The Soul Fire of the Gospel Singers resounds throughout Baltimore

By ANGIE THORNTON

Gospel music today has been given a brand new meaning. However, it has the feeling that can't be removed. Noone is actually trained to sing gospel. It comes from the heart.

In this column an attempt will be made to reveal to some and add to others knowledge about people who sing this spirited music and also program announcements and information to acquaint you with the "Soul Fire" of Gospel Music.

One of the many fine gospel choirs in Baltimore is the Baltimore Fellowship Choir. The Fellowship Choir has been in existence for five and a half years.

They have already recorded an album on the Sentry label and of course they have appeared on many television programs and recently have recorded a program for Channel 67 to be shown in August.

The 46 voices of the choir believe in dignity as their motto and truly conduct themselves in this way.

The idea which created the Fellowship Choir was thought of by Miss Connie Coleman and the director of the choir James Peterson.

Out of the choir itself comes two other groups, the Victory Specials and the Brothers of Fellowship.

The business for the choir is handled by the director and an Executive board.

One of the very important persons in any type of choir is of course, the director.

The young dedicated man, James Peterson, is a very capable director.

He is a graduate of Southern High School and has studied the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

He is planning on furthering his education at Howard University, where he will be a music education major.

Mr. Peterson is a member of the First Mount Olive Freewill Baptist Church and also a member of the First Olive Freewill Young Adult Recording Choir.

He is minister of music at Trinity Baptist Church, has directed the Youth Choir at the Civic Center for the benefit of the Baptist Aged Home and he was formerly one of the assistant directors for the Souls for Victory Gospel Choir of Poly-Western High School.

You can certainly see that Mr. Peterson has been moving and he has been moving in a very good direction.

On Aug. 15, at City Temple Baptist Church at 8 p.m. the Pre-Anniversary of the Fellowship Choir was held.

All the gospel groups of Baltimore are invited to this affair and you also. The admission is free and there will surely be a great time going on.

* * *

During the last week in August the Baltimore Fellowship Choir will represent the city in Dallas, Texas at the Gospel Music Workshop of America. This workshop is founded by the famed gospel singer, James Cleaveland.

The anniversary for the Fellowship Choir will be coming up after their return from Texas and this will certainly be a gospel feast. Coming in town for this 6th Anniversary will be Miss Beverly Glen and Singers from Detroit, the Dandridge Ensemble from Phila. Pa., The Tony Carter Singers also of Phila., Pa.

From Baltimore, our own Miss Katie Jackson, the Majestic Choral Ensemble and many others. All of Baltimore's Gospel D.J.'s will be present and it is advised that you not miss this spectacular gospel feast either.

This is only one of the many talented gospel groups here in Baltimore.

There are many people saying things through the gospel in songs and words and you can certainly see that these young men and women are moving.

(See Photos, Other Stories) (Page 11)

Should Christianity heal today?

Come to this Christian Science Lecture

TUESDAY AUGUST 24
7:30 P.M.
By: Joseph G. Heard C.S.B., of Miami
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
102 W. University Pkwy.
Baltimore

PENTECOST BAPTIST CHURCH
1615 POPLAR GROVE STREET
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 1971
9:30 A.M.—CHURCH SCHOOL
11:00 A.M.—SERMON BY REV. CHARLES E. FLETCHER, JR.
"HE HAD ONLY A SLING SHOT"
3:00 P.M.—APPRECIATION PROGRAM FOR THE MUSICIANS OF PENTECOST BAPTIST CHURCH, SPONSORED BY THE COMBINE GROUPS OF PENTECOST.
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Rev. Fletcher

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Prayer—9 a.m.
Sunday School—9:30
Morning Worship—11:00
Young People's Training Union—6:00 p.m.
Evening Evangelistic Service—8:00
TUESDAY
Prayer—7 p.m. Bible Study—7:30
FRIDAY
Prayer—7 p.m. Pastoral Teaching—7:30
Radio Broadcasts—WBMD-FM (105 MC)
Morning Devotions—7:15—7:30 a.m. Monday-Saturday
The Hour of Concern—10:00—11:00 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
10:15—11:00 A.M.—Saturday
Sunday Service Broadcast—3:30—4:30 p.m.—Sunday
Night Watch—Midnight—Sunday
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9:30 A.M.—CHURCH SCHOOL
11:00 A.M.—MORNING WORSHIP—
SERMON—"ON KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER" by Dr. Coleman
Music by The GOSPEL CHORUSES
Numbers 1 and 2.
—A FRIENDLY WELCOME TO ALL—
CLINTON R. COLEMAN, D.D., Minister

St. James' Episcopal Church
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
The Rev. Father Donald O. Wilson, Rector
The Rev. Crayton Dudley, Assistant Priest
The Rev. Auguste Pluviose, Assistant Priest
Mr. Maurice Murphy, Master of Music
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 1971
7:00 A.M.—Holy Eucharist
10:00 A.M.—Choral Eucharist and Sermon

Douglas Memorial Community Church
"The People of the Way"
LAFAYETTE and MADISON AVES.
MARION CURTIS BASCOM, D.D.
Minister
JOHN MINOR DAY
Associate Minister
JAMES S. HAMMOND
Minister of Music
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 1971
8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
"A WORD ABOUT WORSHIP, WORRY AND WORK"
DR. BASCOM, Preaching
MUSIC
8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.
"For the Beauty of The Lord" arranged by Work
Earth"—Kocher-Davis
"Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven"—Andrews

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WEEKEND WITNESS TELEVISION
A new concept in television programming will begin in Baltimore on September 4th. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will be televised over Channel 24 WMET-TV Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4:00 P.M. Consult your T.V. Guide for details.

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DEACON & DEACONESS DAY
8:00 A.M.—EARLY MORNING WORSHIP
Sermon by Rev. RICHARD OGLE
9:15 A.M.—CHURCH SCHOOL
10:30 A.M.—OPEN HEART SERVICE
11:00 A.M.—SERMON by REV. RICHARD OGLE
8:30 P.M.—B.Y.U.—Adult Dept.
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We Welcome You—Rev. Ward D. Yerby, Pastor

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 1971
10:00 A.M.—BIBLE SCHOOL, Classes for ALL Ages
11:15 A.M.—WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 P.M.—EVENING WORSHIP
HUMPHREY FOUTZ, Minister
Listen to "Hearing For Eternity"
8 A.M. Sunday WEBB 1360

COMMUNITY CHURCHES — The annual session of United Council of Community Churches of Maryland held its eighth annual session at Gillis Memorial Community Church last week. Among ministers in attendance were 1st row, left to right, The Rev. Hursie Turner, Alonzo Graham, Phillip Wilson, George W. Baynard, Theodore C. Jackson Jr., host pastor; 2nd row The Rev. Benjamin Ball, Earl Tucker, Irving Fleming, Tommie L. Jenkins, 3rd row Rev. Cuther Brown, Sidney Daniels, and Clarence Bishops.

Ushers mark anniversary

SALISBURY, N.C. — The senior usher board of Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church observed its 52nd anniversary Sunday at the church.

A program of gospel and choral music was featured.

Program participants included Edward Tracey, Calvin Anderson, W. B. Crawford, Miss Deborah Corpening, and Mrs. Earlina Turner.

Singing groups included Halls Chapel, the Division Singers, Gethsemane Gospel Choir and Shady Grove Baptist Church.

Clarence Robinson is president of the ushers' group and the Rev. Herman L. Anderson is church pastor.

Gospel program slated to honor Larry J. Bland

Thirteen gospel performances have been lined up for a religious music program at Second Baptist Church, Idlewood Ave. at Randolph St., on Sunday, Aug. 22 at 3:30 p.m.

The Gospel Six, a local singing group, is arranging the program as an appreciation honor for their pianist of two years, Larry Jeome Bland.

The public is invited to attend the program which will last about three hours. There is no admission.

Other performers joining the Gospel Six are slated to be Miss Doris Ann Allen, a soloist; Eveready Gospel Singers, J.C.'s, Gospel Impressions, A. Alexander Singers and Robert Jones and His Singer.

Dr. Allen elected delegate

DR. FRANK M. ALLEN

CHARLOTTE, — Dr. Frank M. Allen has been elected a delegate to the Twelfth World Methodist Conference, which will be held in Denver, Colo., August 18-26.

Dr. Allen, who is pastor of the local Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church, has been a member of the Western North Carolina Conference for a number of years. He has been Gethsemane's pastor for the past 18 years.

Dr. Allen will be one of seven delegates from his region to participate in the conference.

He will return to Charlotte in time for his church's Third Annual Home-coming and Revival, which will be held from August 29 through September 3.

CALVERT COUNTY NEWS

Funeral services held for Miss Helen Rice

By MELVINA EDWARDS

Continue your prayers for the sick Mirvin Jones Sr., husband of Mrs. Joethel Jones of Huntingtown, a patient at Calvert County Hospital. He is a trustee of St. Edmonds United Methodist Church.

Also sick is Mrs. Elizabeth Brown of Sunderland, Calvert County. She is a patient at Center Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Rose Creek took ill while at work and is improving at her home.

Mrs. Verda Booze wife of Joseph Booze took sick at her home in Huntingtown. She was rushed to Hopkins Hospital and immediately received surgery.

* * *

Mrs. Booze is a teacher at Tracys Landing in Anne Arundel County.

Funeral services were held at Mt. Hope United Methodist Church, for Miss Helen Rice,daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rice of Sunderland. Miss Rice died at Hopkins Hospital. Eulogy was by the pastor, the Rev. Charles N. Bourne. She was buried in the church cemetery.

The grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Mary) Wills will have a rally at Peters United Methodist Church on Sunday. Sermon will be by the Rev. William Edwards at 11 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wills are sponsors. The Rev. Charles N. Bourne is pastor.

* * *

Sympathy is extended to the Booth family at the sudden death of their son in Washington, D.C.

* * *

The sick and shut in are Rev. Everett Gray, Mrs. Cornelia High, Mrs. Lucy Rice, Mr. Holland father of Wardell Holland prominent contractor of Randle Cliff.

* * *

Mrs. Lillian Woodward is visiting her sister-in-law and brother Mr. and Mrs. William (Ethel) Purvey of Chesapeake, Beach.

Birthday greetings to Rudolph Lowe, prominent shoemaker of West Mosher St., Baltimore, Md.

Rites set for Mrs. McDonald

Funeral services for Mrs. Xaveria Fenwick McDonald, wife of Dr. George McDonald, will be held at Saint James' Episcopal Church, Lafayette and Arlington Aves., Saturday at 11 a.m.

This (Friday) evening, the family will receive friends between the hours of seven and nine, at the Charles R. Law Funeral Home.

Interment will be in Arbutus Memorial Park.

Mrs. McDonald died in Union Memorial Hospital on Tuesday evening after an extended illness.

Affectionately known to scores of friends as "Sook," she was the daughter of the late Stanley and Mrs. Susie Fenwick. She was born in this city on Aug. 20, 1900, and spent most of her life in Baltimore.

* * *

Mrs. McDonald was graduated from the Training School for Teachers, here, and subsequently pursued courses at Morgan State College and Columbia University. She taught in the elementary schools of Baltimore for 25 years.

A faithful member of Saint James' Episcopal Church, she was active in the Saint Cecelia Guild, active in a number of social groups, including the Bon Ton Club and Links Inc., a national service organization.

Besides her husband she is survived by several nieces and nephews.

FUNERAL SERVICES for Mrs. Xaveria McDonald, wife of Dr. George McDonald, who died in Baltimore, Tuesday, will be held in Saint James' Episcopal Church, Saturday morning at 11.

MT. WINANS NEWS

Fabulous Amamonts to go to Atlantic City, N.J.

By GERTRUDE M. PARKER

The Fabulous Alamonts Pleasure Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City, N.J. Sunday, Aug. 29. Buses will leave 8:30 a.m. from ACE Social, 676 W. Saratoga St. at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Bertie Brooks is president; Elmer Brown, secretary and James Christian, treasurer.

* * *

Vacationing are Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Levi Jr., New York City; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hemsley and family and Miss Violet Hemsley, Atlantic City.

* * *

In Nassau are the Modernetts Social Club who include Mesdames Elizabeth Wallace, Hattie Burley, Chlorine Smith, Alice Lee, Emma Cheatam, Marie Harrell, Hazel Parks, Helen Johnson, Marie Faulks, Betty Williams and Misses Lucinda a Wallace, Mary Wallace, Harrietta Wallace.

Visiting family in New York City last weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Clements and Robert Meekins and friend.

* * *

The Women's Society of Christian Service of Mt. Winans United Methodist Church held a meeting on Sunday at the home of this writer.

It was decided to hold its anniversary services on Sunday, September 19, at the Westport Community Center.

Two members will be honored.

They are Mrs. Veneta Butler, Mrs. Victoria Anderson, Mrs. Bessie Malloy is president of the group. The Rev. Clarence Govans is minister.

* * *

Mt. Winans Civic Interest Group is sponsoring a theatre and dinner party at the Garland Theatre, Columbia City, Oct. 9. Mrs. Sadie Blocker, chairman, Walter Hill, president.

A dinner will be sponsored by Alfred Matthews at his home, 2649 Ridgley St., Sept. 4. Dinner will be served 12 to 7 p.m.

Deaths of week

Charles R. Cook, Glen Arm.
Cecelia Hawkins, Manjemoy.
Janie M. Biddison, 4616 Coleherna
John Glass, Unknown
(Mrs.) Mildred Staples, Leads St.
Allen B. Wedlock, 2543 E. Eager
(Baby Boy) Woods, 5261 St. Charles
Raymond S. Bowie, 1915 Homewood.
Willie Lee Jones, 725 E.
Willie Lee Townes, 526 E. North
Ella Bell, 1126 Webb
Joseph E. Evans, 1009 N. Central
George W. Carter, 2821 Mosher
Norris Bond, 4032 Park Heights
Charles M. Bee, 533 Wilson
Robinson Taylor, 1321 N. Kenwood
Pauline Curtis, Princess Anne.

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8/21/71

Gillis' Gospel Fest Still 'Gets To You' After 3 Decades

WATCH THE LADY IN WHITE — The rousing spirituals sung as only Gospel Choruses can sing them, bring out crowds at Gillis Memorial and 'get to you" as demonstrated by the unidentified follower (FIRST PANEL) who remains seated but joins the leader, the Rev. Milton Brunson of the Thompson Community Choir of Chicago. (SECOND PANEL) In harmony and responding to his call for the audience to join in the refrain, the lady in white gets ready to rise as the song pulls her from her seat. (THIRD PANEL) Filled with the Spirit and unable to withold her feelings, the lady in white stands to proclaim what everyone else knows deep inside. "There Must Be A God Somewhere." Miss Elsa Harris is the soloist with the mike.

(See Other Story Page 10)

SOUL SENDERS are the gifted artists who sang in the Mass Choir of Washington and Baltimore. Miss Myrna Summers is the lead soloist at the mike.

Baltimore represented at Dallas fest

Among local Gospel choirs slated to attend the James Cleveland Gospel Music Workshop in Dallas, Texas are the famed Baltimore Fellowship Choir and the Good Specializers who leave Saturday morning a little after dawn to represent Baltimore.

Gospel choirs will arrive in the Texas city and "take it over" from all areas of the nation.

* * *

The singular event promises to restore Gospel songs to rightful popularity as No. 1 original American music. Baltimore choirs, rated among the best in the United States are expected to bring home laurels from the assembly, one of the most unusual in modern times.

James Cleveland, the famed Gospel singer, founded the worship which will figuratively set Dallas "on fire" for an entire week.

Brilliant robes and unique attire of the various singers will lend an array of hues to mark the occasion as one of the most colorful ever seen.

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Stirring Spirituals bring a shouting good time here

On Sunday Aug 8 at the Gillis Memorial Church, the second Annual Gospel Festival was sponsored by Mrs. Viola Williams better known to her gospel fans as Vi. Mrs. Williams is a gospel D.J. on WKTR-105.FM.

A shouting good time was seen by the crowd of happy joy followers who packed both the balcony and lower floor.

The guest gospel choirs included Baltimore's own Fellowship Choir, Maiestic Choral Ensembly, God's Specializers, Mrs. Katie Jackson, Myrna Summers, and the Mass Choir of Baltimore and Washington.

The Rev. Milton Brunson and the Chicago Community Choir and Rev. Jessie Dixon also of Chicago.

This gospel festival which has been a Gillis annual affair for three decades was a soul stirring event.

Another soul stirrer coming to Baltimore on Sep 12 at Wayland Baptist Church is the 14th Anniversary Celebration of Pauline Wells Lewis, WSID featuring the Rev. James Cleveland and the Cleveland Singers along with the victory choral ensemble.

The Harmonizing Four, Baltimore Fellowship Choir, James Patterson, The Wise Singers, Gospel Leaders; Five Kings, Holy Lights, Mrs. Katie Johns and the Community Ensemble.

The Rev. Theodore C Jackson, Jr., pastor follows in the footsteps of the late Rev. Mr. Jackson Sr. who welcomed Gospel Singers years ago when their music was unpopular.

The church is still called the Home of Gospel Singers and gave such greats a Mahalia Jackson a start.

BRINGING IT HOME to the audience is an inborn gift truly successful Gospel Leader possesses. These action photos taken by AFRO staff photographer I. Henry Phillips show first the leader music be convinced within himself to "bring down" the crowd. From TOP to BOTTOM are the Chicago Community Choir's Rev. Jessy Dixon, Miss Elsa Harris and the Rev. Milton Brunson.

AN INVITATION

Here is an invitation for any Gospel singer or group from the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

Would you like to appear on the program on Sunday, Aug. 29 for the AFRO's Awards Day celebration?

The stellar event will take place at Mondawmin Mall.

If you can accept the invitation to perform, kindly write AFRO AWARDS PROGRAM, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, 21203 or come in to the 3rd floor offices and speak to Mrs. Odessa Bysom. To call, Dial 728-8200 and ask for EXT. 25.

NOTICE

If you have a group of Gospel Singers you wish to be featured, the AFRO welcomes stories, histories features and pictures. Baltimore is one of the leading gospel towns in the nation. Some of the Gospel Choirs and groups have illustrious histories but we just do not know it.

Let us hear from you. Tell it all and with fire just as you do when you sing.

If you are having any type Gospel programs or would like your choir featured in this column please write "Gospel Singers, City Desk, AFRO—AMERICAN Newspaper, Baltimore, Md. 21203, P.O. BOX 1857 or write to Angie Thornton, 1102 Clendenin St. Baltimore, Md. 21217, or call 728-0567.

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