

RELIGION



Scripture of the Week:
NUMBERS: Chapter 12

God Gives Martin A Plan For Mount Olivet God Will Show You How!

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

After many weeks, days and hours; interviews, screenings and meetings — the Pulpit Committee of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church found a young man with a plan. His man is James E. Martin, from Bluefield, West Virginia.

Rev. Dr. Martin is the product of a Christian family; who, at an early age, learned to love and respect his fellow man. More importantly, he learned to respect God as the Creator of mankind and this extraordinary universe in which we live.

He was born May 9, 1947, to Ola Martin and the late Riley Martin in Bluefield, West Virginia. He gained prominence and notoriety, to some degree, because of his academic and athletic abilities in the Tazewell County Public School System. He entered West Virginia State College — on a basketball scholarship — in the fall of 1965, then transferred to Bluefield State College and earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration while working as an attendant for the Sinkford and Richardson Funeral Home in Bluefield.

In 1974, Dr. Martin became the owner-operator of Mr. J's Mens Wear, a high fashion clothing store for young men. The store had locations in Bluefield and Welch, West Virginia, and continued to operate until economic conditions forced termination in December of 1979.

Dr. Martin was employed by the Bluefield City Police for three years. He rose to the position of sergeant in his third year.

During that year, he made a sincere rededication to his life to Jesus Christ and received his Divine Call into the ministry. He preached his initial sermon on the first Sunday in August of 1979. He began preaching at revivals and other services; but, the strain of both professions was tremendous. After much prayer by his mother and many Christian friends, God opened an unseen door. In August of 1980, Dr. Martin was offered the position of teacher/coordinator of Marketing and Distributive Education at Bluefield High School — a position that had only been created a short time prior to that date; but, a position that God foresaw. Give God the praise!!!

It was at this time that Dr. Martin realized his need for professional studies to help bolster his ministry. He enrolled in an off-campus program at Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana, in the fall of 1980.

The first of March, 1981, Dr. Martin was called as the associate pastor of Union Baptist Church in Bluefield. The very next week, he was called to the pastorate of Laurel Creek Baptist Church in Wolfe, West Virginia. He served these churches on alternating Sundays.

He was ordained on May 9, 1981. In November, Dr. Martin became the pastor at Union Baptist and continued to serve both churches until he resigned Laurel Creek Baptist in May of 1982 to become full-time pastor of Union Baptist.

During this time period, the ambitious and energetic Dr. Martin received a second B.S. degree in



Rev. James E. Martin and Family.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Criminal Justice Administration from Bluefield State College.

Dr. Martin entered seminary, earned his Master of Ministry degree and a Master of Divinity degree. His ability to deliver his sermons improved; the church grew spiritually, numerically and financially. There arose a strong motivation for him to enter the doctorate program and specialize in Christian Counseling. This task required everything he had had and more, but with God as the forerunner, there was always consolation and assurance in knowing that there would be no failure in this endeavor.

The task was demanding, studying everyday and many hours of neglect to the family; but, he continued until he reached success. On August 10, 1985, he graduated Suma Cum Laude with a Ph.D. degree (Doctor of Philosophy) in Christian Counseling from Trinity. His doctoral dissertation was entitled, "The Christian Faith and the Dilemma of Teenage Commitment."

In addition to all the above accomplishments, Dr. Martin has received his teaching certification from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, his Master's degree in Vocational Technical Education from Marshall University in 1986 and was featured on Union Baptist Church's outreach radio broadcast called, "Soul Outreach", heard every Sunday morning on WKOY (AM 1240) at 8:00 a.m.

Dr. Martin is married to the lovely Lynetta Patterson Martin of Pulaski, Virginia. They have three beautiful

daughters: Tiffany, 11 years old; Tara, 5 years old; and Ashley, 7 months old. Dr. Martin is a devoted husband and loving father.

The Mount Olivet Baptist Church is truly blessed to have Dr. Martin as their new pastor.

The plan that God has given Dr. Martin is three words: Trust, Cooperation, and Prayer. If the church family will — trust the pastor's leadership, cooperate with the pastor and with each other and pray daily for the success of God's program — Mount Olivet will be undefeatable.

In one of Rev. Dr. Martin's sermons, he paralleled a Christian's life to that of a salmon. He said, "A salmon lives in the safety of the ocean for many years, but something inside of him causes him to strain against all obstacles to get home. As he swims against the current, he may encounter a fisherman, some of his friends may get caught and eaten by a bear, some may get caught in snares that have been set ever so carefully for them and the horrible water falls — with gallons and gallons of water pounding against their bodies; but, still they struggle against all odds to get home. Then they get home, lay their eggs and die. They sacrifice themselves that others might live. One day, we — as Christians — will see the fresh waters of heaven and we will have reached our goal. Then, and only then, will we receive our prize." (Philippians 3:10-14)

"There is much work to be done here in Portland and in Mount Olivet. I am here because the Lord sent me."

Continued from last week

As an example of this, a friend wrote: "Things had finally come to a point of crisis; my life seemed to be totally out of control. I couldn't eat, think, or pray, and finally decided to stop struggling. I didn't try to meditate or pray about specifics. I just held onto the works 'God is healing everything now.' Miracles began coming through in less than twelve hours. It was as if everything quietly and peacefully fell into place! I am so very grateful to God for this astounding experience, for His showing me how to do my part so He could do His the better!"

Jesus Christ indicated clearly by His own words and actions that there were many different ways of communicating with the Father. Jesus often prayed by listening quietly within. At other times He spoke aloud, powerfully, the words that were needed to catch the attention of those who were held in a habit of disbelief. Again, He was often gentle and patient in helping His followers learn how to accept their healing, supply, or security. He was constantly showing how to

communicate, express, and receive responses from the Father.

In using the idea 'God is showing me how! I have found that needs were met quickly. These words have brought a greater feeling of release regarding concern over those dear to me, and have been a simple tool to use in any urgent need for guidance and courage.

"Thank You, God, for showing me how!" has also helped me to understand that so-called dry or unproductive periods are but forerunners of the greatest and best fulfillment. When I thought human hesitancy and feelings of inadequacy were hindering or delaying my good, I found the Father was in reality helping me during that time into greater strength, faith, and understanding. God is, indeed, always showing us how!

Remembering this will deepen and quicken your own faith, dear friend, and awaken you to a new awareness of your true oneness with the Father. It will help you to realize that you are a spiritual child of the Most High, with the same

potentials as expressed by the One who proved that every "Gethsemane" is but a door to new life, to resurrection of the divinity within.

Take hold now, my friend, of this simple way of attuning yourself to your Father's plan of good for you. Let His wisdom show you how to accept it. His love will enfold you in a manner you cannot humanly imagine. His peace will manifest itself within your heart without any need to understand how it can be so. God will reveal His processes of healing, even now, as you quietly turn to Him with the words, Thank You, Father, for showing me how!

The clouds will lift. Your feelings of aloneness will fade, and you will be warmed and comforted anew. Your fears of change and your apprehensions over demands, loss, or the future will give way to courage and assurance. You will find that nothing can prevent the Father from showing you how to accept your good. Let go and let His love enfold you. Your Father cares for you and is showing you how!

— The Beginning

LOVE

Love is a blessing

So hard to explain
It flows from the heart
Like the pouring of rain
Such a gift from our Lord
That lights up each day
To be capable of it
Is what we must pray
There are so many loves
That a person can render
The love for your wife
Is one oh so tender
So much love that we have
For our daughters and sons
For our parents and friends
And for everyone
But the love that surpasses
All the others we know
Should be for our Savior
That would constantly grow
Albert N. Theel

Florine Brown Fisher Passes

Funeral for Florine Brown Fisher of West Linn will be at 1:00 p.m. Friday in the Greater Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ at 1234 N.E. Killingsworth, Portland, OR. She died Saturday in a Portland hospital at the age of 61.

Born in Parson, Kansas, on May 10, 1926 to the parents of Alfred and Bonnie Jean Brown, she was the eldest of 4 daughters. She moved to Vancouver, WA, after completing high school. Florine pursued and obtained a degree in nursing and lovingly gave 21 years of her life to nursing the Veterans' at the Portland Veterans' Hospital. Surviving are her husband, Mr.

Albert Fisher, 2 sons, Mark Stanley Lewis and David Wayne Lewis of Portland, OR; 2 sisters, Mary Love of Kansas City, MO., and Minister Adeline Jeffries of Portland, OR; 2 brothers, Raymond Brown of Tulsa, OK., and Robert Brown of Portland, OR; 5 nieces, 6 nephews, 5 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Interment will be in Rose City Cemetery at 5625 N.E. Fremont, Portland, OR.

The family suggests that remembrances be contributions to the American Cancer Society.

Installation Celebration

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

The Mount Olivet Baptist Church, located at 116 N.E. Schuyler Street, is having a two-day celebration for their new pastor's installation ceremony.

On Saturday, January 16th, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a "Gospel Concert" featuring a 100-voice choir from the Antioch Progressive Baptist Church in Sacramento, California. The public is welcome to come and enjoy.

Then, on Sunday, January 17th, at the 11:00 morning worship, the Antioch Choir and the Mass Choir from Mt. Olivet will be singing. The Rev. Dr. Curtis J. Mitchell, pastor of the Antioch Church, will deliver the morning message.

To conclude the celebration, the installation ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. O.C. Jones, representative for the Ministers and Missionaries Board from Upland, California, will be the speaker for the evening.

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Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor

Psalm 34:3