Religion In Modern Life

Do we need another savior after Dr. Martin Luther King?

By Rebecca Eddins

How long and how hard do our people have to cry out before their voices are heard? How long until their cry is heard by God Himself? I submit that their groanings have already reached the ear of God and He knows of their sorrows.

God is calling for someone that He can use as an instrument of deliverance for His people. Servants are needed who will hear and obey the voice of God. Servants are needed that will not only speak to Pharaoh but to the people as well.

The affliction of Black people was heard back in the days of slavery. Inspite of the fact that the "great" leaders of this country did not really want to let us go free, slavery was abolished at least in "black and white."

Through Jim Crow laws and other social, political and educational loop holes, our lives were still made bitter. In time, God called and raised up Martin Luther King, Jr. to be the "Moses" for the people. Dr. King heard the call of God and heeded the charge to "Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go."

Certainly God was with Dr. King and the people did hearken unto the voice. The Pharaohs of this nation were hardhearted and would not immediately let us go free. Dr. King used the "rod" that was in his hand. He combined direct mass action with non-violence and love to fight racial discrimination and segregation.

He appealed to the understanding (heart and mind) of the oppressors. But real progress was not made until pressure was put on the pocketbook and felt in the bank accounts of the merchants of this nation. We soon evidenced the saying of Jesus, who rightly said, "For where your treasures is there your heart is also."

In 1968, just prior to his death, Dr. King declared that he had "been to the mountain top and had seen the promised land". Obviously he saw himself in the role of Moses.

Like Moses, Dr. King did not get to that land with us. Sixteen years later we are still wandering in the wilderness without Joshua to lead us to "Canaan Land," O'Joshua, servant of God, WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?

Have you not heard? Don't you know that Martin, the servant of God, the Moses of our people, was shot down on the balcony in Memphis, Tennessee. Didn't anyone tell you that he was buried in Atlanta, Georgia and the people have been weeping and mourning the sixteen years, O'Joshua, WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?

Rise up! Joshua servant of God, "full of spirit and wisdom", the people await thee. The time has passed for you to lead the people to that land that Martin Luther King Jr. (Moses) viewed from the mountain top and that God promised that we would possess.

Joshua, so much has happened during these sixteen years of wilderness experiences that you will have to look down the corridors of history and draw from the successes and failures of such men and women as Esther, David, Harriet, Martin and others, if we are to be delivered and "flee the wrath to come."

You see Joshua, your task is twofold; you must lead the people into the land to possess it and at the same time, you must "cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet", and show God's people their transgressions and sins. Like Ezekiel, you have sat among the people all these years since death of Dr. King ("Moses") and you must be astonished by what you see.

The people are still ghetto dwellers who live in run down houses and slum projects. The unemployment rate for the working population has reached an all time high. We have lost our sense of identity; not only have we forgotten from whence we have come but it is difficult to tell who we are.

No one seems to care where we are going. The schools have failed our children and their educational achievement is below that of their white peers. Surely, "we have sown to the wind and reaped the whirlwind."

Our sons and daughters lack ambition and are destined to failure. Every aspect of their existence is a blueprint for destruction. The very environment in which we live breathes doom and despair.

The hopelessness of our situation has found root in the hearts and minds of our children. They are at odds with each other on one hand and rebellious against parents and authorities on the other.

"Daughters have risen up against mothers and sons against fathers." Little children have armed themselves with knives and guns to protect their persons as well as their possessions from each other and from weak warped minded adults who rob, rape, prostitute, and even murder them.

O'Joshua have you not seen, have you not heard the woeful cries of our children? Day after day they scream aloud, begging for attention and solace. Day after day their pleas are ignored and remained unanswered. Was Jesus the only one who understood what he meant when he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Children are also affected and afflicted by the times in which we live.

Instead of aspiring to be like us, our children are already carbon copies of our bad habits, negative attitudes and low life existence. Many of them have long ceased to dream or make plans to "be somebody."

Why aspire to be like Dad when you are already a "chip off the old block." Why desire to follow in the footsteps of Mother when you are already wearing her shoes, dresses and even her makeup?

Mothers and fathers have become negligent of their responsibility to teach and set good examples for their offspring. "Home sweet home" is not home anymore; rather it is a battleground where children are not only caught in the crossfire but are a part of the game plans, strategies and ammunition used for warfare.

Children are no longer considered to be gifts from God, fruit of the womb. Red, yellow, black and white children seem only to be precious in God's sight. Too many of them are "mistakes" and erased through abortion or corrected through abandonment and neglect.

O'Joshua, there is no one to teach our young children the history of our people; that they might know that God has delivered us out of slavery and has sustained us for more than a hundred years in a land where according to our material resources we are "grasshoppers in a land of giants."

There is no one to teach our children to look back with pride upon the blood, sweat, and tears of great freedom fighters, such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr. and others.

To them trying to sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is like trying to sing the "songs of Zion in a strange land." How can they sing a "song full of faith that the dark past has taught us"? How can they sing a "Song full of hope that the present has brought"?

This present age has produced few positive role models. The hero today is the "pimp", "pusher", or prostitute, with the "clean machine", "fine threads" and "rolling in green." Per chance a sports figure or movie star is idolized only to "go up in smoke" as he "snooses", "sniffs" and "fires up."

Young people know little if anything about the Negro Spiritual or the Negro National Anthem. Yet they moan and groan and shake their "booties" to the disco beat, "parrdy," "get down," "get funky" and "get loose" with rock. This generation is preoccupied with sex, drugs and rock and roll which crowds out hours of labor and leisure and takes the place of love.

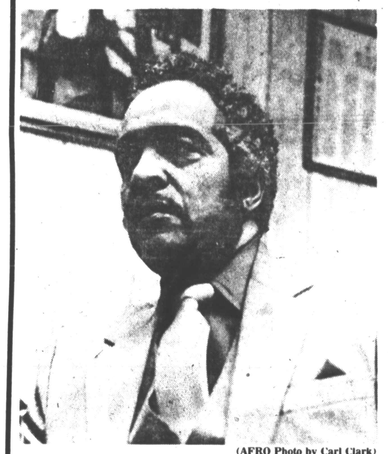
Yes, Joshua, our babies are getting high, "turning on to whatever makes you feel good" while turning out anything that would build character and develop the mind.

Babies are producing babies and the beat goes on. A strange phenomena has emerged in the land; it only takes one person—female—to produce an offspring, or so it seems. For scarcely can father be found when children are born and during the years of training and growth.

Every kid seems to have the same Dad, the same last name, WELFARE. Daddy Welfare is doing the best he can but he could use some help from Mr. Macho whose only proof of manhood is his inflated ego.

O'Joshua, WHERE ARE YOU HIDING? Rise up O' servant of God! Answer the call. Answer the cry. The children are already perishing and so goes our people unless you rise to the occasion. But please Joshua, we need more than talk, more than speech making. It is time to work, fight, and pray. We need to march around the Walls of Jericho this time until the walls fall down. We must march on until victory is won!

Candidates for Bishop look for recommitments from the church



(AFRO Photo by Carl Clark)

'WE MUST TRAIN OUR OWN,' declares Dr. Marshall H. Strickland, pastor of Pennsylvania A.M.E. Zion Church and candidate for Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church, who emphasizes a need for the black church to be more community oriented and more involved with what's happening to its people.

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

"In exactly 16 years, we will eclipse time and move into the 21st Century. I have a concern about the kind of church we will have functioning in the new age drawning upon us.

"The church should be an entity which must prepare its people for a shattering economic future. It should be a center for worship and a center for developing minds.

"The church must go into the whole area of retraining blacks and become within itself a solver of the problem as opposed to being a part of the problem."

These words summon up best the philosophy of the black church according to Dr. Marshall H. Strickland.

Dr. Strickland is the pastor of Pennsylvania A.M.E. Zion Church located at Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St.

For more than 13 years, he has led Pennsylvania A.M.E. Zion to a rising, prosperous plateau. He has initiated and implemented dozens of programs that have led to a rigorous community involvement on behalf of the church.

Then it comes as no surprise that a man with such capabilities, with such stamina would become interested in multiplying his gifts to a greater number of people as a Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

"While I revere our tradition and recognize the ethnic historicity out of which our church has evolved and take single pride in its outreach and status at this point, I am and must be intensely concerned about the kind of churches we leave for our children in the future," says Dr. Strickland.

Dr. Strickland stresses more sociological mandates to be met by the church, mandates that call more attention to hunger and unemployment and mandates that push for better education of black youth and recommitments to old values.

The 50-year-old minister has been preaching more than 20 years and has held five pastorates of A.M.E. Zion Churches.

He has a B.A. from Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C., a B.E. from Hood Theological Seminary in N.C., an M.A. from Howard University in D.C. and a Doctor of Ministries Degree from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

A Bishop in the A.M.E Zion Church has a multi-dimensional personality in terms of responsibilities and image, according to Dr. Strickland.

He is the chief administrator, having the responsibility of serving an entire episcopal district geographically encompassing more than one state.

This July will bring together hundreds of A.M.E. Zion Church delegates at the General Conference to be held in St. Louis, MO where the new Bishops will be elected. Dr. Strickland hopes to be among the newly elected.

"THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IS TO LEAD," says Dr. John R. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church and candidate for Bishop of the AME Church, who poses with his son, Jamal. Dr. Bryant encourages the church to be active in the community.

By Eddi King
AFRO Staff Writer

Coming from the George B. Murphy Homes in West Baltimore, no one really expected some 40 years later one of its former residents would be running for Bishop of the A.M.E. Church.

But then no one but a Murphy Homes' resident would understand the environment that would create a strong will to succeed, a passion for humanity and an undying commitment to the advancement of a creed of people.

No one but a deprived kid can feel the pain and hurt some 40 years later of a tampered with political and educational system that has crippled the effectiveness of his people's progression.

Dr. John R. Bryant is running for Bishop because these 40 years of his life, he says, have taught him to be concerned about others.

It was 22 years ago that he first entered into the ministry, and it was only two years after that when he took over his first pastorship.

As pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church at Lanvale and Druid Hill Ave. he has proven over and over again, according to some, that his administrative abilities are advanced.

"I see the church's role as a leader," said Dr. Bryant. "It is to be the moral conscience, an enabler, the legitimizer of the moral ethical activity of the people. It is to be a voice and an advocate for the people."

Dr. Bryant pushes for the involvement of the church in community affairs, that's to include politics also. "(politics) has too great an impact on the lives of our people for us not to be involved. Many are starved and enslaved by the political process."

Married to a former school mate Cecelia Bryant, he has two sons, Jamal and Thema.

He's a graduate of City College H.S. and holds a B.A. from Morgan State University, an M.A. from Boston University and a Doctoral Degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

An activist, it is not unusual to find this candidate in the midst of marches and speaking at rallies. There is an emphasis from Rev. Bryant to being a part of the political process without being a politician.

"Some ministers have the call to be politicians," he says. "I don't have that call."

An active outreach center which administers clothing, counseling and co - op programs to the needy, a scholarship program, church newspaper, prison ministry and an impressive Bethel Bible School are all parts of many services initiated under the eight-year-pastorship of John Bryant at Bethel.

"I want to be Bishop, for God has called me to do that. I want to be a part of molding the mission style and thrusts of many congregations in many cities. I just want to do God's will says Rev. Bryant.

Metro Church Briefs

Bethel A.M.E.

"God's Trombones" will be the featured production at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Lanvale St. and Druid Hill Ave., on Sat., Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Donation is $5. The play is a tribute to Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. featuring various artists of the church including Pastor John Bryant.

First Baptist

The First Baptist Church of Guilford, 7504 Oakland Mills Road, in Columbia will be presenting in concert Rev. Donald Vails of Detroit and the D.C. Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Kenneth Lewis and Phase I, and Henry McKenzie Davis and Company on Sat., Jan 14. Donations are $5 in advance and $7 at door. For further info. call (301) 730-4414.

Mt. Lebanon

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be sponsored Sun., Jan 15 at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, 2320 Reisterstown Road, at 3:30 p.m. The theme

"Of Martyrs and Men" will be portrayed by Rev. John A. Parker of Mt. Lebanon. The program will highlight the accomplishments of Dr. King.

Our Lady of Good Counsel

The touring Xavier University of Louisiana Ensemble will present its concert on Sun., Jan. 15 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 925 Poplar Grove St.

Huber Memorial United Church of Christ

The Women's Guild of The Huber Memorial United Church of Christ, The Alameda at 29th St., will sponsor a prayer breakfast in honor of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. on Sun., Jan. 15 at 8 a.m. Donation in advance is $4. Evangelist Rosa Pitts will be the speaker.

Good Shepherd Baptist

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, 3459 Park Heights Ave., will have a membership rally on Sun., Jan. 15 featuring the Keys of Faith, John Highsmith, Hall Sisters, Whispering Spirits and others as their guests. The program will begin at 4: p.m. Admission is free.

Shiloh Christian Community

Shiloh Christian Community Church, Lombard and Catherine Sts, will feature Rev. Benjamin Jones, associate minister of St. Paul Baptist Church, as the guest morning speaker at 11: a.m. Music will be rendered by The Chancel Choir.

The date for the occassion is Sun., Jan. 15.

The Octettes will be celebrating their 21st Anniversary on Feb. 5 at Shiloh Christian Community Church, 2500 W. Lombard St.

If You Ask Me

By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

Mrs. Enolia Pettigen McMillan has been a trail blazer all her 79 years. This week, she became the president of the National NAACP, a first Baltimorean to be elected to this prestigious post.

She succeeds Dr. James W. Kemp who died last month. Although the office is mainly prestigious—she will preside at board meetings and represent the organization across the country.

Hats off to Enolia Pettigen McMillan.

Cuff notes: Mrs. McMillan has headed the Baltimore NAACP branch for the past 16 years. She doesn't yet plan to resign the board post since the day to day activities of national are conducted by executive, Dr. Benjamin Hooks and his staff.

Mrs. McMillan succeeded the late Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, the branch head for 34 years.

More firsts

"Mrs. Mac," as some call Mrs. McMillan, has been involved in the NAACP most of her adult life. AFRO files show she was the first president of the Maryland State Conference of Branches, which she and the late Dr. Jackson organized.

She was president of the Maryland State Teachers Association in 1956, when that body joined with the NAACP in a court suit to equalize teachers' salaries. (At that time white teachers were paid twice that paid black (colored) teachers.

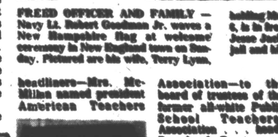
Her other "firsts" are numerous—and have been chronicled in the newspaper through the years.

Here are some of the highlights: Mrs. McMillan named president American Teachers Association—to the board of trustees of the former all-white Public School Teachers' Association. Lady on board of Trustees of Calvary Baptist Church . . . first woman chair of Morgan State University.....

An educator in Maryland schools for 41 years, Mrs. McMillan retired in 1969. Her last post was Dunbar High vice principal under Robert P. Diggs who was principal.

In the city school system, she was first—after the 1954 school desegregation ruling, she was a first teacher assigned to a former all-white school-serving as math instructor at Lee School, later moving to administrative assistant at Clifton Park Junior High in 1956 when school was 95 percent white and the principal was Edmond Reuter.

FRIED OFFICER AND FAMILY — Navy Lt. Robert Goodman Jr. waves a New Hampshire flag at welcome' ceremony in New England town on Sunday. Pictured are his wife, Terry Lynn, baby Morgan 2. Daughter, Tina Marie, 6, in in front. Read more about the man Jesse Jackson helped free from Syrian jail and his family in If You Ask Me. (UPI Photo)



HATS OFF to Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan. See why in If You Ask Me.

Her family

Mrs. McMillan and her husband, Bertha, a retired teacher, marked their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 16.

Their son, Bertha Jr., is a supervisor at a large Baltimore area firm. His wife, Lois, is an English prof at Morgan U.

Their children are David, 2; Angela, 5; and Tiffany, 14.

Mrs. McMillan is the oldest of four children. When her parents settled in Baltimore from Cecil County, she was 5 years old. They lived on a farm on Hillen Rd., now the site of the Morgan Christian Center on Morgan U campus.

Commuter

When Enolia went to Howard University, where she earned her bachelor's degree with honors, she commuted to D.C. via WBA electric car for four years ("My family couldn't afford to have me stay on campus"). The round trip from home, then in the 2800 block McCulloh St., took two and a half hours!

More family: McMillan has lost his sister, Mrs. Dorothy Taylor, Baltimore mother of seven; and brothers, Fortune Pettigen, Los Angeles, and Archie Pettigen, Baltimore.

Nov. 29, 1967 quote from Mrs. McMillan: "We must be free of economic worries if we are to do our best jobs as teachers...salaries of teachers have long been inadequate to enable them to do the best job for our boys and girls....."

About people

Happy birthday cards to Mrs. Alonzo K. Jones, 1701 Bates Place. She will be 81 years old on January 12.

A retired beautician, Mrs. Jones has been a member of Douglas Memorial Church for over 50 years, and long active in the Women of Christian Fellowship Committee and Deborah Circle at the church.

Plus, for years, she has been active in the Baltimore NAACP branch which has cited her for her membership drive efforts.

She and the late Miss Pattie E. Holloway, who died last week, have been among the branch's busiest volunteers. (See

(Continued on page 20)

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THE NEW SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH will commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Sunday, January 15, 1984, 6:00 P.M., at the church located at Fremont Avenue and Lanvale Street, where Dr. Harold A. Carter is Pastor.

The congregation plans to reaffirm and recommit their lives to the universal dream of peace which Dr. King espoused, including his ethics of community brotherhood, equality and justice for all, and his philosophies for courageous and victorious living rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The worship celebration will feature noted ministers of Baltimore City, including the preaching of The REV. DR. MARION BASCOM, presented by THE THE REV. DOUGLAS MILES.

Statements on Dr. King's political, educational and cultural legacies will be presented by:

ATTORNEY GEORGIA GOSLEE

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER PATRICIA MORRIS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF BALTIMORE PRESIDENT DR. CHARLES G. TILDON

The Congregation's statement of reaffirmation and determination to live out Dr. King's principles and teachings pointing to the reality that "We shall overcome" will be delivered by:

STATE DELEGATE LARRY YOUNG

Dr. Harold A. Carter
Pastor

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