law.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves if we who live on this planet Earth are always using the marvels of communication to benefit the human race. Much of the print displayed on newsstands is not uplifting or enlightening to the mind. Television is receiving more and more criticism for the kinds of messages being transmitted into homes. The movie theater, once an important means of conveying both news and entertainment, is frequently losing out. The screen is no longer needed for news as far more rapid methods now transmit current events. Truly great moving pictures for worthwhile entertainment and edification are few and far between. As long as mankind cannot live peacefully with cooperation among peoples, races, religions and political ideologies, the news flashing before us on screen or printed line will continue to be

depressing, degrading and reticent, the violence generated.

Man has always communicated. We can look to Jesus of Nazareth as a perfect example of one who understood articulate communication. He spoke, taught, and exemplified love and fairness with obedience to a purpose and will on a higher plane than the natural man can conceive without spiritual insight.

Jesus Christ taught beautiful truths in the Sermon on the Mount in a poetic-type language. Some of His parables are explained; others are left to a spiritual interpretation by His followers. The forthrightness of His language when necessary is illustrated in the 21st chapter of Matthew, verse 13, when angered by those who demeaned the temple. The compassion of Christ for all His Father's children is exemplified in the Book of Mormon in 3 Nephi, chapter 17, when in verse 21 he says: "Blessed are ye because of your faith. And now behold, my joy is full." As children were brought to Him He spoke again: "Behold your little ones." He then summoned angels to minister unto them.

Scripture offers many examples of the power and influence of letters in personal correspondence. Paul was the more prolific writer of epistles, but James, Peter, John and Jude all used this method to communicate among the members of the early Christian church following Christ's resurrection. Should we not take more time to write to our loved ones, both family and friends, to express appreciation, encouragement, and exchange of news and ideas?

In Galatians 2:2, communication by divine revelation and preaching is mentioned. The 6th chapter of I Timothy, verse 18, reads, "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate..." This passage mentions other ways of communicating of great importance, good works or service, to our neighbors and community.

Instances in scripture indicating times when the Deity spoke directly to men emphasize the need for considerate and understandable conversation among human beings and between us and our God. In Exodus 33:11, we read that "The Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." The same wonderful occurrence, man communicating directly with his God, is found in the Pearl of Great Price, Chapter 1, verse 2 in the Book of Moses. "And he saw God face to face, and He talked with him, and the glory of God was upon Moses; therefore Moses could endure His presence."

These are just a few examples of the benefits and evils of modern communication in our world. We can learn if we will study sacred writings how effectively communication can be used in bringing obedience to eternal laws and the resulting blessings into our lives if we make the necessary effort. God has given us the materials and creativity to invent. Let us learn the real value and capability of these scientific wonders.

TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS STAM, PRES. BERIAN BIBLE SOCIETY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635



PRECIOUS HERITAGE

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." (Psa. 33:12).

The book, *We Americans*, published by the National Geographic Society in 1976, depicts a family of eight early settlers, four of whom are holding Bibles in their hands. The caption opens with the words: "Book of books, the Bible, was the end and means of the education of early Americans." This is confirmed by the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, which declares that "The New England Primer...for 150 years widely used as a textbook, was largely composed of Scriptural and doctrinal material. Catechisms were taught in the public schools and prayer was offered twice a day" (EB under *School and Curriculum in the United States*).

This does not mean that all our Revolutionary forefathers were saved, or regenerated by personal faith in Christ, but the evidence is abundant that they were, as a whole, God-fearing men, and this was bound to have a significant effect on their thinking and their conduct.

And, indeed, there were among them many born-again believers.

Revolutionary times conjure up in our minds such pictures as Washington praying earnestly at Valley Forge, the members of Congress kneeling together in prayer for divine guidance, and the precepts of Scripture being pressed home again and again by those high in government, while the citizens in general trembled at God's Word.

It goes without saying that our nation plays a strategic role in the affairs of the world. Our influence is great. However, America will not again exert the right kind of influence in the world until the Church of Christ recovers from her spiritual illness and our national leaders and the populace once more become at least God-fearing. The fear of God does not in itself save from sin's penalty, but it is the first step toward salvation. Moreover, God's Word declares:

"By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil" (Prov. 16:6).

Freewill Baptist Wives Meet At Fayetteville Church

The Freewill Baptist Cape Fear A Ministers' Wives met recently at the Elliott Chapel Church, Fayetteville. The Rev. Abe Elliott is pastor of the church and Ms. Louise McLean, wife of Bishop M.N. McLean, is president of the alliance. The theme of the meeting was "Journeying with a Purpose—Building a Sisterhood."

The opening song was rendered by the Elliott Chapel Senior Choir. Ms. Catherine Elliott offered prayer.

Ms. Viola Elliott extended words of welcome and Ms. Cliffortine Spears responded. Ms. Naomi Spence presented each officer a bouquet of red roses. Ms. Katie C. Foushee delivered an address on "Tips and Leads for Ministers' Wives."

Gospel Choir No. 2 of Dunn Chapel Church rendered several selections.

Echoes from the national convention of Freewill Baptists held in St. Petersburg, Fla. were heard from Ms. Eunice Adams and Ms. Catherine Elliott.

Ms. Missie Lee Freeman delivered the gospel message. Ms. Lula Alford was in charge of the offering.

Spouses were recognized. Presentations were made by Ms. Eva Minter, chairperson of the program committee.

A refreshment hour followed in the church fellowship hall. President McLean thanked everyone who had a part in making the program a successful one.

The next meeting will be held in October at Malloys Grove Church, St. Paul.

Fifth Annual Carolina Gospel Workshop Set For Local Church

The fifth annual Carolina Gospel Music and Arts Workshop convention will convene at the Deliverance Cathedral of Love Church, 1700 Curtis Drive, Raleigh, where Bishop M.S. Nesbitt is the pastor, Aug. 9-13.

Seminars and classes will be taught during the day and Workshop Mass Choir rehearsals will be held each afternoon. Evangelistic services will highlight each evening at 8 p.m. Guest speakers in order will include Rev. F.C. Barnes, Rocky Mount; Bishop Bennie Kelly, Fayetteville; and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Cecil Franklin, Detroit, Mich., brother of Aretha Franklin.

To climax the convention, the

Workshop Choir will be recording "live" with Minister Jeff Jacobs, 1988 special guest artist. Jacobs is the composer of "If You're Happy," "I Don't Have No Doubt" and "Delivered."

For more information concerning the convention, contact Glenn McMillan, 634-9014 or 755-9576.

By the year 2000, the number of people aged 65 and older will be approximately 1 million, which will be some 14 percent of the North Carolina population.