

# church

## Education Fund Offering Grants To Preserve Black Culture, Tradition

ATLANTA (AP)— In jail cells and besieged meeting halls, the low, slow tones of the somber anthem stirred hearts and stiffened resolves: "We shall overcome; We shall overcome; We shall overcome—someday. Oh deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday." Today, long after the civil rights era, the song that helped change lives is still doing so through a \$100,000 fund built on royalties.

The fund offers grants of up to \$1,000 for groups preserving black culture, especially music, in the

South. For most of the 15 years of the Georgia Sea Islands Festival, for example, it has made a grant to pay for the appearances of traditional black musicians, including so-called "shouters."

"We rely on it," said Frankie Sullivan Quimby, a leader of the annual event preserving the heritage of slaves and their descendants.

The fund is administered by Tennessee's Highlander Research and Education Center, a training school for social activists where "We Shall Overcome" was popularized. The fund is administered by

Tennessee's Highlander Research and Education Center, a training school for social activists where "We Shall Overcome" was popularized. At the school's workshops, group singing in the evenings followed group discussions in the day.

At one sing-along in 1947, students who were members of the Food, Tobacco and Agriculture Workers Union offered "We Shall Overcome," which had been sung on their picket lines by black members. Though there's some debate over its roots, many historians trace the song to a gospel hymn, "I'll Be All Right" by

C.A. Tindley. Folk singer Pete Seeger often gets credit for spreading "We Shall Overcome" nationally. But, in an interview, he credited Highlander's late music director Zilphia Horton and a musician and author at the school, Guy Carawan.

Seeger remembered being at a New York fundraising party when Zilphia Horton came up.

"Have you heard this wonderful new song I've got?" she said excitedly. Recollecting, he began to sing it:

"We will overcome..."

Seeger printed it in the publication "People's Song" in 1948 and took it to concerts, later changing "will" to "shall."

## KALEIDOSCOPE

It is sure that, come what may, will get God's pay!

"You are indeed charitable when you give, and while giving turn your face away so that you may not see the shyness of the receiver. (Gibran)

My heart ached when I read Barbara Reynolds column in the USA International Edition of June 13, while on the airplane coming back from Russia. The article is worth a re-write for the material is not in some of the local papers.

"Behind closed doors in the nation's capital, children as young as 7 are being forced into prostitution, often by their own parents to pay for drugs or household rent.

Numerous adults are participating in these unthinkable acts, some of whom are infecting kids with the deadly AIDS virus.

Far too many lives are destroyed by age 10 says Dr. Jan Hutchinson, a medical doctor of child and youth services for D. C.'s Commission on Mental Health.

Hutchinson, a 43-year-old psychiatric pediatrician tries to piece young lives together after they are wrecked by adults. She agonizes over why adults—parents, neighbors, teachers, doctors, police, media, and governments—aren't fighting harder to save disposable kids, a growing phenomenon across the USA.

Nationally, there are about 3 million reported cases of child abuse yearly. They range from an Iowa mother starving her invalid 5-year-old son to death to a Detroit woman abandoning her child on a busy freeway.

While L.A. rioters exploded publicly on the streets, family mini-riots explode quietly behind the closed doors of over-crowded flats seething with joblessness, drugs, and spiritual poverty.

Out of public sight and mind, depression and hopelessness turn to rage. Parents strike out and abuse their children. Many with values as weak as those of politicians who ignore the problem, allow their children to be prostituted or killed.

Two infants in Washington were beaten to death by adults before their second birthdays this week. About 1,500 more of the city's children will be beaten raped, burned or prostituted before the year is out.

Not one presidential candidate is campaigning on rescuing abused, abandoned, homeless kids from their

living hells, which is a main reason they are being turned out.

Things have deteriorated to the point that jail is sometimes viewed as a graduation present up from the streets. Free food and a place free of drive-by shootings.

Solutions must be found. Orphanages must be considered because 2.8 million children struggle to survive in zero-parent households. Drug treatment must be increased for adults, and mental health services must be provided for the kids, who are suffering Vietnam War-like traumas.

Kids can't wait for political solutions and broken foster-care safety nets to catch them. Every responsible adult, whether single or married, must find ways to become a substitute parent.

When adults fail to rescue a throwaway child, that child often flunks out of life."

Dr. Hutchinson's article addressed a part America that is more than depressing. How tragic that we want to help save the whole world, when throw-away kids are everywhere. What has happened in our own country to let this abuse exist?

Hutchinson is writing about cruel physical existence, and not even addressing the spiritual emptiness in these children's lives! It is heart breaking! No, all men (or women) are not born or created equal, and all need a fair chance at life.

The one thing that I feel sure about is that these children are loved by a Heavenly Father. He surely knows who is mistreating and abusing these children, and His ways are just. God does not interfere with men's free agency, but he will at some point and time gather those children to Him and address their wrongs to those who were responsible. Eternity is a long time to pay for such crimes against children!

Children are an inheritance from the Lord. "It is not the will of the father that any of these should perish." In the Book of Mormon (Mosiah) 4:14, the Lord tells his people, "And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked..." Children are a gift from God and precious in His sight. Oh that each child could be protected from those who serve the devil!

"This is sure that come what may, who does God's work will get God's pay."



CONTINUOUS SUPPORT—Yvonne L. Finney, Director, NAACP Youth and College Division, second from right, presents an award to Pepsi-Cola Company for its "continuous support" of the division's popular Roy Wilkins Scholarship Luncheon during the Association's recent 83rd Annual Convention in Nashville, TN. Pepsi-Cola executives accepting the award are, from left, Maurice Cox, Vice President, Corporate Development and Diversity, Betty Shine, Supervisor, Media Services and Sam Hall, Manager, Public Relations. Pepsi-Cola recently presented the NAACP Youth and College Division with 250 videotapes of the Emmy Award winning motion picture, "Separate But Equal," that starred Sidney Poitier, to encourage discussions in commemoration of the 38th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in Public Schools.

### THE SALVATION ARMY

**Group Targets Needs of Youth**

(NU) - The horrors of the Victorian orphanage, spelled out so vividly by 19th-century author Charles Dickens, also gave Salvation Army founder William Booth pause as he first considered opening permanent homes for children.

Need prevailed, as it still does, and Booth's fledgling organization courageously opened its first strictly regulated nurseries, children's homes and maternity homes in England in the 1880s.

Today, The Salvation Army maintains scores of youth-oriented programs, focusing on child development as well as social services.

There is more developmental help through camps and youth clubs, community centers with well-defined programs and services, and scouting organizations. Salvation Army sponsors 200 scout groups chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, for instance, and Guide and Sunbeam programs offer school-aged girls guidance in citizenship, personal and spiritual values.

The Salvation Army also maintains residential care programs designed to treat social, emotional, mental, or behavioral problems, and foster normal development and social functioning in children. At other Salvation Army centers, young people can find emergency or short term help.

On any given day in the United States, The Salvation Army has reported, more than 5,000 children and youth are under its care and supervision.

Carawan, meanwhile, taught it to civil rights leaders who streamed through Highlander; they taught their followers.

As the song spread with the burgeoning movement, Seeger, Carwan and an arranger, Frank Hamilton, took out the original copyright, adding the name of Mrs. Horton, who had died; all royalties were to go to a special non-profit fund supporting black culture.

"Like a damn fool," Seeger said, he did not at first ask himself, "What are four white people's names doing on this song?" The copyright since has been amended to include members of the tobacco workers union and the civil rights movement.

A copyright may be academic for a song that, Seeger once said, "is never sung exactly the same way twice."

"We shall live in peace..."

"We'll walk hand in hand..."

"We shall all be free..."

"It has verses like 'We are not afraid,' that people sang in very dangerous situations," Carawan said. "It has, I don't know, a blind hope."

And though it has been boomed out by 10,000-voice masses and harmonized on intricately by quartets, he suggested what may be the most powerful rendition of all: "Just one person singing it in a cell."

### Church To Hear Choir At Revival

Faith Missionary Baptist Church will hold its annual revival the week of August 17-21. The Rev. William H. Height, pastor of First Baptist Church in Smithfield will be the speaker for the week.

Praise service will begin nightly at 7:00 p.m. Inspirational singing will be at 8 p.m. and worship service will begin at 8:15 p.m.

Choirs rendering music for the week are as follows: Monday, The Combined Choirs of First Baptist Church, Smithfield; Tuesday, The J.P. Rogers Gospel Choir of Johnston Piney Grove, Clayton; Wednesday, The Youth Choir of Faith Missionary Baptist Church; Thursday, The Everready Gospel Choir, Oak City Baptist Church, Raleigh; and Friday, The Mass Choir of Faith Missionary Baptist Church.

Pastor Ervis E. Allen, Jr. and the church family invite the public to worship with them in these services. The church is located at 908 Suffolk Blvd.

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### Church Plans Boycott Of Japanese Products

DETROIT (AP) — A national black Baptist organization is considering urging its members to boycott Japanese products in retaliation for alleged racial slurs by Japanese leaders.

Delegates to the Progressive National Baptist Convention voyaged to send the issue to its civil rights committee, said the Rev. Tyrone Pitts, general secretary of the organization.

"We're calling on all our constituents to not purchase anything that is clearly a Japanese product," said the Rev. Calvin Butts of New York, resolutions committee chairman of the 2.5 million-member religious group.

Pitts said the boycott proposal wouldn't be taken up again until January at the earliest.

Black Americans have accused Japanese companies of discrimination in hiring workers for their U. S. plants. They also have been angered by remarks such as that from a Japanese Cabinet minister, who said in 1990 that black Americans "ruin the atmosphere" when they move into white neighborhoods.

Japan's then-prime minister later called the comment inappropriate.

More recently, another Japanese official called American workers lazy. The boycott represents a response on behalf of all Americans, Butts said.

"Blacks are concerned about what the Japanese say about us, but also what they've said about all of us as Americans," he said.

The boycott also is important to blacks "because unemployment in the American auto industry, in particular, impacts black people heavily," Butts said.

Walter Huiwenga, president of the American International Automobile Dealers Association said recently he couldn't speak for Japanese companies' hiring practices. But he criticized the proposed boycott in a statement read by a spokesman.

"We find it curious that these people would stereotype a race of people, based on the actions of a few," Huiwenga said. "This Baptist Convention should know better than anyone else that this is a very dangerous precedent to be setting."

Calls to Butts and the Rev. Charles Adams of Detroit, president of the Baptist organization, weren't immediately returned last week.

### Drive Safely

On any given day in the United States, The Salvation Army has reported, more than 5,000 children and youth are under its care and supervision.

## TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS L. STAM, PRES. BIBLE SOCIETY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60638

**"UNDERSTANDEST THOU WHAT THOU READEST?"**

This was the question Philip asked of the Ethiopian prince as he sat reading from Isaiah's prophecy (Acts 8:30), and it is a question which we should continually keep asking ourselves as we read the holy Scriptures.

There are always those among God's people who do not much care whether or not they understand what they read, if only it warms their hearts! To them the Bible is little more than a fetish. Taking only those Scriptures which appeal to them, and leaving the rest, they actually feel themselves quite spiritual and often talk about believing the Bible whether they understand it or not!

But such "spirituality" is far from genuine, and such "faith" is blind and superstitious at best.

While it is true that the Bible teaches many truths which we believe, although they are beyond our comprehension (such as its opening verse), yet how can we believe what the Bible says unless we understand what it says? God would have us understand what we read and believe it intelligently. Indeed, true faith will want to know and understand more and more of God's Word. One who does not care whether or not he understands what God has said is not interested in knowing what God has said at all. His faith is based on his own will rather than on God's Word, for regardless of the meaning of Scripture, he will take any passage that suits his fancy and use it as he wishes.

How great an emphasis God Himself puts upon the importance of understanding His Word! On one occasion, when our Lord saw the multitudes, He "was moved with compassion toward them because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and He began to teach them many things" (Mark 6:34).

And now that the secret of God's great plan has been made known, how much more reason there is to study the Scriptures with a view to understanding them! How Paul, by the Spirit, emphasizes this as he writes of his prayers for the saints: "THAT the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling..." (Eph. 1:17,18).



VISITING DR. KING'S MEMORIAL—Visitors and residents keep the dream alive through visits to Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Gardens on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Southeast Raleigh. The wife of the slain leader, Coretta Scott King delivering an address at the annual National Youth Assembly at the Raleigh Civic Center, urged young people to deal with life's challenges through non-violent means, including education and hard work. (Photo by Cash Michaels)

The first Bible society in the U.S. was formed in Philadelphia on Dec. 12, 1808.