

GABBING ABOUT TOWN

BY ANNIE H. THORPE
TELEPHONE 800-1029



Merry Christmas and good tidings to each and every one of our dear readers and friends. We trust that everyone will feel the spirit of love and sincerity that this Christmas brings.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday greetings are extended to Master Steve Terrell of Quarry Street, who will be celebrating his seventh birthday on Dec. 29. May you live long and sweet and you may be around to celebrate many, many more. Please have a happy birthday.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED

Our love and heartfelt sympathy are extended at this time to the family of Willie Haywood, who passed away on Saturday, Dec. 17. May you find the comfort that you will need in knowing that earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.

ENTERTAINS MISSIONARY CIRCLE

Ms. Pattie B. Brown of Fuquay Springs entertained the Pauline Missionary Circle of Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church on Monday, Dec. 12, at her son's home in Mini City. Quite a few of the members were present. Annie H. Thorpe, president of the parent body of the Missionary Society, was the instructor for the day. After a very impressive meeting the hostess served a meal of baked chicken, dressing, potato salad, sausage balls, hot rolls, punch, ice cream, and cake. Everyone expressed their thanks for the meal.

NOTE:

We will be looking forward to your guests and dinner parties during the holidays and please have a Merry Christmas.

PLEASANT HILL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. D.L. McCoy is pastor. Sunday School began at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship began at 11 a.m.

"Jesus is the Reason for the Season" was the lesson for the morning, taken from Isaiah 9:6. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the prince of peace," and 7:14. "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

These verses are magnificent prophecies of the divine human nature of the coming Messiah. He would be born a child, like every other human being, but he would also be given as a son at the same time. The giver is God Himself.

If Jesus is the reason for the season, let's exalt Him. Let's praise His holy and righteous name. Christians, we need to stop putting up door posters and wall posters of false idols. Now we know Santa Claus is more lifted up than Jesus. He has all the

Come To Church

characteristics of Jesus Christ. He knows when you're good, he knows when you're bad, and he knows when you're sleeping and awake.

Only Jesus Christ fits that category. Well, some of you might say "What shall I tell my children? It's only fun." Tell them the truth. We are responsible for our children knowing the truth. God said no liar shall enter His kingdom. Let it be

known, and shown that Jesus is the reason for the season. Let's lift Him up. Maybe last year you didn't know, but this year you do, so when we know better, we do better. God will bless us for telling the truth. Stand up for Jesus. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord. God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's prayer service is held every Saturday at 6 a.m. Men's

prayer service is held at 7:30 a.m. at the home of Rev. McCoy.

Prayer service is held every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Bible study takes place every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Watch Night services will be held at the church New Year's Eve night. The youth will also sponsor a play New Year's Eve beginning at 7:30 p.m.

God bless you and Merry Christmas from Pleasant Hill United Church of Christ.

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Services opened at 6 a.m. with Mr. Fayger M. White in charge of the praise service. The Sunday School opened at 9:20 a.m. with Marvin Sanders in charge. The subject of the lesson was "God's Promise Fulfilled," taken from Luke 2:7.

Morning worship service began at 11 a.m., with Isaac White in charge of the service. The Senior Choir rendered the music, with Ms. Cheryl Caldwell at the organ and Ms. Anne Lotts at the piano. Responsive reading was taken from Psalms 103:1-18, titled "Bless the Lord, O My Soul." Prayer was offered by Carl Johnson.

Rev. James W. Lewis took his sermon from Luke 2:1-20 on the subject, "Jesus Christ, the Good News Now and Forever." Announcements were given by Barbara Stewart.

The invitation was called and the prayer room was opened for souls to be prayed for. The offering for the morning was lifted, and church was dismissed for the morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A council meeting will be held Monday from 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., midweek prayer and Bible study are held.

Thursday at 7 p.m., choir rehearsal will be held.

Saturday at noon, Brownie Troop No. 340 and Junior Troop No. 489 meet.

Members on the sick and shut-in list are Ms. Pansy Brown, Ms. Irlia Boose, Ms. Dezonica Conyers, Ms. Georgia Williams, Ms. Ruth Banks, Sylvester Brown, Dorsey Butler, Tessie Bell, and Luther Perry. Remember to pray for the sick and suffering everywhere. Prayer is the key to heaven and faith unlocks the door. The invitation was called and the prayer room was opened for souls to be prayed for. The offering for the morning was lifted and church was dismissed for the morning.

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BRO. JAMES THOMAS'

GOSPEL WORLD



Services will be held at Ebenezer Holiness Church Sunday at 11 a.m. Overseer W.R. Turner is in charge.

Elder Hall will be the speaker Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Lily of the Valley Church.

Evangelist Clorenda Bass will be the speaker Sunday at Mt. Olive Holiness Church, Bloodworth Street. Rev. Celia H. Thompson is pastor.

First Freewill Baptist Church of Holly Springs will have its Christmas play Friday at 7:30 p.m. After the play will be a fashion show.

Morning worship services will be held Sunday at 7 a.m. at Greenfield

Baptist Church in Creedmoor. Bible study will be held Friday at 7:30 p.m. Sabbath School will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. and worship service at noon at Weeping Willow Miracle Church, 429 Solar Drive, Raleigh.

Tarry services will be held each Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. A Christmas program will be presented Thursday at 8 p.m. at Christ Holiness Evangelist Temple, 218 E. Cabarrus St. Sunday School will open Sunday at 10 a.m. with worship service at 11:15 a.m. at the same location.

Have a merry, Merry Christmas.

Paths To Living: Neither East Nor West Rules

BY KAMAL RAFI
NEITHER EAST NOR WEST

The religion of Al-Islam has again taken a sharp upswing in the hearts and minds of people living and existing on all points of the globe. For many years the superbly balanced religion of Al-Islam had taken a back seat to the two great super powers that have been dominating world affairs.

These two great world powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, have actually split the entire globe of nations into two camps, East and West. Both these so-called super powers have historically exploited and manipulated the nations of the world for their goods and raw materials. These nations that have followed the influence of the East (USSR) and West (USA) have all but become bankrupt, both materially and morally.

Praise and thanks are for Allah the excellently balanced religion of Al-Islam has surfaced to the world scene. Granted that Al-Islam is the fastest-growing influence (religion) on the world scene, because of its all-comprehensive and far-reaching principles it clearly affects every aspect of life. This religion (Al-Islam) addresses world economics, politics, and education. Every day more and more people are readily realizing that there is a proven alternative to the choice between the two so-called world power camps, which is not stationed East or West.

All points of Africa and Asia have been misused and frequently abused by the game-playing superpower nations. However, the trend has changed. These same nations are exiting from the game-playing activity of the East and West and are aligning themselves with the dignified positions of the Muslim nations. Al-Islam, with emphasis on equality of man and the oneness of humanity, proffers a foundation for cooperation for the great diversity of tribal groups of Africa. This tribal diversity in past African history has been used to keep its people subdued and conquered. These same Islamic principles are tailored to the needs of the Asian people who find it commonplace to be among Indonesians, Thais, Arabs, Iranians, Pakistanis, Malays, Bangladeshis, and Filipinos during daily routine and interchange.

The powers of so-called super status had declared Al-Islam as being nil and incompatible with technological and industrial development, whereas the fact of history lucidly depicts that after Prophet Muhammad the Muslims led the world in scientific and intellectual discoveries and gave more than a spark of light to the European period of Enlightenment. Much credence should be given to the Muslim nations from the European nations for its present awareness in the sciences, technology, education, etc.

The agelessness of the Quran (Book of the Believers) is today being felt by the world in the banking arena. While the same nations have stated that the Quran's stand against interest on loans has barricaded the Muslims economically from the world, they are now witnessing a flourishing Islamic banking system. Instead of deriving its income from interest on loans, the Islamic banks become partners in the ventures, sharing both risks and rewards of the persons borrowing the loan.

From all appearances, more and more surprises are in store for the doubters as to the religion of Al-Islam. The Quranic injunctions that Al-Islam will become the dominant way of life and verifies to all that true power is neither East nor West, but belief in the Oneness of Allah, is Truth.



WORLD OF GOSPEL—Five-time Grammy winner, Shirley Caesar of Durham, continues to produce top-selling gospel albums, and her concerts are usually held before capacity audiences. She clearly has reason to be recognized as the "first lady of gospel music."

Area Obituaries

MS. ALEASE PRENT SPURLOCK
Funeral services for Ms. Alease Prent Spurlock of Richmond, Va., formerly of Raleigh, who died Dec. 11, were held Dec. 15 at St. Peter's Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Surviving are a husband, Leroy Spurlock. Arrangements were by Haywood Funeral Home.

ELLIS E. RAGLAND
Funeral services for Ellis E. Ragland, 58, of 2915 Poole Road, who died Dec. 13, were held Dec. 17 at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Oxford. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Surviving are a wife, Ms. Jeanne Ragland; daughter, Ms. Carolyn Williams of Raleigh; father, Alphonzo Ragland of New Jersey; and a grandchild. Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

RUFUS RAINES
Funeral services for Rufus Raines, of 216 Idlewild Avenue, who died Dec. 12, were held Dec. 17 at First Baptist Church, Wilmington Street. Burial followed at Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery, Apex. Arrangements were by Haywood Funeral Home.

ANTHONY JAMES JOHNSON
Funeral services for Anthony James Johnson, infant son of Dillard and Charlie Mae Johnson, Jr., of 7300 Dalton Drive, who died Dec. 10, were held Dec. 17 at Lea Funeral Home. Burial followed in Montlawn Memorial Park. Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

WHEELER BLYTHER
Funeral services for Wheeler Blyther, 67, of 2604 Bedford Avenue, who died Dec. 17, were held Dec. 21 at the Church of God of Prophecy. Burial followed in Carolina Biblical Gardens.

Surviving are a wife, Gertrude B. Blyther; daughters, Ms. Rena Blyther of Raleigh, Ms. Christine Cooper of Wendell; brothers, Charles Blyther of Raleigh, Louis Blyther of Winston-Salem; and five grandchildren. Arrangements were by Haywood Funeral Home.

MS. ALMETA M. MONTAGUE
Funeral services for Ms. Almeta M. Montague, 80, of 1506 Pender St., who died Dec. 17, were held Dec. 21 at Haywood Funeral Home. Burial followed in Justice Memorial Cemetery, Hwy. 55.

Surviving are daughters, Ms. Rochelle Mangum and Ms. Geraldine Montague, both of Raleigh; sons, Edward Montague of Newark, N.J., John Atlas Montague and Wesley Montague, both of Raleigh; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Arrangements were by Haywood Funeral Home.

WILLIE HAYWOOD
Willie Haywood, of 11 Edgcombe

Terrace, died Dec. 18. Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

MS. YOLANDA JOHNSON
Infant Yolanda Johnson, of 600 Newcomb Avenue, died Dec. 16. Arrangements were by Lightner Funeral Home.

JAMES WATSON
James Andrew Watson, 68, of 309 Freeman St., died Dec. 18. Funeral services will be held Dec. 22 at Lee's Crossroads Baptist Church. Burial follows in Carolina Biblical Gardens. Arrangements were by Lightner Funeral Home.

THEODORE PEPPERS
Theodore Peppers, of 613 Grantland Drive, died Dec. 15.

Surviving are a wife, Ms. Geraldine Peppers; daughters, Ms. Doris Peppers of Washington, Ms. Glenda D. Pepper and Ms. Karen Peppers, both of Raleigh, Ms. Paula Williams and Ms. Bonitta Williams, both of Greenville; sons, Ruben Peppers and Wayne Peppers, both of Raleigh, Raymond Peppers of Fort Knox, Ky., Ronald Peppers of Winston-Salem; mother, Ms. Swannie High of Raleigh; brother, George Peppers of Raleigh; and 11 grandchildren. Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

LOUIS TROUBLEFIELD
Louis Troublefield, 52, of 504 Robin Hood Drive, died Dec. 15. Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

Surviving are a wife, Ms. Marjorie J. Troublefield; daughter, Ms. Nicky Troublefield of Raleigh; stepdaughters, Ms. Kelsey Richardson of the home, Ms. Sheila S. Blue of Baltimore, Ms. Sherry Woods of Dudley; stepsons, Staff Sgt. Sherman Sapp of France, Kelly Richardson of the home; mother, Ms. Eva Mae Troublefield of New York; sisters, Ms. Louise Bentford and Ms. Eva Mae Troublefield, both of New York, Ms. Lillie Troublefield of Washington, Ms. Barbara Troublefield of Raleigh; brothers, Cadealus Troublefield of Troy and Marshal Troublefield of Raleigh; and four grandchildren.

HERBERT HARRINGTON, JR.
Funeral services for Herbert Harrington, Jr., 60, of 1009 E. Lane St., who died Dec. 12, were held Dec. 17 at Lea Funeral Home. Burial followed in Sunset Cemetery, Smithfield. Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

ROBERT WINFIELD, JR.
Funeral services for Robert Winfield, Jr., of 551 Dacian Road, who died Dec. 13, were held Dec. 18 at Lea Funeral Home. Burial followed in Justice Cemetery.

Surviving are a mother, Ms. Jessie Winfield of Raleigh; sisters, Ms. Delores Jones and Ms. Mildred Banks, both of Raleigh; brothers, Eddie Banks, Percy Banks, Alvin Banks and James Winfield, all of Raleigh. Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

Campaign Aids Community's Poverty Groups

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two hundred twenty community-based self-help projects throughout the nation have been approved for grants totaling \$6.9 million from the National Campaign for Human Development, according to Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the CHD national chairman.

In a statement related to the announcement of the 1988 CHD grants, Archbishop May said, "Despite statistics that point to a healthy economy, more than 32 million Americans live below the poverty level. However, because of CHD, poor people now have hope and a sense that they can effect change and improve their lives through neighborhood and community organizations which they themselves control."

Since it was established by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 1970, CHD has provided financial support to self-help projects organized and managed by groups of low-income persons. More than 2,500 such projects have received approximately \$115 million in funding from CHD since its founding.

"The Campaign for Human Development is a powerful means to build solidarity in this country," Archbishop May said. "It has enabled millions of poor Americans of all races, creeds, geographic regions and backgrounds to work together for long-range solutions to poverty in the areas of social and economic development, housing, health, legal aid, education and communications."

CHD funding for self-help projects comes from an annual collection held in Catholic parishes throughout the country on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year's collection was on Nov. 20 in most dioceses.

Seventy-five percent of the funds collected are forwarded to the CHD office here for allocation at the national level. The remaining 25 percent is retained by the dioceses to support local self-help initiatives.

In addition to funding self-help projects, the CHD serves as a resource for information on domestic poverty, including the development of justice, education materials for parishes and schools, as well as training workshops for diocesan and parish personnel in order to build solidarity between groups of people.

College Honors Easley With Doctoral Degree

Rev. William W. Easley, Jr., pastor of St. Joseph's AME Church of Durham, was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Monrovia College of Monrovia, Liberia during the month of November.

Dr. Louise C. York is president of Monrovia College, the oldest in Africa. The degree was presented to the Rev. Easley by Bishop Vernon Randolph Byrd on Nov. 6. This degree is the second received by Rev. Easley

from Monrovia College. The first was an honorary doctor of laws presented to Rev. Easley in June of 1984 through Bishop James Haskell Mayo.

Both Bishop Mayo and Bishop Byrd had served in the 14th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which comprises the West African nations of Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Bishop Vernon Randolph Byrd is presently serving the 16th Episcopal District which includes the Caribbean nations of Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados and the Dominican Republic. Bishop James Haskell Mayo is currently assigned to the 10th Episcopal District of the AME Church, which is the state of Texas.

Methodists Aid In Earthquake Relief Program

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Clothing, blankets, and medicine are being provided by the United Methodist Committee on Relief for people suffering in earthquake-devastated Armenia where at least 50,000 died, thousands more were injured and an estimated 500,000 are homeless.

UMCOR made an immediate grant of \$20,000. Norma Kehrig, director of the relief agency, said, "We'll be supporting the Church World Service-National Council of Churches effort," to be carried out through the Armenian Protestant and Orthodox churches.

Church World Service has issued a \$1 million appeal to member denominations. United Methodists who want to contribute through UMCOR may cite special advance number 250200-8, the first such designation set up for aid in the USSR.

To Share With You!

BY BISHOP MILDRED RUFFIN

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL. "For unto you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

Thank You: God. Every Christmas is but another rainbow flashing the promise, God, I know you are with us. May our hearts be attuned to the angelic chorus. Glory to God. Thank You, God, this is your love to the world that Your Son Jesus is born. May we not see Jesus just in a stable. May He be born in each heart on this great day and every day. May we be so moved to walk in Your will each day. In Your sweet name, amen.