



RELIGION

MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

Scripture of the Week:

JEREMIAH 31:3



You Can See It As If It Were Happening Right Now...

A great drama took place in 1781. It is so real, side by side with today's happenings, that you can see it as if it were happening now.

Living history can be seen on the screen of your own mind. Invite your imagination to play it out on your personal giant Telethink machine!

It is even more exciting and wonderful as you allow yourself to travel through time to the days following the American Revolution.

In Philadelphia, the cradle of the Liberty Bell, there was freedom from oppressors, but not for every one.

The shadows of slavery still hung over the land.

For ex-slave Richard Allen, one of the few who paid for his own freedom, the light of the gospel showed the way.

We are privileged to recall Richard Allen through his own words.

Picture him, a slave to Benjamin Chew of Philadelphia, sold to Stockley of Delaware State, near Dover. With his mother, father, and four children, Richard Allen was enslaved. Later, his mother bore other babies.

Picture him, in his twenties, after his mother and three of her children were sold elsewhere, seeking the Lord with his oldest brother and sister who had been left behind.

In Allen's words, after he had gone through a tormented period of doubting, "One night I thought hell would be my position. I cried unto Him who delighteth to hear the prayers of a poor sinner; and all of a sudden my chains flew off."

"GLORY TO GOD, I CRIED!" Richard Allen looks at us gently from heavy-lidded eyes beneath his broad forehead. His chestnut skin speaks of mixed blood, his father pure African, his mother mulatto.

"At length our master said he was convinced that religion made slaves better and not worse, and often boasted of his slaves for their industry and honesty. Some time after, I asked him if I might ask the preacher to come and preach at the house. He being older and infirm, my master and mistress cheerfully agreed for me to ask some of the Methodist preachers to come and preach at the house."

"...and after that he could not be satisfied to hold slaves, believing it to be wrong. After that, he proposed to me and my brother buying our time, to pay him sixty pounds in gold and silver or two thousand dollars Continental money..."

"We left our master's house, and I may truly say it was like leaving our father's house; for he was a kind, affectionate, and tender-hearted master, and told us to make his house our home when we were out of a place or sick. While living with him he had family prayers in the kitchen, to which he would frequently come out himself at the time of prayer, and my mistress with him. At length he invited us from the kitchen to the parlor to hold family prayers, which we attended too. We had our stated times to hold our prayer meetings, and give exhortations in the neighborhood."

"It had often been impressed upon my mind that I should one day enjoy freedom, for slavery is a bitter pill, notwithstanding we had a good master; but when we would think our day's work was never done, we often thought that after our master's death we were liable to be sold to the highest bidder, as he was much in debt, and thus my troubles increased, and I was often brought to weep between the porch and the altar."

"But I have reason to bless my dear Lord that a door was opened unex-

pectedly for me to buy my time and enjoy my liberty. When I left my master's house I knew not what to do, not being used to hard work-what business I should follow to pay my master and get my living.

"I went to cutting cord-wood. The first day my hands were so blistered and sore that it was with difficulty I could open or shut them.

"I kneeled down upon my knees and prayed that the Lord would open some way to me to get a living.

"In a few days my hands recovered, and became accustomed to cutting wood and other hardships. So I soon became able to cut my cord and a-half and two cords a day. After I was done cutting I was employed in a brickyard by one Robert Register at fifty dollars a month, Continental money. After I was done with the brickyard I went to day's work, but did not forget to serve my dear Lord.

"I used often to pray sitting or standing or lying; and while my hands were employed to earn my bread, my heart was devoted to my dear Redeemer.

"Sometimes I would awaken from my sleep preaching and praying. "I was after this employed in driving a wagon in time of the Continental War-drawing salt from Rhobar, Sussex County, in Delaware.

"I had my regular stops and preaching places on the road. I enjoyed many a happy season in prayer and meditation while in this employment."

After the Revolutionary War ended and peace was declared Allen writes that he traveled extensively "striving to preach the gospel." Although stricken with "fall fever and then the pleurisy," he left on September 3, 1783, from Wilmington, Delaware, to Jersey. He met a "friend father" in Benjamin Abbott "one of the greatest men that ever I was acquainted with...He seldom preached but what there were souls added to his labor."

Regretfully, Allen left West Jersey and Abbott behind him to get work

cutting wood. Allen preached nights and Sundays, moved on to East Jersey and moved in with Joseph Budd "near the new mills." Allen, despite his severe inflammatory rheumatism, labored and preached, leaving in 1784. He walked from East Jersey, labored in Pennsylvania and again walked "until my feet became so sore and blistered the first day that I scarcely could bear them to the ground."

Caesar Waters and his wife took him into their home and offered him tea, but his feet were so sore and painful that he could not come to the table.

"They brought the table to me. Never was I more kindly received by strangers that I had never seen than by them. They bathed my feet with warm water and bran; the next morning my feet were better, and free from pain. They asked me if I would preach for them the next evening. We had a glorious meeting."

Allen accepted their invitation to stay and preach again on Sabbath day.

And, oh, the wonder of Allen's mission opens up to us in his own words, again...THERE WERE BUT FEW PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD-THE MOST OF MY CONGREGATION WERE WHITE...

Richard Allen, 1784, Radnor Township, twelve miles from Philadelphia.

"...I preached on sabbath day to a large congregation of different persuasions, and my dear Lord was with me, and I believed there were many souls cut to the heart and were added to the ministry. They insisted on me to stay longer with them.

"I was frequently called upon by many inquiring what they should do to be saved. I pointed them to prayer and supplication at the throne of grace, and to make use of all manner of prayer, and pointed them to the invitation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has said, 'Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Glory be to God!'"

Center Gets New Board Members



Members of Morrison Center's Multi-cultural Competency Committee (l to r): Elaine Tan, board member; Louise Coon, personnel manager; Dennis Payne, board member; and Denise Stuntzner-Gibson, M.S.W. social service administration student. Committee members not pictured: Deborah Oester, board member and committee chair; and staff members Orin Bolstad, Suzie Kuerschner, Mona Ozaki, Nancy Atkinson and Eileen Lipkin.

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MARANATHA CHURCH

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Sunday Services

Sunday School

9:00 A.M.

Morning Worship

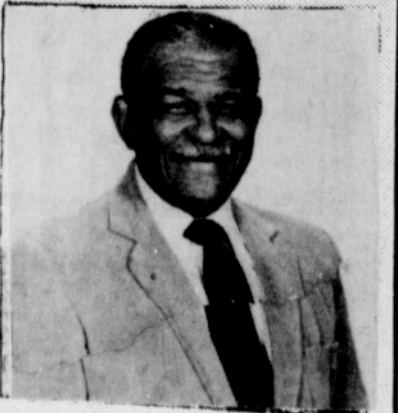
10:30 A.M.

Maranatha School of Ministry

6:30 P.M.

Mid-Week Services - Wednesday

7:30 P.M.



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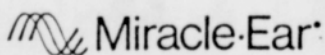
I just can't understand some words.

- I have difficulty hearing in noisy situations
- I hear people speak but have difficulty understanding the words.
- I have difficulty understanding on the phone.
- I have to turn up the radio or television to where it's uncomfortably loud for others.
- I haven't had my hearing tested in more a year.



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12:30 P.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE
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