



RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

JEREMIAH 31:3



National Council of Negro Women Presents Sew & Show...Taste & Tell

By Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

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The NCNW-Portland Chapter will host its annual Sew & Show/Taste & Tell. Some reading this article may ask the question, "What is this all about?" Well, the National Council of Negro Women-Portland Chapter decided several years ago to have an event that would involve the entire city--not just its members and their families. What can we display to the public that would be pleasing to them? They came up with the idea of having a fashion show that would showcase clothing made and designed by local talent. Many of them just happened to be mommies, aunts, and grandmothers who have been sewing for many years as a way to cut cost. What a neat idea! Then--they thought and thought! What else can we do besides model the fashions? Someone said, "What is it that we all do best...?" The response came back, "Cook!" That's right! So, they decided to have every member cook up her specialty and spread it out on the table. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Family!

The celebration will be held at the Matt Dishman Community Center on Sunday, July 15, 1990 from 2-5 p.m. Instead of going home and slaving over a hot stove, come share an afternoon with the NCNW as they prance and munch. For a small donation of \$4, you can go home with your mind filled with ideas and your stomach full of delicious morsels. There will also be fashions modeled from the Women's World - Lloyd's Center. Just come on out and enjoy.

The NCNW is a nationally recognized non-profit organization. The 1990 NCNW Excellence in

Teaching Award

The NCNW, in their strive for excellence, has met the challenge by hosting the first "NCNW Excellence in Teaching Award" as part of its national promotion of excellence in education in the 1990s.

There will be one national awardee and six regional awardees. One person will be selected from the top nominees in each region. Each regional winner will be announced at the Black Family Reunion Celebration in Los Angeles, California at Exposition Park on August 17-19, 1990. The regional winner will receive \$5,000 and the regional winners will receive \$1,000 each. They will each receive these monetary gifts along with a specially commissioned commemorative sculpture, a certificate of recognition and a plaque that will be placed at the school where the recipient teaches.

Mary McLeod Bethune founded Bethune-Cookman College in the first decade of this century. She along with five young girls and \$1.50 made history. In 1935, she used her creative leadership to begin the National Council of Negro Women. She could not rest knowing of the unharassed leadership among our women's organizations. She inspired the community-based organizations to stress the value of education, health, thrift, enterprise and the dignity of labor. With all this, she taught them the importance of collaborating and pulling together to make their collective power felt. She knew that self-sufficiency, at its best, was not selfish. She urged that the women should help one another as they went along. And in her memorable utterance, she said "...Not for ourselves

alone, but for others". This was the motivating theme as early leaders broke down barriers and opened doors in the armed services, in the workplace and in many, many areas of world affairs.

Portland's NCNW Chapter President Speaks Out

"As the President of the Portland Section of the National Council of Negro Women, I, for a long time, have held the same desire for education that Mary McLeod Bethune held. After being out of school for twenty years, I enrolled in Portland State University in 1980. I received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work in 1984 and with a Fellowship from the Association of University Women, I was admitted to the Graduate School in Public Administration. I received my Masters Degree in 1986.

I am now working in a position that will help me to fulfill that last sentence in Mary McLeod Bethune's Legacy. It reads thusly, 'I leave you love...I leave you hope...I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another...I leave you a thirst for education...I leave you a respect for the use of power...I leave you faith...I leave you racial dignity...I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow man...I leave you, finally, a responsibility to our young people.'

I, Edna Pittman, ask that this community, its organizations, sororities and all other groups, as we head into the 1990s, that we, as a SOCIETY--Leave No One Behind! But instead, pull together. Assume a creative coordinated leadership position. Work together. Meet, head on, the challenges that face us as we tread into the wonders of the 21st Century."

Let's Set The Record Straight

Part two in a series of excerpts from *Your Church and You.*

By A. Lee Henderson

Forewarned is forearmed!

What can you do when someone spins stories that are untrue? Answer them truthfully! Or least at the very least, you can seek that information to set the record straight. Once you put on a new suit, dress, hat, or hair-style, you are subject to criticism, good and bad.

You have made yourself visible. The same is true, to a much larger significance, however, when you announce yourself to be a "something!"

I am a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, you announce proudly. Be prepared to answer any questions that follow because 1) You are making yourself visible 2) You are creating a potential fellowship in the mind of the person who receives news of your status or 3) You are introducing a barrier in the mind of the person who receives news of your status as an implied threat to his/her status! We wish to remove all division between our selves and other human beings. Indeed, we ask for greater fellowship and can invite it. Knowing about our African Methodist Episcopal Church is an exciting way of inviting fellowship and a chance to welcome others in our African Methodist Episcopal Church family. The call to evangelical ministry often inspires new members to reach out earnestly; and what greater way of doing that than by learning all about your African Methodist Episcopal Church!

Have you ever noticed that people volunteer put-downs when they feel threatened? Membership in the African Methodist Episcopal Church can make you an "in," them an "out." You may be subject to a barrage of misinformation. The wary Christians call it "Satanic attack!" The psychologists call it "outsider syndrome." Whatever you call it, call it off! Call it off by arming yourself with the strength of informed facts. Would you agree to anyone readily if they told your stories you knew nothing about regarding your own family?

We are your family! We invite your

loyalty. We invite your pride of knowledge. We invite your pursuit of that knowledge through this book and through the personal solicitation of your pastors. They are the father/mother figures of their flocks! You are their children and concern.

Just as you learned to walk, so with faith, your first steps, faltering as they are to begin with, will steady to a confident, sturdy stance. We will walk together, in time, joyously invincible under the banner of love protecting our African Methodist Episcopal home under God.

OUR A.M.E. UNITY PRINCIPLE

Heal division with unity! Such was the purpose of our founder Richard Allen. In this heroic stance he, like the fathers of the constitution, avoided secession, a splitting off of temporal power, an accession to slavery, and a recession "Back to Africa!" The proper place to view history is from the place and conditions of the past. Enhance your perspective by placing yourself in the year 1780 when twenty-year-old Richard Allen was set free! The outrage of those opposing legal slavery as a way of life demanded a united opposition. It would take more than the insurrection of slaves themselves. Clearly, to achieve a clear-cut mandate based on the Christian morality seen and felt by Richard Allen, the aim was to unite in strength. So Richard Allen viewed things. For historians to view him as a "simple" man is surely an understatement. It was the core of his simplicity that made him profound! His withdrawal from the African society that he founded was for the principal of sticking to an original intent...that of consolidating the coming together of Black communicants in deep spiritual awakening. Ironically, the African society he had established in Philadelphia had been impacted by well-intentioned Quakers whose formality parted from what Allen preferred. Allen's choice was not out of rigidity at all. Rather, it was for the greater purpose of reaching the multitudes, particularly those Blacks who he believed would be so receptive to simple, inspirational Methodist preaching and ways. Yet in the wake of Allen's African

society, a series of active fellowships sprang up in other parts of the country! The "Club" evolved into an active church! Allen later reconciled with his African Society, supporting fundraising subscription for a new church and putting it first. The subscription was successful, thanks to Allen's efforts, after the 1790 reconciliation. St. Thomas' African Episcopal Church was dedicated on July 17, 1794. Richard Allen declined an invitation to be its pastor, and his friend Absalom Jones took over. Within twelve days, on July 29, Bishop Francis Asbury dedicated the Bethel Church where Richard Allen led his followers with the tenets of Methodism firmly in place. How confident the path that Richard Allen followed, true to his objectives of spiritual outreach that could spread as widely as possible.

Richard Allen is the father of the free African movement in the United States, the clubs, associations, churches and groups that he inspired to follow their own stars and destinies to confirm Christian life. Among those who see humanity undivided, there is for Allen a necessity to take a stand apart. Clearly, he with his followers yearned for simplicity in Methodism and the right to win souls for God, non-sectarian souls! Distinguished by being Black, desirous of evolving from slavery everywhere, the "stigma" of being African was turned in "stigmata"...the wounds of crucifixion! Such wounds for Allen were universal, and his Bethel Church opened its doors to people of all color. Allen's faith had to transcendental embrace for all. Exclusion was prejudicial, yet Allen had the courage to establish a church adhering to principals of long range growth. Wasn't that excluding those who had followed his lead to set up other African-named entities? Was Allen's independence to preserve Methodism the path to follow? Why not pursue what is in our hearts with passionate purpose? Why not be able to separate from mainstream temptations to dispense with God and to take your place in a church community sworn to be part of a nation that belongs to us, a place to prosper and multiply? (To be continued next week)

Read: Genesis 9:8-17

RAINBOWS AND ANGELS

It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud. -Gen.9:14.

After the flood, God told Noah that the rainbow would symbolize His gracious pledge never again to destroy the earth with water. Out of the clouds the deluge came; yet it is in the clouds that God places this colorful arch of promise.

The rainbow reminds me that little beauty can enter our lives without the clouds of trial. And when the sunshine of God's love floods our sorrow with light, there a shining rainbow of hope appears.

God does more than offer hope, however. Amid the troubling clouds, He sends His angels to help us (Gen. 1:14).

In one of Germany's famous art galleries, a painting called "Cloud Lane" hangs at the end of a long dark hall. It appears at first to be a huge, ugly mass of confused color-unattractive and forboding. Upon closer examination, however, you see an innumerable company of angels. Theodore Cuyler writes, "How often the soul that is frightened by a trial sees nothing but a conglomeration of broken expectations. But if he analyzes the situation from a position of faith...he will soon discover that the cloud is God's wonderful chariot of providence, full of angels of mercy."

If heavy clouds hang over your life,

look for the rainbow of hope. You can be sure that God's angels will be there to meet your needs. -H.G.B.

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