

Tid Bits for Living

By REV. T.L. STRAYHAND

A New Year Preview

This little poem expresses best what I wish to share with you at the close of this year as we stand on the threshold of the new.

The darkness hides the path ahead,
The stones we cannot see;
So many struggle on life's road
Complaining shamefully!
Fumbling, grumbling, stumbling on
Waiting for the light to dawn!

The light has dawned, for
Christ has said:
"I am this dark world's Light!"
Then why continue in the dark?
Without Him it is night!

So, as another New Year
dawns,
May we walk close to Him,
The dazzling glory of His
light



REV. THOMAS STRAYHAND

Will make all else grow dim;
His beaming, gleaming,
streaming Light
Will shine, and make the path-
way bright!

Author Unknown

Watchnight services at Mt. Olivet

New Year's Eve Watchnight Service will be held at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church on Friday, December 31 at 10:30 p.m. The service is sponsored by the eight churches of the Union fellowship of North East Portland. Participating churches: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Rev. John Jackson, pastor; Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, Rev. O.B. Williams, pastor; Bethel A.M.E. Church, Rev. A.L. Henderson, pastor; Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church, Rev. Benjamin Owe, pastor; Highland Baptist Church, Rev. George Dick, pastor; Mallory Avenue Christian Church, Rev. Dale Stitt, pastor; First A.M.E. Church, Rev. L.J. Thompson, pastor; and Allen Temple C.M.E. Church, Rev. T.L. Strayhand, pastor.

The service begins on New Year's Eve at 10:30 p.m. and ends with the beginning of the new year at midnight. The public is cordially invited. Come and witness the end of another year and the beginning of the new. Share in the worship of Him who gives us the years Year after Year.

Amsterdam has Jewish Rebirth

The Jewish population of Amsterdam, which was almost wiped out by the Nazis during World War II, is gradually increasing.

For centuries Amsterdam was known as "The new Jeru-

salem" because for more than 300 years it was a haven for Jews fleeing persecution in other European nations.

In 1940 the Jewish population of Amsterdam was 86,000, but when the Nazis left

there were only 10,000 left. The liberal atmosphere of Amsterdam through the centuries and its freedom of speech and the press were reasons why Jews as well as other persecuted groups found a haven there.

The earliest Jewish community was formed in Amsterdam after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. When they arrived from Spain they came officially as Christians to escape persecution under the Spanish Inquisition. Once in Holland, they were free to practice their own religion. The Jewish community prospered and by 1780, they numbered 22,000. They had great influence on the commercial prosperity and the culture of the city.

One of the finest buildings in Amsterdam is a 17th Century Portuguese synagogue where services are still held by candle light. The synagogue also houses a library of 20,000 Hebrew books and old prints.

Today there are approximately 13,000 Jews in Amsterdam, about 30% being refugees from other European capitals.

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What's Next For Jesse Jackson?

What's next for the Rev. Jesse Jackson now that he has broken away from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)?

Jackson, 30 years old, resigned as national director of Operation Breadbasket, the economic arm of SCLC, last Saturday. Jackson's action came one week and one day after he had been suspended from SCLC for 60 days by the group's board of directors.

In announcing his resignation in a telegram to Dr. Ralph Abernathy, SCLC president in Atlanta, and Dr. J.B. Lowery, chairman of the board, Jackson said: "Since the time has come when I cannot any longer give my active service to the organization - and since it is not my desire to stand in the way of progress - I consider 60 days too long for this vital work to be endangered by my 'leave of absence' and hereby submit my resignation for the good of the organization effective December 17.

Jackson also told a rally he will turn his attention to "an avowed mobilization to defeat Hanrahan."

The remark was in reference to Edward V. Hanrahan, Chicago-Cook County state's attorney who was recently elected by the Democratic party to run for re-election next year. He is under a grand jury indictment for alleged obstruction of justice in a 1969 police raid on an apartment in which two Black Panther leaders were slain.

Jesse Jackson urges education

Reverend Jesse Jackson warned students that black campuses are developing an intellectual elitism and a form of black pride that does not lead to black power and they may reduce the value of the campuses in a move toward black nationhood.

A dispute in connection with sponsorship of Black Expo by Operation Breadbasket led to Jackson's suspension. Two corporations were

formed allegedly without approval of the SCLC national board to operate the annual exhibition of black business and cultural achievements.

Designed to stimulate economic growth in the black community, Black Expo in 1968 raised more than \$60,000 for SCLC. Last year the proceeds dropped to \$11,000, financial records showed. This year's total has not been tabulated.

Rumors have it that Jackson now plans to start a national organization similar to Breadbasket. It's been said he can get the support of several national Black leaders and entertainers if he decides to do so.

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