Religion In Modern Life

Rev. Phillip Rushing: from empty sleeves to a full bodied life

By Pinnie L. Ross

He was poor. He was handicapped. He was black. To many people in America, any one of these might seem to be an overwhelming barrier to success. All three were reality to the Rev. Phillip Rushing.

From the cotton fields of various plantations to boardroom, from a patient list to the list of ten outstanding young men of America, Reverend Rushing made that journey.

"Pinnie you must come to my book party, and if you are not able to make it, I'll autograph you one." And that's just what he did as friends gathered at the home of Harvey and Ora Anderson just recently to discuss his newly released autobiography, Empty Sleeves.

Empty Sleeves vibrates with life as the author takes you back to the plantation culture of the deep South. "Thank you Lord, for these empty sleeves." How those sleeves come to be empty and how one man had faith that God fill those sleeves with his Glory. For purchase of this book, call 730-8689 - 465-0123.

Rev. Phillip Rushing, an immaculate and articulate 50 year old former minister of St. John Baptist Church and founder of Martin Luther King Community Church in Columbia, is a man with hard words but with a soft heart when it comes to his people.

He grew up on the Eastland plantation in Dodsville, MI.

Speaking of the plantation life, the biscuits with salt pork and gravy, after which he snatched a hoe methodically through grass, regardless of how he felt, the work continued, snatching, bending under the direction of a Red Neck carrying a gun.

He only knew one father, Willie Jackson, who's nickname was given to him because of his courage and pride, he was looked upon as a "nigger" who would not take stuff off nobody," not even white folk.

Recalling an incident that led to the nicknaming of his granddaddy—Forty-Four. His white boss cocked a 44 pistol in Willie's face ordering him to work the fields. " Granddaddy looked right down the nose of that pistol and didn't even flinch "If you pull that trigger, Mr. Dukes I am going to choke your tongue out."

"He was a man who did not fear death, he was the first free black man I've seen." Those were sincere words from Rev. Rushing.

"Big Momma" his grandmother, the only mother he knew at that time taught him to consider other people and gave him a constant lesson in love and sensitivity.

Rev. Rushing "Bug Doggy", (nickname for Phillip) lost his father Forty-four at the age of eight and went to live with his mother Tishie.

He started a new life with his mother, father, sister and brothers on another small plantation.

His mother enrolled him in a one room shack where the plantation fed 150 students. That was the beginning of Phillip Rushing's education.

Empty Sleeves

It was Christmas, lots of pretty clothes and good food. He and his buddy Bubba were enroute to visit their girlfriends along the frost-bitten plantation road with high spirits.

Tragedy came when Rushing saw a silver wire across the road dangling from a pole. "I closed my hands across the wire, my life was changed." His body surged with electricity, leaving him without hands and arms, and that was the beginning of empty sleeves that led to artificial limbs and mechanical hooks. Bubba, his best friend died in an attempt to save Rushing's life.

His stay in the hospital was over three months. He was not able to feed himself, comb his hair or even use the bathroom privately.

He became very frustrated until Nurse Jackson, a self-assured woman, impressed him as being even smarter than his grandfather Forty-four, encouraged him on how he ought to respond to a challenge, and to hold his head up high.

Learning Life's Basics

He learned to do basic things, he learned to read with ease, turning the pages with his chin and toes, to open doors with his foot, with chin and stump he lifted skillets from hooks, cracked eggs between his lips, falling in the cup without leaving no trace of shell.

Encounter on the Bridge

Phillip Rushing did not progress as well as he felt he should. He became very frustrated, assuming that he had failed. Life to him was useless, and led him to attempt to jump off a bridge. "Do not throw your life away, the work you were born for still remains." Those were words from a voice he heard, but yet saw no one.

Rushing began to fight and adhere to the warning from God.

He graduated from Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL, Lexington Theological Seminary and the University of Kentucky.

In 1961 Phillip moved to Chicago to study under a scholarship from University of Chicago's School of Social Work.

In 1970 he was awarded an HEW Fellowship, one of ten people selected from a field of 15,000 candidates. This recognition took him to Washington, DC where he became a Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Health Service and Mental Health Administration. Upon completion he was offered a senior level position.

(Photo by Doug Kapustin)

REV. PHILLIP RUSHING use to pastor St. John Baptist Church in Columbia.

In 1972 he returned to Chicago to become Director of Human Relations for the Illinois Department of Public Aids.

In 1975 he went back to Washington, remaining there until 1978 as Deputy Equal Opportunity officer for the Food and Drug Administration.

At present Rev. Phillip Rushing is back in Chicago as pastor of United Christion Church and working on his ThD at Theological Seminary. He is married to Mildred Ann Parks. They have four children- Milton, 22, Phillip, 20, Searcy, 18 and Phyllis Ann, 12.

Rev. Rushing is in hope that his book will motivate those with physical handicaps, and also Black youths discouraged by the barriers they must over come.

THOUGH FOR TODAY

God works miracles, but you must believe.

Metro Church Briefs

Carver High

The Morgan State University Choir will be in concert at the 100th anniversary celebration of St. Gregory The Great Catholic Church to be held at Carver Vocational High School, Bentalou and Presstman Sts., on Friday, October 12, 7:30 p.m. $6.

Howard Park U.M.

Volunteers in Christian Evangelism announces its first fall meeting and training program for high school chaplains. Persons interested in volunteering to serve as chaplains for junior and senior high school students during the 1985 school year are invited to attend at Howard Park United Methodist Church, 5020 Gwynn Oak Ave., on Sat., Oct. 13. For further info. call 542-540.

Unity Baptist

The Ministers' Wives Association of Howard County will be sponsoring a workshop on "Christian Growth" on Sat., Oct. 13, 10-1 p.m., at Unity Baptist Church, 7204 Montgomery Rd., Elkridge.

Calvary Baptist

Women of Calvary Baptist Church, 3911 Garrison Blvd., will hold a prayer luncheon on Sat., Oct. 13, 1 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Maude Coleman, pastor of Christian Unity Temple. $5.

Grace A.M.E.

Annual Missionary Day at Grace A.M.E. Church, 67 Winters Lane, will be held Sunday, October 14. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Lucille Belle.

Campfield A.M.E.

Evang. Esther Melcher will be the guest speaker at a pre-Women's Day Prayer Breakfast at Campfield A.M.E. Church, 7140 Walnut St., on Sat., Oct. 13, 8 a.m.

New Second Baptist

Roy L. Brown, Sr. will be ordained deacon on Sat., October 13, 5 p.m. at the New Second Baptist Church, Guilford and Lanvale Sts.

Concord Baptist

A workshop, "The Virtuous Women," is being held at Concord Baptist Church, 5204 Liberty Heights Ave., on Sat., Oct. 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Workshop instructor will be

Evang. Ester Melcher

Mrs. Barbara Riddix of Mt. Zion Baptist.

Govans Presbyterian

On Sunday, October 14, 7 p.m., in Govans Presbyterian Church, 5824 York Rd., St. Luke Health Ministries of northeast Baltimore will initiate a program for the building of a life center.

Enon Baptist

The Lula S. Richardson Courtesy Guild cordially invites you to the seventh "This Is Your Life" program on Sunday, Oct. 14, 4 p.m., at Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Ave. and Schroeder St.

Hope Baptist

The annual community service awards program of the Social Action Committee of Ray of Hope Baptist Church, 3000 Parkside Drive, will be Sun., Oct. 14, 5 p.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. Cleveland Alexander of East Side Baptist.

Waters A.M.E.

The 141th Church Anniversary and Homecoming observance of Waters A.M.E. Church, 417 Aisquith At., will be held Sun., Oct. 14. 11 a.m. speaker, Rev. Harold Dobson; 3 p.m. musical extravaganza.

Wilson Chapel

Kane's Day presents Samuel Shufford and the Ten Virgins Pageant at Wilson Chapel Baptist Church, 2120 E. Fairmont Ave., 5 p.m.

Sharp Street U.M.

Verna Day will be the guest speaker at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Etting Streets, on Sunday, October 14, 11 a.m.

John Wesley U.M.

Adult Fellowship of John Wesley United Methodist Church, 3202 W. North Ave., will celebrate its 40th Anniversary at 4 p.m. Guest soloist, Sandra Bunch.

New Mt. Hebron Baptist

New Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, 2016 W. North Ave., will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Flower Circle on Oct. 14, 3:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Rev. Errolle Gilliard of Mt. Caramel Baptist.

Brown's Memorial Baptist

Brown's Memorial Baptist Church, 3215 W. Belvedere Ave., will celebrate Homecoming on Sun., Oct. 14 all day. 4 p.m. speaker, Dr. James Faller of New Hope Baptist.

Campfield A.M.E.

Women's Day at Campfield A.M.E. will be celebrated on Oct. 14. Church is located 7140 Walnut Street.

Food Day

The Baltimore Committee for World Food Day announces plans for celebrations on Oct. 16. For further info. call John Springer 962-8333.

Gillis Memorial

A Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church Christmas Drive will send interested people to New York for a weekend to see play, "Mama I Want To Sing" and "The Tap Dance Kid." For further ticket information for the Oct. 18 weekend date, call Leo, 764-1781.

Mt. Lebanon Baptist

Women of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, 2320 Reisterstown Rd., will sponsor the James Peterson Singers in concert on Friday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. Guest appearance by the Singing Deacons.

St. Michael's

Episcopal Churchwomen of The Church of St. Michael and All Angels will present their annual fall bazaar on Friday, Oct. 19 and Sat., Oct. 20 in the church parish house, St. Paul and 20th St.

Faith Baptist

An anniversary birthday dinner will be given for Deacon and Mrs. Julius Tanner on Sat., Oct. 20, 6 p.m. at Faith Baptist Church. For further info. call Ernestine Hill, 444-8825.

Continued on page 15

Baptist Ministers' Conference

Invites All Students, Friends, & Alumni of

MORRIS COLLEGE

TO

MORRIS COLLEGE DAY

Monday, October 15, 1984
Conference Opens 12 Noon
Speaker: ISAIAH HARVEY
Dean of Morris College
To Be Held At
ENON BAPTIST CHURCH
Edmondson Ave. & Schroeder St.
Dr. A. C. D. Von, Pres. of Conference
Rev. Porter Phillips, Pastor, Enon Baptist Church

FALL REVIVAL

Israel Baptist Church is holding its Annual Fall Revival, October 14-19 nightly at 7:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be **REV. LEHMAN D. BATES,** Pastor of First Baptist Church of Marshall Heights, Washington, D.C.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. Lehman D. Bates, Pastor
First Baptist Church of Marshall Heights
4934 "B" Street, Southeast
(202) 584-2230

Licensed to the Gospel Ministry in 1955 and Ordained into the Pastoral Ministry in 1959 through the Union Grove Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

CURRENTLY:
Pastor of First Baptist Church of Marshall Heights, Washington, D.C. since 1976.

PREVIOUSLY:
Pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA. (1966-1979)
Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Delaware, Ohio (1960-1966)

REV. LEHMAN D. BATES

AFFILIATIONS
District of Columbia (Presently)
Executive Board Member — Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention
Board Member — National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
Trustee Board Member — Shaw Divinity School, Raleigh, N.C.
Elected to National Board of Directors of S.C.L.C. — 1981
President & Board Member — Eastern Commodities, Ltd., Fairfax, Virginia
President — Financial Brokerage Consultants, Inc.
Part of a team of Consultants: Providing proposal writing and liaison services between the Private Lending Sector and Borrowers.
National Convener — Coordinator for United For Survival: a religious initiative of Black Preachers/Pastors to unite in mourning, sympathy, respect, and concern against the kidnap and/or murder of Black People in America.
Pittsburgh, PA (1966-1979)
Sponsor — Accelerated Rehabilitative disposition Program for first-time Offenders of Justice:
Member — Clergy Support Committee OIC's of America
Member — Urban League; NAACP
Founder and Co-ordinator of Project United Service (1969-1979) for the purpose of aiding and assisting disadvantaged, impoverished and disenfranchised Americans of American Heritage in Beaufort and Jasper Counties, South Carolina.
Co-Develper of "Preaching in the Black Idiom" (1970), Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Staff
Negotiating Committee Member — Black Construction Coalition (1969)
Result: Pittsburgh Plan Pre-Apprenticeship Program for Minorities

REV. H. WALDEN WILSON, Pastor

—Metro Church Briefs

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Emmanuel C.C.

A panel discussion of child abuse and single parents will be led JoAnn Morton and L'Tanya Brothers of the Department of Social Services at Emmanuel C.C. Church, 1210 W. Lanvale St., on Sat., Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m.

Providence Baptist

A Women's Day Prayer Breakfast will be held Sat., Oct. 20 at Providence Baptist Church, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. Guest speaker, Miss Betty Cotton. $4.

Mt. Lebanon Baptist

A political awareness forum will be held at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, 2320 Reisterstown Rd., 7 p.m., on Oct. 21. Reps from Mondale and Reagan campaigns will be present.

Olu's

Prophet Joseph Hyman will be teaching metaphysical classes on "How the Bible Was Written" and "The 18 Absent Years of Jesus Christ" at Olu's Dance Theatre Center, 432 E. 32nd St., on Oct. 21, 3 p.m.

New Christian Memorial

Celebrating Family and Friends Day on Sun., Oct. 21 will be members of the New Christian Memorial Church, 3525 W. Caton Ave. 8 a.m. speaker, Rev. Erroll Gilliard; 11 a.m. speaker, Rev. Walter Bronson, Jr., 4 p.m., Elder Martin Jacobs.

St. James U.M.

Women of St. James United Methodist Church, Lexington and Monroe Sts., will celebrate their day on Sun., Oct. 21. Guest speaker for 11 a.m. service, Rev. Roselyn Ushry of Strawbridge United Methodist; 3 p.m., Rev. Kay Smith of Grace United Methodist.

Zion Baptist

50th Women Day celebration at Zion Baptist Church, Caroline and Lanvale Sts., on Sun., Oct. 21. 11 a.m. speaker, Rev. Rebecca Eddins; 3 p.m., Zion Women's Chorus in concert.

Payne Memorial A.M.E.

Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church, Madison Ave. and Laurens St., will be celebrating annual Stewards Day on Sun., Oct. 21, 3:30 p.m.

Union Memorial U.M.

95 years of Methodism will be celebrated at a banquet affair on Oct. 21 from 5-8 p.m. at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. Members of Union Memorial United Methodist Church are sponsoring the affair. For further information, call 945-2725.

First Corinthian Baptist

Kevin Elliott of the First Corinthian Baptist Church will be delivering his trial sermon on Oct. 21 at the Pennsylvania Ave. A.M.E. Zion Church, Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St., 6 p.m.

Southern Baptist

Rev. Clay Burston will be the guest speaker at Southern Baptist Church, 1701 N. Chester St., from Oct. 22 through October 24, 7 p.m. nightly.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran

Oyster or Ham supper and bazaar, sponsored by the women of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grindon and Mainfield Aves., on Wed., Oct. 24 from 3 to 7 p.m.

New St. John Baptist

The Sunday School and BTU Congress of the Maryland Baptist Convention presents a cultural enrichment program featuring the youth and young adult choir of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in concert on Thu., Oct. 25, 7 p.m., at the New St. John Baptist Church, 106 W. Franklin St.

Central Baptist

The Annual Combined Men and Women's Day of Central Baptist Church, 2035 W. Baltimore St., will be held Sun., Oct. 28. 7:30 a.m. speaker, Rev. Cleveland Mason of Shiloh Baptist; 11:30 a.m., Dr. Bowman of First Baptist in Annapolis; 3:30 p.m. musical extravaganza.

Mt. Olive Baptist

The Jesus Never Fails Club is going to Mt. Olive Baptist Church in North Thumberland County Virginia on Sun., Oct. 28. For further info. call Sister Young, 547-1462.

St. Johns U.M.

Welcome Travelers will be in concert at St. Johns United Methodist Church, Glen Ave. and Highgate Drive, on Sun., Oct. 28, 2 p.m.

City Temple Baptist

Anniversary Choir of City Temple Baptist Church, 317 Dolphin St., will be having their 14th Annual Anniversary Concert on Sunday, Oct. 28, 5 p.m.

Edmondson U.M.

Edmondson United Methodist Church's Sanctuary Choir will have their first anniversary on Oct. 28. Rev. Alfreda Wiggins presiding at 11 a.m. service; Rev. John Bryant presiding at 3 p.m. service.

St. John A.M.E.

"Women Set Free In The Spirit", a featured revival to be held at St. John A.M.E. Church, 810 N. Carrollton Ave., from Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, will present Sister Melba Wharton, Rev. Vivian Castain and Rev. Debyil S. Thomas as guest speakers, beginning 7 p.m. nightly.

Ezra Baptist

Senior Choir of Ezra Baptist Church, 3800 Glenmore Ave., is presenting the T&T Baltimore Steel Orchestra and the Voices of Ezra in concert on Sat., Nov. 3 from 7-9 p.m.

Harlem Park

Harlem Park Community Baptist Church, 612 N. Gilmor St., is presenting the Morgan State University Choir in concert, Sunday, November 4, 6 p.m.

St. Bernadine

Going to see "Mama I Want To Sing" in New York is St. Bernadine's Roman Catholic Church on Sat., Nov. 10. For further info. call Alease Gray, 466-6467.

St. James

Tutors are needed at St. James and St. John's Church to help youth between ages of 6 and 18. For further info. call 685-0017. Tutor positions are volunteer.

Southern Baptist

Southern Baptist Church will celebrate their 53rd Annual Women's Day on November 4 with guest speakers, Weptanomah Carter and Bessie Mason. Southern is located 1701 N. Chester St.

Bethel A.M.E.

Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave., is beginning its food and energy coop programs. Anyone needing assistance in both areas should apply. For further info. call 462-9747.

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Dolphin & Etting Streets

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Sun., Oct. 14, 1984
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Guest Speaker
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Worship 11:00 AM

Dr. Benjamin Foust, Pastor
Herbert Brown, Minister of Music
Jacquelyn Hardy, Organist

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8:00 A.M. ..... Prayer & Spiritual Healing Service
9:00 A.M. ..... Church School
9:50 A.M. ..... Church Training
3:30 P.M. ..... Memorial Fellowship Choir In Concert — Jona Rhodes
Music — Spiritual — "Car 'ty Lord" — Composer — Paul Johnson
Anthem — "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
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Dr. Marion Curtis Bascom, Minister
James S. Hammond, M. Music
Juanita Hall Davis Organist

Eight and Eleven O'Clock
Sunday, October 14, 1984
Marion Curtis Bascom Preaching

Anthems
8:00 - Jesu, Joy of Men's Desiring — J.S. Bach
Holy Bible arr. John Work
11:00 - Psalm 150 — Cesar Franck
Hold On arr. Jester Hairston

Jehovah's Witnesses hold meeting

Jehovah's Witnesses held a special event in Pittsburgh, sponsored by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania.

The Society is a non-profit religious society, chartered on December 13, 1884, for the purpose of dissemination of Bible truths in various languages by all lawful means on a worldwide scale.

The modern organization of Jehovah's Witnesses began in Allegheny, Pa. (now part of Pittsburgh) 100 years ago. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society was granted a charter in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pa. on December 13, 1884.

Some 45,000 ministers of Jehovah's Witnesses and their families from a four-state area attended the Three Rivers Stadium, 420 Stadium Circle, in Pittsburgh on October 6.

This was the 100th annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. Members came from as far away as Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Ivory Coast, Finland, India, Australia, Argentina and Korea.

There were talks by Watch Tower officials, interviews of those who have been active in the work of Jehovah's Witnesses for more than 60 to 70 years of the 100-year history of the Watch Tower Society.

Three Rivers Stadium is just a few hundred yards from the site of the original headquarters of the Watch Tower Society at the corner of Federal and Robinson Streets.

This was the location from which Pastor Charles Russell, first president of the Watch Tower Society directed his chain of clothing stores.

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Cordially invites you to attend

ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY
Sunday, October 14, 1984
Theme:
"Christian Women in the Service of the Lord"
Scripture: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." — Romans 12:1

ORDER OF SERVICE

8:00 A.M. — THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
Early Morning Worship
Preaching: Rev. Junior Chambers, Assistant Minister
Faith Baptist Church

9:15 A.M. — THE CHURCH IN LEARNING
Church School — Member Orientation Class

10:30 A.M. — THE CHURCH IN PRAISE AND PRAYER — Devotions

10:45 A.M. — THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
Guest Speaker:
Dr. Shirley Hart
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Norfolk, Virginia

1:30 P.M. — THE CHURCH IN FELLOWSHIP
(Multipurpose Room of the Center)

3:00 P.M. — THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP (Through Song)
Presenting in Recital — The Women's Chorus of Faith Baptist Church under the direction of Miss Bettye McLeod

6:00 P.M. — THE CHURCH IN TRAINING
Baptist Training Union

Mrs. Bernita Paige, President
REV. WALTER E. PAIGE, Minister