

RELIGION

Redeemed With Skid Marks

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

It was a beautifully quiet, sunny day. You could see the mountains, in the distance. There wasn't a cloud in the sky.

All of a sudden! A car came careening around the corner. People were yelling and scattering. The car was out of control.

As the car passed, you could see the driver trying so hard to control the vehicle -- but, he couldn't.

Just as the car was about to reach this busy intersection with many unsuspecting motorists traveling by, the driver pulled the emergency brakes. There was a park to his left and a curb to hurdle over or a parking lot full of vehicles and people to his right. Not only was his life in jeopardy; but, the lives of other people he never knew.

Choices. What should he do?

The vehicle's emergency brakes locked-in and the tires left skid marks for over seven hundred feet. From the place the brakes took-over to the place where the car had come to its rest, you could see

long, deep, dark skid marks on the dry pavement and into the grass.

The driver leaned over the steering wheel and let out a sigh of relief. The hazardous journey was over. Finally!

I told this story to illustrate how some people's souls are redeemed. For some of us, it was an easy task for the Lord to say, "Enough! I have need of you." You dropped everything like Peter, the big fisherman, and followed Christ. And you are still following Him until this day.

However, there are those of us whose lives were totally out of control. Here was a person who not only was endangering his/her life but the lives of everybody around them. Then -- one day, this person heard about the saving power of Jesus Christ. A saga about how the saving powers of Jesus could turn a life around and all the old wrongs would be washed clean and eradicated. And with the blood of someone else. How could this be?

Asking questions but not waiting for the answers.

Wanting to know and not wanting to know at the same time.

Confusion!

Satan.

When you first hear these truths, it didn't make any sense at all. If it hadn't been for the intervention of the Holy Spirit speaking through the saints, "Oh where would we be?"

O souls nearest destruction, take heed! Jesus is coming! Get ready!

There are a lot of young people, out on the streets today, who feel like because of their age, they have a lot of time to do whatever it is that they want; and then, they will consider becoming a Christian.

The young Minister Lonnie Hosley, director of Heaven Bound Gospel Choir, stood flat-footed, drenched with perspiration and high on the Holy Spirit as he admonished the young people in the audience with these words, "What are you waiting for? Don't you know that tomorrow is not promised to you? I have seen destruction among the young people. I personally witnessed how fleet-

ing life is. It really is like a vapor. Here one minute and gone the next. Persons whose ages range from 24 - 35 years old are under fire by the enemy, the devil. And rather or not you want to believe it, there really is a hell. All the good-times in the world are not worth an eternity in hell. Let the Holy spirit deliver you from the bondage of the world. Don't wait! Let the Lord deliver you out of your misery right now!"

He kept using that word deliver. As many in the audience found...there are many, many other areas, in our Christian walk that acts as hindrances. It may even be people in our families who are pulling us down and holding us back from what it is that God wants us to do. This makes a lot of depressed Christians.

"Only Jesus can deliver you out of your situation", his words rang out through the building.

As the saints gathered around all those who had come to the altar for prayer, the Holy Spirit began its work.

I watched, prayerfully, as a young woman stood for prayer, with her hands

partially raised. Wanting to submit and being restrained by the demon of fear. Skid marks!

Some people are in prison, right now, because they were out of control and the Lord was trying to speak to them and they couldn't make any time for him. Now they have all the time in the world. Skid marks!

People are in hospitals because of an illness or a near fatal accident. Before -- they have no other choice. Skid marks!

Why does it have to be this way? Why can't people just let go of the world and let God have his way in their lives?

By the time they get around to submitting, they are all frazzled, bleeding and broken. God gets the left-overs.

They should flee sin as hard as they are fleeing the redemptive powers of Jesus Christ. And -- they will find that their rewards are much better.

"Christ tells us, in the fifteenth chapter of St. John, 'If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, then it would love you as it loves its own. But I have chosen you out of the world. So you don't be-

long to it. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I have told you; A servant is not greater than his master. If people did wrong to me, they will do wrong to you, too. And if they obeyed my teachings, they will obey yours, too.'" [verses 18-20 TEB]

The pull of the world is great but God's Power is Greater.

When you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit, come willingly. don't come kicking and screaming, dragging your feet and leaving skid marks. Just come! just as you are.

Come unto Jesus
Al ye that labor
All who are weary worn and defiled.
Give Him your burdens
Seek now His favor,
Tell Him your sorrows,
In Him confide.
He satisfies.
O will you let Him in your heart

abide?
He'll keep your soul,
Whatever betide.
Won't you try Jesus?
He satisfies.

Nation Of Islam

The Honorable Louis Farrakhan is doing a wonderful and inspiring job of spreading the teachings of his teacher, The Most Honored Elijah Muhammad. Furthermore he is the best, in my estimation, in guiding people to understand his teacher better. I was born under the teachings of The Most Honored Elijah Muhammad, and at the age of 14 I began to read his books, namely: *Fall Of America, Message To The Black Man, Our Saviour Has Arrived, and How to Eat To Live* (books 1 and 2). Then I learned of Brother Farrakhan in 1985; by studying this brother I am better able to explore the teachings of his teacher. This is similar to Jesus in the Bible for he needed disciples. "Wisdom is known of its children." Were it not for Paul, Jesus would not have been known in the world. Study it for yourself in the New Testament.

The best way to demonstrate any truth is to live by its principles, but above that is the more you understand its principles the more it is assured that you will not turn hypocrite from lack of understanding. Min. Farrakhan tells us that, "Many praised the economic program of the Elijah Muhammad but didn't quite agree with his philosophy." So true!! Many so-called leaders and former believers in the Hon. Elijah Muhammad give much love to the acquiring of farms, grocery stores, newspapers, places of worship and more....But have a bad understanding (dislike) of

his teachings on God, The Devil, The Original Man and The Judgment of this world. This is just a case of liking the apple that the tree produces but not being able to grasp the tree itself. This grasping, we hope, will come in time. This is one of the reasons why Min. Farrakhan gives us study guides. Which are presently 18 in number.

"How we perceive reality is based upon the condition of our heart and mind and the quality of our faith. No child perceives realities properly, because of the immature state of the development of its senses, through which objects are perceived. As the senses are developed, our perception is developed with them. As spiritual children, our perception of the teachings of the Honored Elijah Muhammad is reflected in our limited use of our senses", Study Guide 12. So we will continue to listen to this modern Paul, the Honored Elijah Muhammad. Mali G. said, "People don't understand the young brothers these days. Society wants to play the chief in command and we run behind. As soon as we stop killing ourselves maybe it will be easier to evolve and do what's right for our Nation. Everything here is God's everything made, created, or invented belongs to almighty God Allah." So brothers please listen to the Hon. Louis Farrakhan. May he guide you on the right path of true freedom, equity and peace. Mali G. is a rapper from Portland, Oregon. Thank you for reading this, I am your brother Elijah X. Ghetto Rise (tm).

African American Reflections

INVITATION TO SUBMIT POETRY
IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In honor of Black History Month, February 1994, U.S. Bank is inviting individuals of all ages and ethnic backgrounds to submit poetry for publication in local newspapers.

Up to 20 poems will be selected for inclusion in a special poetry section that will be published in newspapers throughout Oregon, which will be titled "African-American Reflections."

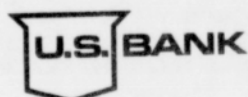
Entry guidelines

- Deadline for entries is December 10, 1993.
- Poetry should reflect the Black History Month theme and should tie into this celebration of black history and experience.
- All written pieces must be typed, double-spaced, and preferably limited to 20 lines.
- Only one entry per person.
- Please indicate whether the writer is an adult (over 18), a young adult (13-18), or a child.
- All entries must include name, address, phone number, and name of school (where appropriate) for consideration.
- All entries must be original work of the entrant.
- A panel of judges will review each poem and base their selections on originality, form, theme, and clarity of thought.
- Due to volume, pieces cannot be returned.

Writers can submit their original works of poetry to:

African-American Reflections
U.S. Bank Events
P.O. Box 8837, T-5
Portland, OR 97208

Presented by:



The Oregonian

Questions? Call Amber Schmitt at U.S. Bank (503) 275-5244.

Merry
CHRISTMASMallory Avenue
Christian Church

"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Morning Worship
7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer

Inter-racial Congregation

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Denise Bell

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Sunday Service

10:45

Sunday School

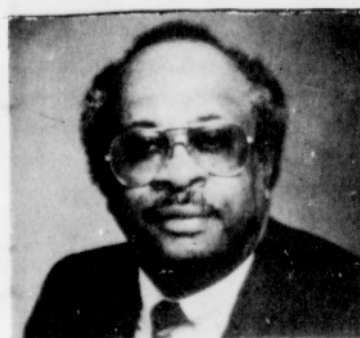
9:30

Bible Study

6:00

Evening Service

7:00pm



Pastor, Rev. James C. E. Faulkner

- Sunday School - 9:30 am
- Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00 am
- Sunday School Teacher's Meeting Tuesday - 6:30 pm
- Bible Study Wednesday - 6:00 pm
- Prayer Meeting Wednesday - 7:00 pm

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Wednesday prayer meeting
and Bible study
7:00 pm

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