

GABBING ABOUT TOWN

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THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEEDS

A little more kindness and a little less greed.
A little more giving and a little less need.
A little more smiles and a little less frowns.
A little less kicking when a man is down.
A little more "We" and a little less "I."
A little more laughs than a little less cry.
A little more flowers in the pathway of life.
And fewer in graves at the end of life.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday greetings are extended to Ms. Mary Winston of South Person Street who will be celebrating a birthday on Jan. 5. May God ever bless and keep you in His care. Please have a happy birthday.

Happy birthday to Ms. Teresa M. Kearney of 306 Plaza Drive, who will also be celebrating a birthday on Jan. 6. May this one be as happy as the first ones. Please have a happy birthday.

BRO. JAMES THOMAS'

GOSPEL WORLD



The Capitol City Five will sing Sunday at 7 p.m. at Mt. Olive Holiness Church. Rev. Celia Hayes Thompson is pastor, with the New Horizon Singers.

The Oppers, a Southern Gospel music family quartet, will appear in concert Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church on Hwy. 56 E out of Creedmoor.

Rev. A.E. Matthews, Jr. of Garner will render service Sunday at 11 a.m. at St. Amanda Baptist Church.

Pastor Talley and the United Gospel Singers will render service Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Gethsemane True-Vine Church on Howard Thomas' Joy Night service.

The Cleveland Community Chorus will sponsor an old Christmas musical program Saturday at 6 p.m. at Sanders Grove Church.

THE HAYWOODS HAVE DONE IT AGAIN

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Haywood, Jr. of 1808 Charles St. entertained members of the family and friends at dinner on Christmas night at 6 p.m. It was a gala affair and it seems that the adults enjoyed the toys as well as the children.

Those on hand to enjoy this occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haywood, III, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Haywood, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Jones and of course the grandchildren, Master Carlton Haywood and Joyce Chycole Haywood. The food consisted of turnip greens, string beans, green butter beans, potato salad, grated potato pudding, tossed salad, pickles, ham, both fried and baked chicken, soda and cake, both pineapple and chocolate, as well as German chocolate.

NOTE:

As the New Year approaches, remember to write or to call. We'll be listening. Happy New Year to all of you and a prosperous New Year.

DIVINE HOLY CHURCH OF GOD, INC.

Sunday School for the combined union began Dec. 30, 1990 at 10 a.m. with Superintendent Olive Turner in charge. Classes assembled after devotion. The title of the lesson was "Servants in God's Vineyard," Matthew 20:1-16.

A delegate from each church opened devotion in unison for the 11 a.m. service. Pastor Mamie Harrison presided over the service. Music was rendered by the VLP Mass Choir. In-

vacation was given by Pastor Frances Wilson. Scripture was read by Eldress Rhoda Dublin from Psalms 27:1-10. The congregation was led by Pastor Mamie Harrison in the Affirmation of Faith.

Visitors were welcomed by Renee Wiggins, then announcements were given. Prayer for the sick and shut-in was given by Pastor Frances Wilson of Durham. Tithes and offerings were lifted by the delegates. Evangelist Mary Alston of Whitaker introduced the morning speaker, Bishop Mary S.

Batchelor, bishop and founder of Bright Hope Divine Holy Church of God, Inc., Raleigh.

The message was delivered from Matthew 18:1-6. The speaker stated that we must be born again. We must be as little children, loving and humble. Others should be able to see a different person after we accept Christ. When we're born again, we're saying goodbye to the world. This means we no longer do those things that we loved so much. We must be converted, sanctified, and filled with God's

Spirit. It's the Spirit of God that makes us do right when we want to do wrong.

The service was blessed during altar call.
Benediction ended the service.
Reporter is Rebecca LaSane.

OAK CITY BAPTIST

Sunday School was opened at 9:45 a.m. by Superintendent James McFadden. Classes devoted time to the discussion of the lesson, "Is God Fair?" taken from Matthew 19:27-20:16. A verse to remember was Matthew 20:16.

Morning worship began at 11 a.m. with Cynthia Sanders as the organ playing the prelude. The Youth Choir rendered the music with Ms. Gillian Fields at the piano. The call to worship was done by the Rev. Patrice Fields. The responsive reading, "A Psalm of Trust," was led by Conway Davenport. The Children's Hour was titled "Talents for Self," and led by Ms. Veronica Smith. The announcements and recognition of visitors were done by Ms. Cassandra Coffield. All visitors were recognized.

On the sick list are Ms. Ora Stringfellow, Ms. Allie Smalls, Ms. Genobia Sherrill, Ms. Lillian Pope, Fred Coffield, Deacon Charles Tucker and Wilbert Pope. Remember to pray for the sick and suffering everywhere.

Church conference will be held Friday, Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m. The installation and fellowship service will be held Jan. 20 at 3 p.m. Rev. Joseph C. Lovelace will be the installation speaker.

The Lord's tithes and offerings were received. Offertory prayer was offered by Trustee Ransom Fort. The divine reading was taken by Rev. Fields from John 14:1-11. The morning prayer was offered by Deacon Clarence Smalls.

Rev. William T. Newkirk took his sermon from John 14:3 on the subject, "The Greatest Thing That Can Happen to the World."

The invitation to Christian discipleship was extended and the altar call was made.

Church was dismissed by the pastor.

RUSH METROPOLITAN AME ZION Church School began at 9:30 a.m. with the superintendent, Jesse Degraffenreid, in charge and conducting the devotional period while all classes were assembled. At the close of the devotions, the classes moved to their places for the lesson study periods. Reassembling in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m., they listened to a general review of the lesson by the superintendent. Class reports and the awarding of banners followed. With the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and the repeating of the Church School mizpah, this phase of worship ended.

At 10:55 a.m., the preludes began with Ms. Ethel Jeffreys on the organ. The processional began with members of the Male Chorus singing "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart." As they paused around the altar, the call to worship, scripture and song of praise were given.

The first hymn of preparation was "My Times Are In Thy Hands." The responsive reading followed. The Gloria Patri was next. Scripture lesson was then read by Rev. Vann McClain from John 1. The prayer of inspiration was offered by Rev. Lee Wyatt King. The second song of praise was "A Charge to Keep I Have." The members then reaffirmed their faith in the Apostles' Creed. Announcements were made by Ms. Gloria Richburgh and the pastor, Rev. Charles E. Willie, III.

The ministry of kindness and altar call followed, as the Male Chorus sang "He Leadeth Me." Selection by the Male Chorus of "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart" and "Bound for Higher Ground" set the tone for the morning service.

The pastor delivered the morning message, having chosen his discourse from Isaiah 21:11-12 on the subject, "Follow the Christ—There is a Darkness All Around." Watchmen tell us of the night. The feeling of His power makes us know that He is always standing by.

As the invitation to Christian discipleship was extended, the Male Chorus sang "A Charge to Keep I Have." The church can truthfully boast of several accessions each Sunday, for which they are very happy. Visitors were welcomed by the pastor. Benediction was by Rev. Lee Wyatt King, followed by the recessional and adjournment.

At 4 p.m., a special baptismal service was held with Bishop John H. Miller, Sr. in charge. There were three infants who were the grandchildren of Rev. and Mrs. F.L. Rush. At the close of the service, each one retired to the fellowship hall where refreshments were served. Soloist for the occasion was James McCall, who rendered several selections, including "How Great Thou Art," "I Trust in God," and "To God Be the Glory."

The service was witnessed by several members and relatives of the family.

Church reporter is Ms. Annie H. Thorpe.

Come To Church



PRESENTING PLAQUE—The Reverend David L. Morrison, Dr., pastor of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, presents a plaque to Mrs. Shirley Jones-Sheares of Clayton for her distinguished services to church and community. Mrs. Sheares is presently the president of the Western North Carolina Women's Missionary Society, which reaches from Asheville, N.C. to Laurinburg.

Sheares Honored For Outstanding Role Modeling For Young Women

Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Durham, recently held its Women's Day celebration. The speaker for this occasion was Ms. Shirley Jones-Sheares of Clayton.

During the worship hour, the pastor, Rev. David L. Morrison, Sr., made a surprise presentation to Ms. Sheares. He presented her with a plaque and stated, "Ms. Sheares is a role model for any young woman and I am proud to say that she has been a guest

speaker at every church that I have pastored, except one. This honor is being given to Ms. Sheares for years of dedicated service as a missionary, minister's wife, and a devoted mother."

Ms. Sheares is currently president of the Western North Carolina Women's Missionary Society, which reaches from Asheville to Laurinburg. She is also the director of Raleigh's first and only day shelter

for the homeless.

Ms. Sheares is the widow of Dr. James N. Sheares and she is the mother of two sons and two daughters, Dr. Beverly J. Sheares, a pediatrician at Harlem Hospital, N.Y.; Ms. Valerie Sheares, a graduate student in chemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill; James N. Sheares, II, a lab technician, Cutter Laboratories; and Bryan Scott, a 10th grader at Cardinal Gibbons in Raleigh.

Rediscovering The Black And African Identity Of Nations

CHICAGO, Ill.—When asked, "Who are some black people mentioned in the Bible?" a typical audience will name probably not more than five to 10 persons, several of whom will be identified as "slaves." This would not be the response having read two new books by Rev. Walter Arthur McCray who takes exception to what he calls a persistent and pervasive belief that there were few, if any, blacks in the Bible.

"What people should be asking," he says, "is where are the whites in the Bible?"

Published by Black Light Fellowship (Chicago, Ill.), the books are titled "The Black Presence in the Bible: Discovering the Black and African Identity of Biblical Persons and Nations" (teacher's guide) and its companion volume "The Black Presence in the Bible and the Table of

Nations (Genesis 10:1-32): With Emphasis on the Hamitic Genealogical Line from a Black Perspective."

The aim of these enlightening and provocative books is to guide the reader into discovering, understanding and learning to teach the pervasive presence of black peoples throughout the Bible and its world. This pervasive biblical black presence is explicit, implicit, and at times even presumed. It includes numerous strong and notable men and women such as Nimrod, Hagar, Moses, and the Queen of Sheba. Not to be neglected are many great and mighty nations including the Hamites, Cushites, Sumerian "Blackheads", the ancient Egyptians, Putes, Canaanites, Phoenicians, and the Hittites. A special section highlights the blackness of the biblical Hebrew-Israelite-Judahite-Jewish community and culminates by establishing the black identity of the Messiah Himself—Jesus Christ—a blackness which was "ethnological, ancestral... and probably very dark and colorful!"

McCray approaches the Bible as an accurate and reliable historical, ethnological and geographical record of black peoples in the ancient world. In the Teacher's Guide he prepares the foundation by showing how to use biblical and extra-biblical sources for information about the Bible world; by highlighting "black" as a term of ancient ethnological self-identification; and by providing a threefold definition of "blackness" which includes actual skin color, "Negroid" characteristics, and so-called "black blood." He then shows the reader how to identify black people through both their names and ancestors, and proceeds to identify these persons and nations topically and chronologically throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

Well worth reading is McCray's extended geographical treatment on the presence of ancient Cushite blacks in Asia and Africa—all over the biblical world. It effectively shatters the presumption and erroneous image of a majority white world in which biblical personalities lived and moved, and through whom the Bible came. The presence of black peoples in the world of the Bible was pervasive, and their experience (far more than the experience of any other people) contextualized and nur-

tured the redemptive movement of God in biblical times, especially in the Old Testament.

In his second book McCray explores in depth Genesis chapter 10, verses 1-32, the Bible's unique historiographic literary document called the "Table of Nations." The Table of Nations deals with the identification, identity, and interrelationships of the Cushites, Egyptians, Putes, and Canaanites—great black persons and nations of antiquity, geographically spanning from south within Africa to north into southwest Asia and the eastern Mediterranean. The author gives a penetrating analysis of the table's background, its form and structure as an ancient genealogy, and its application to the biblical descendants of Ham. The value of this special passage of Scripture is made evident by the fact that it has no parallel among ancient literature either inside or outside the Bible. It is no wonder that for hundreds of years it was chiefly the names in this one Bible passage which scholars studied to learn ancient history.

Legion Post Celebrates Christmas

On Sunday, Dec. 23, 1990, some members of the Charles T. Norwood Post of the American Legion assembled and worshipped at the Union Baptist Church in North Raleigh in which its assistant chaplain, Rev. Leonard Williams, is the pastor. They listened to one hour of Christmas pageantry and music by the young people of the church.

The mistress of ceremonies was Ms. Michelle Jones, who directed all the activities of the cast in portraying the birth of the Messiah. The participants were Cassandra Brewer, Russ Cannon, Gerald Jones, Jr., Pierre Williams, Tiffany Alford, Derrick Partridge, Dannel Tiffany, Tamesha Jones, Tony Brewer, Ikeya Latoya and Vivion.

This religious service ended with congratulatory remarks in behalf of the past by Commander Julius R. Hayward in which he presented several large bags of food and other items to some of the neighborhood residents.

DEATHS

ALVIS B. RAY

Funeral services for the late Alvis B. Ray, 75, a retired RCA Victor Corp. employee, of 6909 Park Place, Raleigh, were held Saturday, Dec. 29, 1990 at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, Dr. W.B. Lewis officiated. Burial followed in the New Providence Cemetery in Fuquay-Varina.

Surviving are wife, Adele Ray; sons, Ernest Ray, Alvin Ray and Thomas Ray; daughter, Joyce Ray; sisters, Ruth Hester, Elizabeth Kersey, Virginia Thomas; brother, Arthur Ray; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were by Haywood Funeral Home.

MS. MARTHA THOMAS

Funeral services for the late Ms. Martha Yates Thomas, of 411 Loope Road, Garner, were held Friday at 2 p.m. at Good Samaritan Baptist Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Surviving are daughters, Flossie Marshall and Annie Williams, both of Raleigh; Gladys Bumpers of Garner; Shirley Kaye of Cary; sons, Arthur, Jr., Charlie W., Robert E. and Garfield Thomas, all of Raleigh, Troy R. and William, both of Garner, Leon R. Thomas of Newport News, Va.; brother, Elmo Yates of Garner; 30 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

MS. NELLIE P. EDWARDS

Funeral services for the late Ms. Nellie P. Edwards, of 201 Purvis St., Garner, were held Wednesday, Dec. 26, 1990, at the Wake Baptist Grove Church. Burial followed in the Raleigh National Cemetery.

Surviving are sisters, Rosa B. Phillips, Mary E. Phillips and Bertha P. Whitaker, all of Garner; nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were by Haywood Funeral Home.

JOHN T. MORGAN

Funeral services for the late John T. Morgan, of 420 Colleton Road, were held Thursday, Dec. 27, 1990, at the Lea Funeral Home Chapel. Burial

followed in the Carolina Biblical Gardens.

Surviving are wife, Geraldine Morgan of Raleigh; daughter, Eveck Morgan of Atlanta, Ga.; sons, Robert Carpenter and Christopher Morgan, both of Raleigh; mother, Maddie Morgan of Raleigh; sisters, Mary Morgan and Alma Moore, both of Raleigh; brothers, Rev. George Morgan of Greensboro, Rev. Marvin Morgan and Sylvester Morgan, both of Atlanta, Ga., Rev. Donald Morgan, William Morgan and Ernest Morgan, all of Raleigh; and five grandchildren.

Arrangements were by Lea Funeral Home.

LOOK AND LIVE!

BY J.A. HEMBY
THIS IS THE YEAR

This year of 1991 is credited to us by God. This 365 days is divided into hours, minutes, and seconds. Each of those days and each of those moments come to us from God. This day in which we are living and this year are created by God.

Psalms 118:24 tells us, "This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" This day and this year is a gift to us from God, and therefore, time is under His control.

As we anticipate the gifts of this New Year, we can feel confidence that God will guide us to seek creative solutions to the challenges and problems we are facing.

This is the year to seek and know God personally and when we seek and know God personally, something happens, the burden of sin and guilt is lifted and removed.

This is the year to start out fresh. Don't carry the hate, resentment, hostility, hurts, worry of the past into 1991. Get rid of the junk! Don't go into this New Year burdened with old, negative emotions.

This is the year to be sober-minded. If your life is one with painful episodes of drug abuse, dope fiend, burdened down and can't turn around, God can lift that addiction, that frustration of the past year and start the New Year afresh.

This is the year to stop complaining about "another day, another dollar." This is the year to stop "living for the weekend." Psalms 118:24 says, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Be glad spiritually. Rejoice and be glad, use each day to its fullest. Use each day for God's good and make it count for your life and eternity.

This is the year for victory. A year for another opportunity to live life to the fullest. A year of being successful, for enthusiasm, for excellence, for ideas and dreams to come alive, knowing that God's possibilities are bigger than we can ever imagine. Be alert to the ideas and dreams that God is going to give you this new year. Count your blessings and stop counting other folks' blessings. Commit your way to the Lord this New Year and it will be to you a very successful year.



REV. HEMBY