

# RELIGION TODAY



**MISSIONS DAY**—Dr. Kermit Degraffenreid recently spoke at Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church on the subject of "Am I Doing What the Lord Wants Me To Do?" The program began at 10:50 a.m. with Ms. Ethel Jeffreys at the organ and Ms. Hazel Reece at the piano as the ladies occupied the choir loft.

## Cokesbury Holds Annual Services

Cokesbury United Methodist Church, 3315 Poole Road, Raleigh, will conduct its homecoming service Sunday, Oct. 8, at 11 a.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Albert Shuler, associate director, North Carolina Council on Ministries. Dinner will be served.

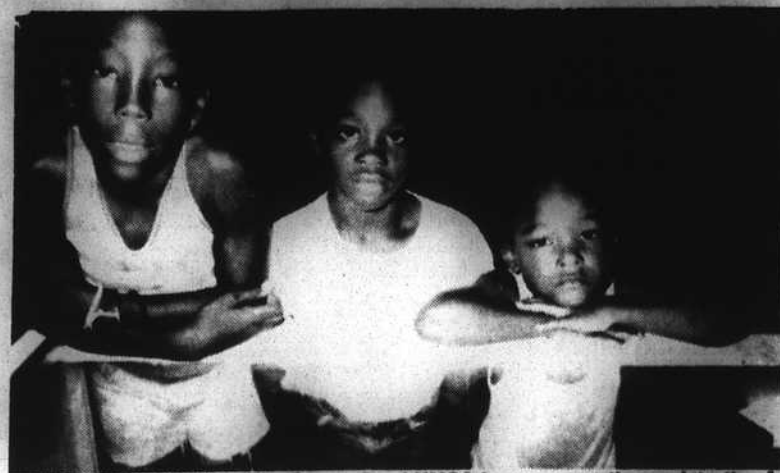
There will also be a pre-homecoming celebration at Cokesbury on Saturday, Oct. 7, beginning at 7 p.m. featuring several local choirs.

The public is invited. The Rev. Theodore V. Carter, Sr., is pastor.

## Fall Revival In Progress At Wake Chapel

Wake Chapel Baptist Church will be having its fall revival Oct. 2-6. The Rev. Eddie Porter of Sontag, Miss., will be the evangelist. Services start at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Come witness this great man of God. All are welcome.

Rev. G.A. Jones, Jr. is pastor.



**YOUTH PROGRAM**—The Garner Road YMCA is now accepting registration for Cub Scouts, ages 8-10. The program is designed to give children and their parents a chance to have fun and learn together. The child also learns some ideals of Boy Scouting such as reverence for God, love of family, personal development and more. Interested parents can contact Charles A. Haywood, YMCA youth director, at 833-1256, Ext. 15.

## Methodist Church Plans To Recruit Black Ministers

CHICAGO, Ill.—The United Methodist Church, in the next decade, must recruit and ordain more than 340 ministers in order to maintain its present level of clergy supply, and to fill gaps left by massive retirement of clergypersons in the 1990s, a recent study by the church's Division of Ordained Ministry has shown.

Members of the Black Concerns Committee of the denomination's General Commission on Religion and Race, meeting here Sept. 22-25, said they will urge church leaders—particularly bishops—to take the results of the study seriously. The findings were presented to them for discussion at the commission's biannual meeting.

The number of black clergy reported in this study was 1,476, although figures gathered by regional boards of ordained ministry in 1988 totaled 1,687, said the Rev. Kil Sang Yoon, division staffer.

The study indicated that about 23 percent or 340 black clerics will reach the age of 65 and be eligible to retire in the next 10 years. The average age of black clergypersons is 48.5 years, only slightly higher than the general age, 46.8 years.

The South Central Jurisdiction, whose clergypersons generally are older than in the four other regions in the United States and Puerto Rico (46.7), will see 30 percent of the black clergy reaching age 65 during this decade, the study showed. The North Central Jurisdiction has the lowest average age of black clergy, 45.5 years.

The division, a unit of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, used personal information records in the various episcopal offices across the 8.9 million-member denomination to obtain information for the study.

In response to the study data the Black Concerns Committee recommended that the colleges of bishops in each jurisdiction review a ministerial recruitment model designed by retired Bishop James S. Thomas, and submit a plan of action for recruitment in their respective areas to the region and race agency by August 1990.

Chairpersons of both Religion and Race work areas and of the boards of ordained ministry will receive copies of the churchwide study on black clergy supply and demand.

In other actions, the Black Concerns Committee is requesting local congregations across the church to pray on Christmas day in support of the new anti-drug initiative mounted by the denomination's international Council of Bishops.

## N.Y. City Council Seeking Racial Unity In "Day Of Reconciliation"

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—Calls for racial unity were sounded last week as the City Council held a "Day of Reconciliation" and announced a bill to establish a youth employment program in memory of Yusuf Hawkins, the black teenager killed in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.

Mayor Edward I. Koch said family upbringing was the key to countering racism in society.

He told about 250 people at a ceremony in the City Council Chamber at City Hall that government, religious groups and the social system play their own roles in fighting racism, but that "the key institution clearly is the family."

He said, "If the child grows up as a

bigot, it will be because the family did not offset all those outside influences."

Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, the Democratic mayoral nominee, said, "A city polarized is not in the best interests of the Afro-American community or any community."

City Council Majority Leader Peter Vallone said, "We are all trying to do God's work in one form or another" and the one way to remember the death of Hawkins is to bring alive a wish he had expressed in a school essay: to find a way to give needy youngsters jobs while they go to classes.

Vallone said a bill will be introduc-

ed in the council to set up a Youth Employment and Career Development program to match up students who want to work part-time with job-training and placement counseling.

"Students will be encouraged to complete their high school educations with school schedules designed to accommodate their work schedules," he said.

The Rev. Paul Moore, Episcopal bishop of New York, told the audience, "We must reach into the depths of our own beings for the beauty that is there," to fight racism and other prejudices.

But, he continued, "The federal government must be forced to return to our cities" with the billions of dollars needed to provide more housing, health and anti-poverty program to fight the root causes of racism.

Hazel Dukes, president of the state NAACP, said, "With David Dinkins as our next mayor, a kind and decent man, we will move this city to be the greatest city in the nation."

The Rev. Victor Yanitelli, representing Cardinal John J. O'Connor, Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, said people should follow the example of Koch, who is white, and Dinkins, who is black, and become reconciled as they did after their Democratic mayoral primary election battle which Dinkins won.

He said people should not leave the spirit of reconciliation in City Hall, but "Let us leave, as David Dinkins and Ed Koch did, shaking hands and helping one another."

## RALEIDOSCOPE

BY RUTH HEINER

Marriage customs and rituals differ greatly around the world. In many countries the traditions have evolved until the marriage has become a public function instead of a private ceremony. They have become part of a community celebration.

Some years ago in a nearby town they were going to celebrate a spring festival in a city square that had just been redecorated, and the gazebo was painted afresh. A newly engaged couple agreed to have their wedding there the day of the celebration, and all the advertising in the newspapers featured the lovely bride and groom and what they would be wearing from their sponsors.

A table of gifts was piled high from businesses, friends, and relatives, and it was a grand affair. A storybook dream came true in times that were tough for most newly-married couples. This couple would begin with all the things that most of their parents had taken years to accumulate.

It was like a fairytale come true, and it appeared that the whole town turned out for the gala affair.

Within a few months the couple had separated, and the dream bubble burst. True love, it seemed, was not the foundation for the marriage. Neither were all the lavish gifts and wishes of the whole town. That was the end of public marriages in the town.

Latter-Day Saints' beliefs about marriage and family are unique in many ways, and in sharp contrast to many practices of our day.

Mormons believe that marriage is a sacred covenant that requires love, commitment, and unity. It requires devotion that must overcome selfishness.

Marriage is ordained of God, and "Whoso forbiddeth to marry is not ordained of God," the Lord declared to Joseph Smith.

"Marriage is honorable. It is a plan of God. It is not a whim, a choice, a preference only, it is a must!" President Spencer W. Kimball, the late president of the LDS Church, said.

Choosing a marriage partner is a choice that can have eternal consequences. Marriage is sacred, and when entered into by two worthy partners, and sealed in the Holy Temple by those in authority, it is a covenant of commitment forever. Not for time only.

Elder Dean L. Larsen noted that some of the greatest tragedies which occur in marriage are because the decision was made largely on whimsical or emotional impulses. Every successful marriage requires much selfless effort and adjustment on the part of both partners. The more ideals and fundamental purposes in life are held in common by the husband and wife, the more likelihood of success in their marriage. Dif-

ferences can become a source of constant or recurring stress and contention.

President Ezra Taft Benson said, "A married couple have an obligation not only to each other, but to God. He has promised blessings to those who honor their covenant."

"Marriage presupposes total allegiance and total fidelity. Each spouse takes the partner with the understanding that he or she gives totally to the spouse with all the heart, strength, loyalty, honor and affection, with all dignity. Any divergence is sin: and sharing of the heart (with others) is transgression. As we should have 'an eye single to the glory of God,' so should we have an eye, an ear, a heart single to the marriage and the spouse and family," is a quote from Faith Precedes the Miracle.

Commitment, dedication and loyalty should not waver, but remain constant. Emotions fluctuate, but loyalty should not. The everyday occurrences which irritate couples should not make them run to a counselor, or the divorce court.

Life is full of difficulties, and not all of them happen to married couples. We should not give up or desert a relationship simply because problems occur. Couples which have committed to marriage—when difficulties arise—can focus on the difficulty, and not on each other in blame, and overcome many a problem.

As the Lord commanded Adam and Eve that they should be "one flesh," so should married couples be one, which also included emotional and spiritual oneness.

Marriage is a partnership, and both partners need to have the same input, and feeling of equality.

Elder James E. Faust suggested some questions that we could ask ourselves as we attempt to become "one flesh."

1. Am I able to think of the interest of my marriage and partner first before I think of my own desires?
2. How deep is my commitment to my companion, aside from any other interest?
3. Is he or she my best friend?
4. Do I have respect for the dignity of my partner as a person of worth and value?
5. Do we quarrel over money? Money itself seems neither to make a couple happy, nor the lack of it, necessarily, to make them unhappy, but money is often a symbol of selfishness.
6. Is there a spiritual bond between us?

Even those of us who have been married a long time can re-evaluate our commitment to our spouse, and realign our lives to make our homes a heaven [haven] on earth. To love, honor and cherish one another!

## Student Shines In Bout With Fatal Sickle Cell

BY HENRY DUVAL

Special To THE CAROLINIAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Unlike many college students, James B. Wyatt, a junior at Howard University, has more at stake in life right now than just producing good grades.

The 20-year-old political science student has returned to Howard this fall knowing that his studies may be interrupted by a medical "crisis."

Yet, in his bouts with a sometimes fatal blood disorder called sickle cell disease, Wyatt has surmounted adversity to become one of Howard's top undergraduates—a member of its Honors Program.

"He has been an inspiration to me," says Dr. Theodore Bremner, director of the program. "He is an individual who lives with hope."

Adds the professor, "He has shown me and others that sickle cell disease is not a death sentence."

In his struggle to combat the incurable disease, the bespectacled young black man, who appears healthy and younger than age 20, has managed to earn a 3.7 cumulative grade-point average on a 4.0 scale. "The only class I did poorly in was golf. I earned a C," he says in an interview.

Wyatt has returned to Howard after studying this past summer in England at Oxford University. He

## Mother Teresa

Calcutta, India—Mother Teresa's condition was improving earlier this week a hospital statement said.

"She slept well last night," the statement said. "She had no chest pains and her appetite is better today." It said her temperature was normal.

The Roman Catholic nun, 79 has had intermittent chest pains since suffering a heart attack Sept. 8, three days after she was admitted to Woodlands Nursing Home Hospital with a high fever.

had received a scholarship for a three-week study program in history, politics and architecture.

But just weeks earlier, in June, he had been hospitalized in his native Georgia, suffering from intense, excruciating pain in his joints. He had undergone a sickle cell crisis.

The genetic blood abnormality strikes about one of every 500 black Americans as well as Caucasians of Mediterranean origin and blacks from other global regions.

An estimated 50,000 persons in the United States suffer from this disease in which, as the result of an abnormal hemoglobin, the red blood cells have a sickled shape rather than the normal round shape.

"Although there is no cure for the disease, advances in early detection, patient care and management have led to longer life spans of the disease's victims," says Dr. Roland B. Scott, director of the Howard University Center for Sickle Cell Disease.

The mild-mannered, soft-spoken Wyatt says that the disease was diagnosed when he was about three years old. He had been riding in his father's car when, suddenly, he passed out.

Later, at the hospital, he and his parents discovered that he had undergone a sickle cell crisis, and was given a blood transfusion. Since then, Wyatt has had some eight to nine blood transfusions.

He notes that both his mother and father carry the sickle cell trait. If he had inherited the gene from only one parent, Wyatt would have also had the sickle cell trait, which usually presents no medical problem.

Other members in Wyatt's family either have the trait or the disease as well. He says he had an uncle with sickle cell anemia who died six years ago in his early 40s.

"Death is not something that I worry about," he emphasizes. "It's only by God's will that I've been able to survive, and that I'm able to have the life I do."

Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh 27605-6501, phone 828-6501 or 1-271-5959.

In South Carolina, checks to support the ecumenical effort in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties should be sent to Tri-County Interfaith Disaster Recovery Ministry, c/o St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1150 E. Montague Ave., North Charleston, S.C. 29418, phones (803) 747-0479 or 744-6994.

Persons or churches wanting to contribute to the S.C. ecumenical relief effort in other parts of South Carolina should call the CWS consultant, Bill Nix, at (803) 786-7115.

Checks sent to Interfaith Disaster Recovery Committees in both North and South Carolina will be used to help Hurricane Hugo's victims who have slipped through the cracks of American Red Cross, Salvation Army, or state and federal government emergency relief. The CWS consultant, Rev. Bill Nix of Venice, Fla., is working closely with the American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency's early emergency efforts in South Carolina. The Interfaith Recovery Committees in both Carolinas will continue meeting the unmet needs of Hugo's victims long after the American Red Cross' and FEMA's emergency efforts are concluded.

The regional CWS office in Durham has learned that many of the emergency hurricane relief needs of small family farmers in isolated rural areas of the Carolinas have not received priority attention from the media or from the emergency teams working mostly in the urban areas. These small family farmers, already suffering financially from years of rural crisis, are not able to absorb the additional financial setbacks caused by Hugo's recent destruction of their generators, barns, homes, fences, crops and livestock. They need help desperately. Many of the dairy farmers without electricity to power their fences, milking machines, refrigerators are losing their dairy cows to disease and broken fences. Poultry and pig farmers are also losing the value of their livestock at an accelerated pace due to long power outages.

Checks to help small family farmers in both Carolinas in this most current rural crisis can be sent to Rural Advancement Fund/Farm Aid, P.O. Box 1209, Pittsboro 27312, phone 1-542-5292 or (803) 297-8562.



**MEDICAL CRISIS**—James Wyatt, a political science junior at Howard University, begins his school year knowing that his studies may be interrupted by a medical "crisis." In his struggle to combat sickle-cell disease, the 20-year-old is one of Howard's top undergraduates—a member of its Honors Program. (Photo by Harlow Little)

## WORD OF GOD

Worship the Lord!

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

1 Chronicles 16:29