NO MAN NEED HUNGER — The Christmas Day Dinner at the Baltimore Rescue Mission was open to all men who desired a complete Christmas meal, with plenty to eat and drink. No man in the city needed to have hunger of thirst. From the gutters, the alleys and the street benches of life, they came to share each other's fellowship on the day of peace for all men.

(Photo by J. D. Howard)

Rescue Mission gives hope to all who desire it

By Paul Evans

It's a miracle. A downright, true to life, crystal clear, authentic miracle. Even after you've seen it, the cynic within so many of us begins to wonder and incredulously dig, hoping to find out what the "gimmick" is, and say, "Aha I told you so."

For 20 years now, the Baltimore Resuce Mission, day by day, struggle by struggle, prayer by prayer, penny by penny has ministered.

It has ministered to what the so-called normal folk of the world call the filthy rabble of skid row: the drunks, the thieves, the hopeless, the morally, spiritually and physically unwashed. The same people, the human beings, we are so guilty about that we have trained ourselves so very effectively not to notice on the highways and by-ways of life.

But they see us and feel ever so deeply the despise too many have for them.

And that is where "the saving Grace" of the mission's work begins.

Raleigh Holt, 44 and Sylvester Shorts, 38, are two of the men who have a great deal to do with the mission's work and vision. Having lunch with Mr. Hol, the director, could be a mild trauma, if the uninitiated and the unbelieving go into the mission, cold; that is, unprepared for the kind of message he throws at you.

The mission's operations at 4 N. Central Ave., off Baltimore St., in East Baltimore are run entirely on faith, nothing less, nothing more.

It was founded in 1956 because the existing missions here, even though, supposedly open to all men, found some way of justifying leaving out the black man. So, at 909 Pennsylvania Ave. the mission threw open its doors to the person of color.

The small, so cramped, drastically inadequate quarters proved insufficient to the needs early on. A more adequate building, adequate that is, in terms of being more accessible to larger numbers, was found at 416 N. Greene St. And in 1974, the three-quarter acre building in the city's Eastside haven for the indigent, the down-trodden and the hopeless, commenced its healing salvation.

The structure is two floors on one level and four floors on the second level. Inside it is immaculate.

The building, says Mr. Holt, is debt free. "We don't advertise. We don't plead. We don't solicit. When it started in 1955 on Pennsylvania Ave. we had a staff of four and 11 or 12 men coming in for help. It was all-black then and remained all black until about 1961. We run this building on $100 per day, that is including salaries, is that comes to $3,000. It is all done by Free Will Contributions. No begging. There are about 31 churches ... 30 white churches and one black church which we depend on regularly for support. Beyond that, there is no other support. We depend on the Lord for the rest."

Now when he starts talking you think in your mind maybe, "I've seen his type before," being a hard-boiled reporter and all that. Then, he starts talking about his philosophy of mission work and what it is.

"There is a difference between humanistic concern and Christian concern," he went on, picking his words carefully, weighing each one for flavor and significance.

"Humanistic concern is the concern by men for other men. But Christian concern is man obeying Jesus' concern for other men, not for man's sake, but for Christ's sake. ...Sometimes we can hardly make ends meet. But, we need the Lord," he says adolmantly, yet softly, convincingly. "We need the Lord and God's people. This is the God's work and it must be supplied by God's people."

Having worked in missions in Detroit for a while as an assistant for two and one-half years, he got the calling for his life's work, twenty years now, as a child.

"When I was a youngster, after I received Christ, I remember seeing the men from my childhood who needed help. I came to Baltimore because the man who had started the mission, after only about six months, wasn't around any more, so there was a vacancy. And I wanted to do something for blacks, since there wasn't any type of mission for them. When I was called to Baltimore in 1956 it was to be temporary." He stayed 20 years.

He is committed. He attended the Detroit Bible College. So his background is in religion. In high school he earned 11 letters in sports. But even with all that, he is a man who quietly makes you understand how important the need is to provide shelter for those who would other wise have no place.

"God has never been unfaithful. No guarantees though. It is day by day," he warns.

There are 15 on the staff. Most are unpaid. They agree to work for 90 days at a time with guarantee of room and board.

Their abiding creed comes from the Good Book: "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory oy Christ Jesus," Philippians IV, 19.

They believe it. Not only do they believe it and cling to it, but for 20 years it has worked.

Any man from "the streets, the sewers or gutters" may come to the mission and receive overnight lodging, food and a warm place to sleep. No charge. No commitment. No obligation.

While they are there the staff offers, what they term as the gospel of Love of Christ offered to all men who desire to be saved,

Mr. Holt says that too often when he goes around to speak at churches in the city, mostly the white ones, people are more interested in knowing about the life of the "underworld" than they are interested in helping the men who need help.

They have worked. They have prayed. They have planned.

They haved dared to spit a hypocritical world in the eye and by their very work denounce what they see as too feeble commitment by those who can afford it to the souls lost but for a while.

Their cry, "There for the Grace of God go I" predominates their work.

While they are concerned with the basics of life: food, shelter and clothing, they minister and care for the hunger of men's souls, they say.

They are not professionals, they readily admit.

"Please remember that we Christians do not claim to be professionals but only by God's grace do we have an authoritative approach and an effective remedy. The mission is not a tax burden. It operates without cost to the state or city or to those whom we serve. The mission keeps the inebriate off the streets, out of jail and renders to the city a complete public service." Mr. Holt says.

(Photo by J. D. Howard)

SALVATION'S ENTRANCE — Shown is the front door to the Baltimore Rescue Mission at 4 N. Central Ave. It is open to men of all faiths, those of no creed and those wallowing in the valley of despair.

In Our Churches

By Pam Wigeon

Churches are inpited to send news of special church actvities and a copy of their church programs.

• • •

Instalation services for new officers of the Baptist Ministers Conference were held Monday at Perkins Square Baptist Church, 2500 Edmondson Ave., where the Rev. Richard H. Ogle is pastor.

Newly elected officers were Reverends Dr. William Rivers, president; Vernon N. Dobson, first vice president; W. L. Pitts, second vice president; W. A. Hall, secretary; Dr. E. Jerry Williams, assistant secretary; Dr. John Robinson, financial secretary; W. W. Williams, treasurer; Harold Dobson, Sunday School Lesson expositor; Dr. Nathaniel Hiers, assistant Sunday School lesson expositor; Dr. J. Woodward Kelly, news commentator; Dr. Dockery Thompson, assistant news commentator; Dr. B. L. Matthews, critic; S.T. Redd, sargeant-at-arms.

Man rapes woman, gets 15 years

James Maddox, 40, of the 1800 block Whitmore Ave., pleaded guilty to raping a 62-year-old woman on March 16, 1976 in the 1500 block Bolton St.

Criminal Court Judge James W. Murphy sentenced Maddox to 15 years in prison. Maddox had been employed by the victim to repair a broken door in her apartment.

Court records state after Maddox fixed the hinge on the victim's apartment door, he returned to her apartment and said he had left a screwdriver.

After he entered her apartment, he grabbed her, forced her into her bedroom and sexually assaulted her. The woman managed to get away and ran screaming out of her apartment. Maddox was later arrested in the 1700 block Linden Ave. and identified by the victim.

Society sets survival talk on Jan. 10

Charles Lewis Wagant of Baltimore, will give an illustrated lecture on Monday, Jan. 10, at 8:15, entitled, "Oella: A Struggle for Survival." The talk will be held in the Jacob and Annita Frace Auditorium of the Mary Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St.

In addition to his publication: "The Mighty Revolution-Negro Emancipation in Maryland: 1862-1864", Wagandt has written articles for the Baltimore Sunpapers, Maryland Historical and Civil War History. He is the Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Maryland Historical Society and co-director of the Society's recent project, "Willie M. Jackson and Theodore R. McKeldin: Leaders for Human Rights."

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The man who does the hiring for this city has been suspended for using "abusive racial slurs."

Mayor Harvey Sloane suspended Joseph Mees, city personnel director, two weeks, after he got into a dispute with a city employe and called him a "lazy nigger."

Mees, who apologized for his words, is responsible for the city's affirmative action hiring plans for minorities.

Funeral rites held for Mr. Hendricks

Funeral services for James A. Hendricks Sr., father of 13, who died last week, were held Tuesday noon at New Shiloh Baptist Church. He was 79.

Arrangements were handled by the Herbert Nutter Mortuary on West North Ave. where the family received friends Monday evening.

He was born in Oakford, N.C. in 1897 and was the son of James and Agnes Jones Hendricks. Mr. Hendricks was a city resident for more than 50 years. He was a Mason and retired member of Teamster Union No. 377. He lived at 2585 W. North Ave. when he died at Johns Hopkins Hospital on Dec. 29.

Seven daughters and six sons survive.

They are Mrs. Myrtle Hall, Mrs. Bernetta Brinkley, Mrs. Dorothy Green, Mrs. Geniveve Stokes, Miss Jean Hendricks, Miss Imogene Hendricks and Miss Ernestine Hendricks.

Also, Irvin, Leroy, Burnell, James Jr., Calvin and Stanley Hendricks.

A brother, John Hendricks of New York also survives.

Interment was in Arbutus Memorial Park.

REV. DR. WILLIAM RIVERS succeeds the Rev. Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, as president of the Baptist Ministers Conference. Installation services were held Monday at Perkins Square Baptist Church.

Mrs. Gladys Prestwidge was a member of St. James

Mrs. Gladys Thompson Prestwidge, formerly of Somerset, Pa. ad Baltimore died Jan. 4 in East Orange, N.J., after a long illness.

Memorial services will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in East Orange, N.J., today (Friday) 2:30 p.m. Services will be conducted by Rev. Donald O. Wilson of St. James P. E. Church of Baltimore.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the organ fund of St James Episcopal Church in her memory.

Mrs. Prestwidge is survived by two children Mrs. Barbara Jackson of East Orange, N.J. and William Prestwidge of Los Angeles, Calif; two sisters, Mrs. Hazel Barrett and Mrs. Evelyn Stewart; one brother, George W Thompson Jr., two grandchildren, Monique and Melanie Jackson

She will be remembered by all for her warmth, charm and grace. She was a good mother, friend and neighbor. She will also be remembered as the longtime secretary of Dr Francis M. Woods, director of Colored Schools and subsequently a secretary in the Baltimore school system, a founder of the Stark Club and a member of St. James P. E. Church of Baltimore.

St. James' Episcopal Church

LAFAYETTE SQUARE

The Rev. Donald O Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert Ford, Deacon
A. Maurice Murphy, Choir Master · Organist

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1977

8:00 A.M.—Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M.—Sung Eucharist
Family Worship
Lower Church School
10:30 A.M.—Upper Church School
11:00 A.M.—Choral Eucharist & Sermon
The Public is Cordially Invited To Attend

Perkins Square Baptist Church

2500 EDMONDSON AVE. CORNER OF WARWICK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1977

COMMUNION DAY

8:00 A.M.—Early Morning Worship. Sermon by the Pastor Holy Communion
9:15 A.M.—Church School
10:30 A.M.—Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship. Sermon by the Pastor Holy Communion
6:00 P.M.—Baptist Training Union

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REV. RICHARD H. OGLE IV, Pastor

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1977

9:30 A.M.—Sunday School at Zion Center 1223 Argyle Ave.
11:00 A.M.—Youth Worship Service at Zion Center
11:00 A.M.—General Church worship service at Furman Templeton School No. 125. Sermon By Rev. Marshall H. Strickland. Theme: "Thanks, I Needed That" Music by Sanctuary Choir and Gospel Chorus

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Douglas Memorial Community Church

"The People of the Way"
LAFAYETTE and MADISON AVES.
MARION CURTIS BASCOM, D.D. Minister
JAMES S HAMMOND Minister of Music
JUANITA HALL DAVIS, Organist

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1977

Dr. Marion Bascom Preaching

MUSIC

8:30 A.M.
"GOD WAS IN JESUS" —by Herbst
"CLIMBING UP THE MOUNTAIN"—arr. Smith

11:00 A.M.
"SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE" Cone—Jethro
"I STOOD BY THE RIVER OF JORDAN"—arr. Smith

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Here are some of the highlights of the year from AFRO pages

AFRO staff photos by Roman Hankewycz

DEATHS IN BALTIMORE — Fires, accidents, and shootings plagued Baltimore taking a high number of victims during 1976.

(AFRO Staff Photos by Roman Hankewycz)

CHILDREN LEAD the way to Brotherhood. In these photos are youngsters of all races at St. Alphonso's Catholic School, Baltimore, as they appeared in the AFRO's brotherhood supplement earlier in 1976. Above are Danny Tow, Dionne Smith, Dawn Hayes, and Suzette Browne.

(AFRO Staff Photo by Roman Hanewycz)

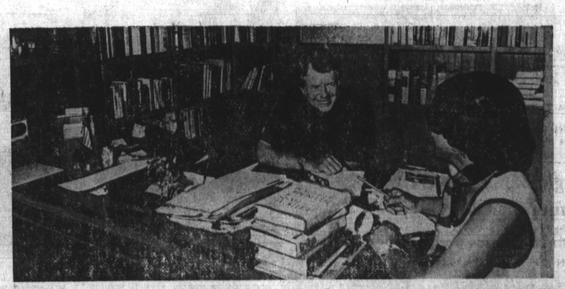
OVERCROWDING OF THE CITY JAIL became a major problem during 1976, bringing talks on a possible prison in East Baltimore.

(AFRO Staff Photo by Roman Hankewycz) REMEMBER SPRING?—Harold and 2-year-old Zenata Hunter watch activities in War Memorial Plaza during 1976.

HAVING FUN during 1976 were these children photographed by AFRO staff photographer Roman Hankewycz during July 1976 at a Pressman St. and Madison Ave. Playground. Shown are McKinley Lipscomb, Tyra Watkins and William Freeman (left panel) plus three other unidentified companions.

WINTER TIME BEAUTIES — Some of the sights to be seen around Baltimore during 1976 included these Morgan State University students Misses Gwen Thompson, 18, and Shiela Robinson, 18, walking to class. AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz

GOV. MARVIN MANDEL—His corruption case declared a mistrial.



INTERVIEWING THE NEXT PRESIDENT is AFRO City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver, as she visited President-elect Jimmy Carter at his home in Plains, Ga. during his campaign.