If You Ask Me

By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

Hats off to Mrs. X, who write in this column the following letter this week:

"Seven years ago, I wrote to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa and received a food basket, and toys. It was a blessing for me and my family because my husband was in the hospital, and there was little money to get food and toys for my three kids.

"The other day when I was reading the cases on Mrs. Santa's page, I read about a case similar to mine. I know how it feels to have to write for help.

"I am enclosing this small contribution to Mrs. Santa. I wish I could give more, but with the high cost of things today, this is all I can manage. Since I wrote before, my husband has died. My kids are in school, and it takes every cent I can make on my job to keep things together.

"God bless Mrs. Santa and the AFRO. I can never forget what your gifts meant to me. I promise that when I am able I will continue to support your fine program. Please do not print my name. I do not want any credit. I just want to say thank you."

Ten $1 bills

Cuff note: The writer of the above letter enclosed ten $1 bills, which we have turned over to Mrs. Santa.

Hats off to Mrs. X, and to all the other generous AFRO readers who have responded to the call to help their fellow citizens.

More cuff: Mrs. Ida Peters, who directs the AFRO's Mrs. Santa program, advises she is pleased that so many contributions have come from concerned people in our community and that anonymous gifts, ranging from small amounts to $500, have generated in our community.

She sees this as a good example of black people helping their neighbors. She observes, "so many people are depressed and write for aid as a last resort. They swallow their pride, and come to Mrs. Santa. It takes courage to do this. I always remind people who do not believe there is real need to remember that but by the grace of God they could be in a similar situation . . ."

Please turn to Mrs. Santa's page in this edition and see for yourself.

Cuff note: Mrs. Santa's helpers — the Md. National Guard members — have already started delivering her Christmas baskets and gifts.

What you can do: — You can still send a check or money order to Mrs. Santa, care of AFRO Charities, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203, or bring your contribution to her office at 628 N. Eutaw St.

If you can not give money or gifts, contact your church or a church in your neighborhood, and make a lonely person happy with a visit this Christmas.

Pastor Bryant

In the mail this week, a letter from our pastor, Rev. John R. Bryant, minister of Bethel AME Church.

Here are excerpts:

"I just wanted to drop you this line during Advent. What a sacred and blessed time this is for the entire Christian Church.

"This is the time that every church, every household, and every person ought to pause to give God thanks for the precious gift of Jesus Christ.

"It is my prayer that the joy of Christmas might find its' way into your home and heart.

"This is also the period in which we celebrate the end of an old year and the beginning of a new year. God has been so good to all of us in 1983, and I believe that we all ought to trust Him to be even better in 1984.

Resolutions

"As we long for God's goodness in our lives, He longs that we live better lives. As your Pastor I would like to suggest some New Year resolutions that you might want to make:

a.) Give your life to Christ
b.) Begin reading your Bible daily
c.) Become a tither
d.) Bring a soul to Christ
e.) Take a class at Bethel's Bible Institute
f.) Join one of Bethel's organizations
g.) Read a book a month
h.) Forgive someone who has mistreated you
i.) Attend Worship Service each week at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., or 8 p.m. on Sundays; or 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays or Fridays
j.) Become a freedom fighter for the total liberation of our people.

Yours in the Joy of Christ, — John R. Bryant, pastor."

Legacy

Mrs. Mary Carter Smith, Baltimore's famed poet, civic worker and friend to many, shares the following on her annual Christmas card, which is entitled, "Legacy": —

Because
It is late in the day
I am trying harder
To give myself away
I give to you my laughter
(Only to God do I give my tears)
I give to you my dreams for you
Dreams I've nurtured through the years
BELIEVE that you are beautiful
Because you are
Pull out your potentials
Hone those marvelous gifts you have
Keep the faith, if you have it
If you have none, get some
You're going to need it
Keep complaints out of your mouth
Speak of the good
Look for the good
Believe, first in God, then in yourself
When others doubt you, your motives
Just keep gettin' up
We leave our legacies to our children
Now that Ricky has passed on
All of you have become
My children, my family

Yule advice

We like this age - old message, and wish the author was known. Julius Westheimer reprinted it a week back in his daily Sun column, and we were reminded it is one of our favorites, too. Here it is:

"This Christmas, mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth.

"Keep a promise. Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else.

"Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger.

"Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it once again."

This and that

Thinking - of - you cards to Provident Hospital for Mrs. Hazel Phillips, who had surgery. She's widow of the physician, Dr. Franklin Phillips.

—

Visitor in our gates: — Mrs. Stanley Kirton, (Ruby), of Xenia, Ohio, guesting with her brother and sister - in - law, Dr. and Mrs. Ted Patterson of Dundalk.

—

Mrs. Joe Sloan — the Red Cross exec in charge of service to the military — is still recovering from that Sunday incident. Here is what happened: —

She had a coughing spell during services at Douglas Memorial, went to her car to get cough drops — and was held up by a young woman wearing a head band.

The assailant brandished a gun, forced Mrs. Sloan to enter her car, and emptied her purse of the cash. No amount of Mrs. Sloan's pleading, "Let me help you . . . come into church, we can give you food . . . etc." moved the gun - carrying woman, who replied, "I don't want your help, just give me your money . . ."

In times of high unemployment, lack of housing, food and hope. there are in every community people who respond like the young gunlady. Lucky she was not doped up enough to use the gun on Mrs. Sloan who spends her time helping so many.

—

Epcot, the new Disney World Center in Orlando, Florida, is as fantastic as it has been described.

We were there last week and couldn't believe our eyes. One of the attractions we enjoyed: — trip through Spaceship Earth — a dramatic history of communications — from cave drawings to the satellite technology of today and beyond — and where one rides through the largest star fields for an unbelievable view of the planet Earth. It is terrific!

Cuff note: Epcot has so many exciting attractions, one needs to plan to spend at least two days there. It is excellent, too, for children.

—

A number of Marylanders in Orlando for the Md.-Tenn. Citrus Bowl game journeyed to Epcot.

Seen in the crowd: Baltimore - born Cliff Wiley, a member of the U.S. Olympic team. He is proud of his past honors, is now training for next year's competition on the West Coast. His mom, Mrs. Shirley Wiley, lives in West Baltimore.

—

Small world : We looked in on the Saturday morning meeting of the Orange County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, at the invitation of president, Mrs. Jean Butler.

Member, Martha Myrick, was there. She sends hellos to her sister, Mary Myrick, the VA nurse who lives in Silver Spring, and to her cousin, Mrs. Moses Newson, (Lucille), of Baltimore.

Lovely Avis

We received a middle of the night call from daughter, Rachael, in Atlanta, and that's how we joined her and other young couples who journeyed to Washington on Tuesday to memorialize their chum, 29 - year - old Avis Bernadette Brinkley White.

Family and friends packed Ward Memorial AME Church for the 90 - minute rites. The pastor, Rev. James H. Robinson, family friend, Army Capt. Robert Diggs; church member, Mrs. Odea Bowen, and members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, gave tributes.

They remembered Avis as the young mother, church worker, teacher, who gave unselfishly of her self, and was, even up until hours before her death, concerned about who would take her place in directing a school play, and see that the children received Christmas gifts. She was, as one friend noted, "a person full of sunshine and love."

So beloved

There were few dry eyes in the church — because Avis was so beloved, and because she was so young. (She died Dec. 16, at Walter Reed Army Hospital following brain surgery).

She grew up in Seat Pleasant, Maryland, was a grad of Central High there, and of Virginia State University. She was active in early childhood development and worked as a pre - school and Sunday School teacher.

She had been residing these past two years in Newburgh, N.Y., where her husband of seven years, Capt. George A. White, was assigned to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point.

Also surviving, their sons, Richard Delano, 4; and 5 - month - old, George Andrew 3rd. Also her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard C. Brinkley, (Gladys), of Bowie, Maryland; sister, Mrs. Cassandra Jennings, Oakland, Calif.; brother, Bernard C. Brinkley Jr., a student at the U. of Maryland;

Also, maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Bunch Sr., Williamston, N.C. Other kin here for the rites were, Capt. White's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Burwell of Newport News; and Mrs. G. A. White, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Black carols

The Birth of Christ has inspired some of the most beautiful songs ever created. But the most beautiful ones are seldom heard, except in some of the smaller black churches.

Many blacks forget that these Christmas carols (for that is what they are) came from the hearts of people held in bondage. These carols, which are included among spirituals, tell two stories — the birth of Christ and the people's own hardships they felt as slaves.

Here are some of Black - Americana heritage.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
— That Jesus Christ is born.
When I was a seeker,
I sought both night and day,
I asked the Lord to help me,
And He showed me the way.

He made me a watchman,
Upon a city wall,
And if I am a Christian,
I am the least of all.
Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Wasn't That A Mighty Day?

Wasn t that a mighty day
— When Jesus Christ was born?
— Star shone in the East,
Star shone in the East,
When Jesus Christ was born!
What You Gonna Name That Pretty Little Baby?

Oh, Mary, what you gonna name
That pretty little baby?
Glory, glory, glory
To the new born King!

— Some will call him one thing,
But I think I'll call Him Jesus.

— Glory, glory, glory
To the new born King!
Some will call him one thing,
But I think I'll say Emanuel.
Glory, glory, glory
To the new born King!

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

There's a star in the East
On Christmas mourn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
It'll lead to the place
Where the Saviour's born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

— If you take good heed
To the angel's words and
Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
You'll forget your flocks,

You'll forget your herds.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
Leave your sheep, leave your lambs,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
Leave your ewes, leave your rams,
Rise up shepherd, and follow!
Follow the Star of Bethlehem,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Mrs. Isabelle S. Williams

After a brief illness, Isabelle Smith Williams died Dec. 16. Born Dec. 27, 1921 in Baltimore County, Mrs. Williams was considered by many as a sincere friend, devoted mother, grandmother and concerned member of her community.

Mrs. Williams is survived by her husband, Anthony; four sons and four daughters.

Services were held in the Chapel of the William C. March Funeral Home, Inc. Mrs. Williams was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Daisy C. Spencer

Born on Nov. 7, 1912 in Phoenix, Maryland, Daisy Cromwell Spencer died Dec. 17 at Provident Hospital,

A cosmetologist by profession, Mrs. Spencer was a member of Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church for over 44 years.

She is survived by her sister, Marguerite.

Services were held at Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church. Mrs. Spencer was buried in Maryland National Memorial Park.

Harlem Park COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
614 N. Gilmor St.
Wishes You A Blessed Christmas
Christmas Service 11a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worslhip 11 a.m.
Community Fellowship Service
Every Wed. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Watch Meeting New Years Eve 11 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Dr. Raymond Kelly, Jr. Pastor & Founder

ST. PAUL'S FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
406 E. 23rd Street
REV. IZAM HAYES, Pastor
We Wish You A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Come join us for our Christmas celebration
Sunday Dec. 25th
9:30 A.M. ..... SAUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M. ..... SERVICE

Season Greeting
CARTER MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
745 W. FAYETTE STREET
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1983
11 A.M. Worship — Sermon By The Pastor
12 Noon — Service on WAYE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 23, 1983
7:30 P.M. — Special Candle Light Service
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1983
10 P.M. — Watch Night Service
REV. FRANK J. ELLIS, Pastor

"Serving the Community for over 200 Years"
Centenniel Methodist Church
1929 E. Monument St.
Rev. Mamie Williams & congregation
Wishes Everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and Christ-Filled NEW YEAR

Season's Greetings
From UPWARD WAY CHURCH SUPPLIES and Staff
459 Old Town Mall
3826 Liberty Hght.
For The Gift That Keeps On Giving.
THE HOLY BIBLE
at Discount Prices Through Jan 3, 1983
367-4594 962-5333
Serving You From 2 Convenience Locations

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
"The People of the Way"
Lafayette and Madison Aves.
Dr. Martin Curtis Bascom, Minister
James S. Hammond, M. Mus. Joanne Hall Davis Organist

Marion Curtis Bascom preaching
****
Christmas Eve. December 24. 7 p.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Day
10 O'Clock
Away in a Manger — Willcocks, arr.
The Blessed Son of God — Vaughan Williams
New Born — John Work, arr.

Dr. O. St. Clair Franklin and The Congregation
AMES MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
Wishes Everyone MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
669-9880
669-4712

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes To All From (Aunt) Pauline Wells Lewis

COME SHARE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
CHRIST IS BORN
REV. DR. WALTER S. THOMAS and Members Of
NEW PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH
Wish Each and Every One Of God's Children A Blessed Christmas and A Joyous New Year
100 W. Franklin St. (In the Heart of the City) Prayer Line 837-1617

Season Greetings
ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
2323 E. Jefferson St.
Sunday, DECEMBER 25, 1983
9:30 A.M. .Sunday School
11:00 P.M. Morning Worship
DECEMBER 31, 1983
11:00 P.M. ....Watch Night Service
REV. OLLIE FLEMING Pastor

INSPIRINGLY BEAUTIFUL... *Christmas in Church*

Archbishop Borders' Christmas message to the community

Most Reverend William D. Borders, Archbishop of Baltimore released the following Christmas Message:

"A wise person once observed: "Youth is when we wonder if our watch is fast; old age is when we wonder if perhaps our calendar is!"

A few week ago we came to the end of the Church's liturgical calendar, and now with Christmas upon us and the end of the secular calendar year, it seems appropriate to reflect on time, and how, in this Holy Year, Christ can be and should be the center of time in our Faith community, reconciling everything to himself.

Time has a relentless quality to it. It goes on, even if we do not happen to go on with it. Time is lord of us in ways in which we are accustomed to think of God. Time existed before any of us were in this life. It will exist after all of us are no more in this life.

A Holy Year, however, such as the Holy Year of Redemption we are now celebrating, enables us to know that time in relation with the redemption of Christ has a dominion of its own. As St. Paul said of Christ in his letter to the Colossians: "He is before all else that is. In him everything continues in being."

The Holy Year continued past the end of the liturgical year and will continue past the end of this calendar year. This Holy Year cuts across Church calendars and secular calendars to let us know symbolically that all time and all years are holy.

In celebrating the feast of the Nativity, we are again making a statement about time. If the eternal God who became flesh in time is not enthroned in our own hearts as king of our lives, our lives will lack meaning. If God is not enthroned in the world as king of the world, then all years will lack hope.

As we think of Jesus, then, as King of our hearts and King of time, we must focus on the reality that in Luke's Gospel, the Son of God was born in poverty, in an occupied country. He spent his life preaching the good news of salvation, helpin those who needed help, even working miracles for the sake of others.

In my opinion, the greatest miracle that Jesus worked was the one he did not work He did not save himself Instead he saved us

An important aspect of that miracle was letting us know that taking away pain was ultimately not as important as sharing pain. The word compassion comes from two Latin words meaning: "to suffer with."

As King of our individual lives and as King of our world, the eternal message of Jesus is that God believed we were worth suffering with. No matter what cross in life we may ever find ourselves hanging on, we know that we will not look up to heaven to see God reclining on his throne.

Instead we look to our side to see God hanging with us, just as the Good Thief did who died beside Jesus. That's a good notion to consider at Christmas time. It's also a good theme to begin a new year with next week when we will open a new chapter of our lives.

For the past few weeks we have been celebrating the season of Advent, a time when we reflect on how the people of the world are awaiting for God to come to be with them. May I ask the question: are we waiting expectantly for God to be with us? Sadly we recognize that our world probably is not. Our culture tells us that the way to happiness, to greatness, is through power, wealth, influence, and defense against the attacks of the enemy. Jesus tells us in the sermon on the Mount that happiness and greatness come through poverty of spirit, mercy, justice, openness to one another, mutual vulnerability, rather than defense.

If one is to share in and experience the reality of this happiness, he or she must accept, appreciate, and make judgements through the personal acceptance of the values of Christ our Redeemer that rise above the self - centered appeals of a materialistic world.

This is only possible within an on - going lived relationship with God. This relationship enables a person to go beyond the limited, the particular, or even the spiritual, goods of this life.

The Holy Year of Redemption brings home to us that redemption is constant in life and that people of each generation live within the love of Christ and through that love are bonded in community. The fruits of the Holy Year will continue past this and every calendar year until we complete our pilgrim journey through time to eternity.

Since we are fallible, vulnerable, and mortal, we will experience suffering and death. Yet we are people of hope, because the Incarnate Word of God has conquered death in His resurrection. In union with Him we know that we also will conquer death and rise with Him to immortality.

This Holy Year called by Pope John Paul on the 1950th anniversary of the Resurrection will not end until next Easter. In a sense, the Holy Year reconciles two years: the liturgical year and the

(Continued on page 30)

Sunday, December 25, 1983
Season's Greetings
From

Elder C. Green and his Congregation of
The Christian Community Church of God
Baltimore St. & Franklintown Road
Order of Service
9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. ..... Sunday School
10:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. ..... WJSF Broadcast
11:00 A.M. ..... Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion
3:30 P.M. ..... Christmas Pageant "Bethlehem Skeptic
Elder C. Green can be heard each Sunday morning from 10:30 A.M to 11:00 A.M. over station WJSF

Dr & Mrs A. C. C. Vaughn and Family and The Officers and Members of
The Grace Memorial Baptist Church
Chase and Eden Streets
Extends to all of our Friends Hope of a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Christmas Service December 25, 11:00 A.M. New Years Day Service January 1, 11:00 A.M. Pastor Vaughn Preachin January 2at 12 Noon, installation of Baptist Ministers Conference

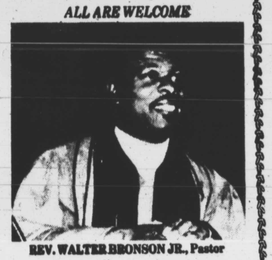
Doswell Cathedral Church of God in Christ
520 Whitmore Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland
Bishop J. I. Doswell, Pastor
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1983
Morning Worship 12 Noon
Sermon By the Pastor
7:30 P.M. Evangelist Service
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1983
7:30 P.M. Education Department Christman Program
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1983
6:00 P.M. Watch Night Service

INSPIRINGLY BEAUTIFUL... *Christmas in Church*
St. James' Episcopal Church
Lafayette Square
The Clergy
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Samuel T. Knight, Assist. Rector
The Rev. Robert T. Ford, Deacon
Mr. Maurice Murphy - Choirmaster - Organist
CHRISTMAS EVE
Saturday, December 24, 1983
11:15 P.M. — Solemn Procession — Midnight Mass
Sermon by the Rector
CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00 A.M. — Low Mass with Music
CHRISTMAS I
SUNDAY, DECEMBERR 25, 1983
8:00 A.M. — Low Mass
12 Noon — Holy Days — Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Low Mass
Monday & Tues. Low Mass
6:45 A.M. — Wednesday Morning Low Mass

Season's Greetings
Wayland Baptist Church
3200 Garrison Blvd.
Pastor Darneal Johnson & Family
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1983
9:30 A.M. — Sunday School
10:45 A.M. — Morning Worship
Sermon by the Pastor
SATURDAY DECEMBER 31, 1983 At 10 P.M.
Watch Night Service SUNDAY JANUARY 1, 1984

REV. DARNEAL JOHNSON
ALL ARE WELCOME
REV. DARNEAL JOHNSON, Pastor

New Christian Memorial Church
3525 Caton Avenue
Sunday, December 25, 1983
The pastor wishes the New Christian Memorial Family and friends the Blessings of a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
9:30 A.M. — Sunday School — All Ages
11:00 A.M. — Morning Worship
WATCH NIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 31, 1982
10:00 P.M.
ALL ARE WELCOME



REV. WALTER BRONSON JR., Pastor

"Wise Men Still Seek Him" Jesus Christ
MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR
From The
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY
Rev. Dr. Lorenso Graves and Family
3911 Garrison Boulevard
SUNDAY DEC. 25, 1983
9:30 A.M. Bible School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Sermon

Rev. LORENZO GRAVES
REV. JAMES K. AMES
Associate Minmister
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1983
10:30 P.M.
Watch Meeting Service
Sermon by the Pastor
Music by the Choirs
"Christ Makes The Difference"
ALL ARE WELCOME

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
"The Praying Church"
Bond Street and Ashland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21205
WELCOMES YOU TO ITS HOLIDAY SEASONAL SERVICES
December 25, 1983
CHRISTMAS DAY
(Special music by the Choirs)

DR. WALTER E. PAIGE
8:00 A.M. ..... EARLY MORNING SERVICE
Preaching: Rev. Obie Barnes, Assistant Minister Northeast Baptist Church
9:45 A.M. ..... CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM
10:30 A.M. ..... WORSHIP
Sermon: Rev. Walter E. Paige
December 31, 1983 - 1030 P.M.
NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCH NIGHT SERVICE
"There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:8-12
REV. WALTER E. PAIGE, Minister