

## Come Let's Think

BY EVA L. PERRY  
Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "A man is what he thinks about all day long." Marcus Aurelius said, "A man's life is what his thoughts make it." The Bible says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

Now I want to ask—What do you think about? What does your mind generally feast upon? Are you really saved? Do you have the mind of Christ? Do you have peace in life? Just do some serious thinking with me for a while. Physically, you are what you eat—but mentally, you are what you think.

God loves the whole human family, and has designed life to be lived according to a certain pattern. I am indeed grateful for such an informative book—the bible—to show us how to think. Since thinking is a part of life, then we must learn to think right. Right-thinking is a part of right-living. Right living is found only in the righteousness of God, which can be had only in and through Jesus Christ. The new birth demands a new way of thinking because "Old things are passed away, and behold, all things become new." The old evil mind is gone, and behold we have been brought into His new banqueting house to feast on His new thoughts. God's thoughts are as far above man's thoughts as the heaven is from the earth. I must have an elevated thought-life in order to really live holy—live sane—live clean.

This is why I refuse to watch unclean TV shows—I reject unwholesome literature, and I avoid sinful society. I don't want my thoughts contaminated. I trust in the Lord and He directs my path. It is His delight to keep me for Himself. It is my delight to entertain the mind of Christ. So we love each other—thus we walk together—my Lord and I!

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." We all have the same chance to prove our love to God. His love is shed abroad in our hearts when we are born again, therefore we are well able to prove that we love Him and that we love those that belong to Him. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report; and if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Read your Bible prayerfully and think!

## Methodists Hold Session, Future Agenda Planned

ATLANTA, Ga.—The recent annual training session for United Methodist Black Community Developers who link local churches with communities needing assistance took a reflective turn as 80 participants marked 20 years' ministry by honoring program founders and planning for the future.

A project of United Methodist's national mission arm, the General Board of Global Ministries, the program trains church personnel who work in places marked by both critical needs and potential for enhancing lives of persons plagued by joblessness, undereducation, lack of support networks and despair.

In addition to launching projects based on specific needs, the program also pushes black United Methodist churches to reclaim the historic role of undergirding persons in their communities.

The community developers program was established in 1968 to push the United Methodist Church to be a reconciling force in the face of racial tensions of the times. Trained developers have been instrumental in recruiting and helping laypersons organize to address concerns of black U.S. citizens in the areas of social, economic and political justice.

The 20th year was celebrated at an early December banquet and honored guests, including Illinois Area Bishop Woodie W. White, the only surviving founder of the project. Bishop White recalled the commitment of the two others who provided the vision, the late Rev. Reginald Riley of the Global Ministries staff, and the late Rev. George Outen, top executive for the denomination's social action unit, the Board of Church and Society.

## Court Orders Teens To Work For Black Church

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (AP)—Two white teenagers who burned a cross on a black family's lawn have been ordered to help rebuild a 135-year-old black church that was destroyed by fire in an unrelated attack.

J.B. James, whose lawn was burned, urged St. Clair County Judge Milton S. Wharton last Friday to issue a stern penalty.

"I didn't spend 30 years in the military to have five teenage boys burn a cross in my yard," James said. "Now the shoe is on the other foot. I know who my enemy is. I can deal with that."

In all, five white teenagers were charged in the Sept. 16 arson burning. Two of the boys, ages 16 and 18, were ordered to work 100 hours rebuilding the church at their own expense, which was destroyed by a fire in an unrelated case.

## Cape Fear Freewill Holds Annual Program

The Cape Fear A Freewill Baptist Annual Conference held its annual Post Session at the Piney Grove Freewill Baptist Church Dec. 13. The church is located near Fayetteville. The Rev. W.T. Ford is pastor of the church. Bishop M.N. McLean presided. He was assisted by Vice Bishop D.W. Elliott.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Elder Brenda E. McNeill. The sermon was delivered by Elder Steve Garney. The Conference Choir and the Young Adult Choir of Sampson Chapel Church furnished the music.

The recording secretary, Ms. Eva M. Minter, read minutes of a special meeting held recently at Coats Chapel Church. Bishop McLean brought recommendations which were received by the body.

Credentials were presented to the ministers, presidents and other conference officials. Deacon Emory Knox, chairman of the Board of Directors, briefed the members on the present state of the project headquarters building. The building is now being erected in the Riverside com-

## Raleigh NCNW Offers Founder's Day Event

The Raleigh Section of the National Council of Negro Women observed Founder's Day at the Hargett Street YWCA Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. Ms. Vanessa Roberson presided. Devotion was conducted by Ms. Elizabeth Jordan.

A Christmas poem was read by Ms. Brenda Sanders. History of the national and local councils were given by Ms. Shepard, president. The National Council of Negro Women was organized Dec. 4, 1905 by Ms. Mary McLeod Bethune. The Raleigh Section was organized Oct. 7, 1960. A Candlelight Ceremony was performed by the members.

Day care and child development

## Wiley Branton, Rights Lawyer, Dead At Age 65

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—Civil rights attorney Wiley Austin Branton, counselor to nine black students who were instrumental in the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957, has died of a heart attack. He was 65.

Branton died last Thursday at his home in Washington, said his son, Wiley Branton, Jr.

A native of Pine Bluff, Ark., Branton was among the first black graduates of the University of Arkansas School of Law. He was chief local counsel for the nine blacks who entered Central High School, the first time federal troops were used to enforce desegregation orders.

Branton became the first director of the Atlanta-based Voter Education Project in 1962 at the request of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The project signed up blacks to vote across the South.

In 1965, he became a special assistant to Attorney General Nicholas B. de Katzenbach, a post he retained under Katzenbach's successor, Ramsey Clark. He became executive director of the United Planning Organization, Washington's anti-poverty agency, two years later.

Branton was named the eighth dean of Howard University Law School in 1977. He returned to private practice in 1983, becoming a partner in the Washington office of Sidley and Austin, a Chicago-based firm.

Branton at one time was convicted of a misdemeanor for teaching the mechanics of voting to blacks. In the 1960s, he represented freedom riders in Mississippi and blacks involved in voter registration drives. At the time of his death, Branton was a member of the board of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Funeral services were held Monday at the National Cathedral in Washington, with a graveside service and burial in Pine Bluff on Wednesday.

for the second time in six months. A man who said he thought the church was a place of devil worship has been charged with arson in the October fire.

"I want you while you're working there to see what effect this type of behavior can have on innocent people," said Wharton, who is black. "You'll be working right alongside of them."

The judge also ordered the defendants to remain under court supervision for three years. Two other defendants, Jerry Tuck, 17, and Joseph Randall, 18, were charged as adults. They pleaded guilty to ethnic intimidation and were ordered to serve 90 days in jail and to perform community service.

Prosecuting was postponed for a 10th teenager who faces a burglary charge in an unrelated case.

munity near Erwin. Ms. Eunice Adams, financial secretary, made a report on the expenditures and the present financial status.

Elder Hardy Watkins, chairman of the Liaison Committee for Shaw University, made a plea for the members to attend the coming rally to be held at Dunn Chapel Feb. 3, 1989.

He stated that Dr. Tilbert Shaw, president of Shaw University, has been invited to speak. He is hoping for a large turnout that evening. The Union Aid Club will sponsor a seminar on prayer in the near future.

The Dunn District Union meeting will be held at Mount Olive Church, Wade, and the Raleigh District Union will be held at the St. Anna Church, Raleigh.

Remarks were made by Assistant Bishop D.W. Elliott. He urged his listeners to move forward in faith.

Bishop McLean thanked the conference for the past support and asked for continued cooperation.

Willow Springs Freewill Baptist Church, Clayton, will host the 1989 post session.

are the priorities of the national program. In recognition of this priority, the program was presented by the Nicest Nursery School and the Raleigh Nursery School's Daisy Troop No. 3505.

Selections by Nicest Nursery students were "Jingle Bell-Rhythm Band," "My Two Front Teeth" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Selections by the Raleigh Nursery School Daisy Troop No. 3505 were "Away in a Manger," "Christmas Lights," "Little Christmas Tree," "Silver Bells" and "Mary Had a Baby."

Closing remarks and announcements were made by Ms. D. Vanessa Roberson. Refreshments were served by the hostesses. Members present were Ms. Myrlyn Lytle, Hazel Williams, Mabel Jordan, Josephine Bryant, Mary Mallette, Myrtle Shepard, Dorothy Brinson, Lena Barksdale, Carrie Lundy, Andrea Mallette, Ms. Elizabeth Jordan and Brenda Sanders.

Directors and instructors of the nursery schools are Ms. Mary Mallette, Ms. Myrtle Shepard, Ms. Debra Alston and Ms. Carolyn Bethea.



**GOSPEL MESSAGE**—One of the newest and most spirited which combines vocal jazz, traditional gospel as performed by black quartets and a pinch of street-corner doo-woop in a cappella arrangements. Their music is a blend of the inspirational and the spiritual.

## Teaching About Religion Playing Important Position In Education

CHAPEL HILL—Parents may remember school Christmas plays, singing and classroom stories as part of holiday celebrations of their youth, but such classroom celebrations are conspicuously absent today, say University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researchers.

In an increasingly diverse society, challenges to the Constitutional doctrine of separation of church and state have come to include the way holidays with religious connotations, including Christmas, are discussed in the classroom.

The effect on children and society has been mixed, researchers are finding. The changing attitudes toward religion in the classroom reflect changing societal demographics, says Dr. Peter Bearman, assistant professor of sociology at UNC. As late as the 1950s, communities were uniform with people of similar religious values and orientation attending the same churches and schools, he says.

Community diversity led to recognition of individual religions, fewer community celebrations and more secular interpretations, especially in the classroom.

Dr. Warren G. Nord, director of the humanities program at UNC, says that children can lose when schools avoid discussing religion.

"I'm concerned about the trend of excluding religion from other subjects," Nord says. "Religion is an integral part of our culture and history, and a study of it would help students understand the world. But it's such a controversial subject that the schools stay away from it."

To avoid violation of federal laws about teaching religion in the classroom, teachers do not include religious aspects of subjects like art, music, history, biology and economics, Nord says.


An understanding of world events taught in history and social studies classes will be difficult for students without background information, he

says. "Why do we think communism is bad? In part, because they deny religious and personal freedoms? Why is abortion such a controversial topic? That's hard to answer without understanding religious beliefs about the soul and relationships between men and women. Why were entire wars fought? Over religious issues."

"If the point of the schools is to provide a well-rounded, liberal education, they should present all sides of an issue. Now you could go from kindergarten to an MBA without ever having to understand anything about religion."

Dr. Richard King, associate professor of education, agrees that schools should not ignore religion's role in the holidays.

"The schools shouldn't have to assume an obligation to teach about religion, even to the extent of incorporating it into Christmas, but teachers shouldn't shy away from it," King says.



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They represent, with that display,  
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With illustrations that portray  
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—Gloria Nowak

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