

God's Prophet in Non-Violence

continued ▲ from front

leadership of Stokely Carmichael who would later go on to found the All African People's Revolutionary Party. Carmichael changed his name about a decade before his passing in 1991 to Kwame Toure and is credited with coining the term "Black Power."

The SNCC would merge with the local chapter of the Black Panther Party, an ever-growing national movement that also called for the liberation of black Americans through organizing, but was not hesitant to meet violence with violence when it came to the terrorism directed towards blacks, either by authorities, racist hate groups or others.

At the time, the growing Dallas chapter was being mentored by another famed Black Panther, a former political prisoner and godfather to Hip Hop, 2pac Geronimo Pratt.

Haynes says the Black Panther Party, founded by Oakland natives Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale in 1966, also represented a new idea of militancy that was beginning to emerge in the nation at the time.

In spite of the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, and the 1965 Bill of Rights, many witnesses to the Civil Rights Movement, began to look for alternative modes of achieving not only racial equality, but pride of self, he says.

Where previously blackness was seen as a negative, black activists began to remake it into a positive.

"The Black Cultural Revolution really brought about identity and the beauty of blackness and the beauty of black culture," Haynes says.

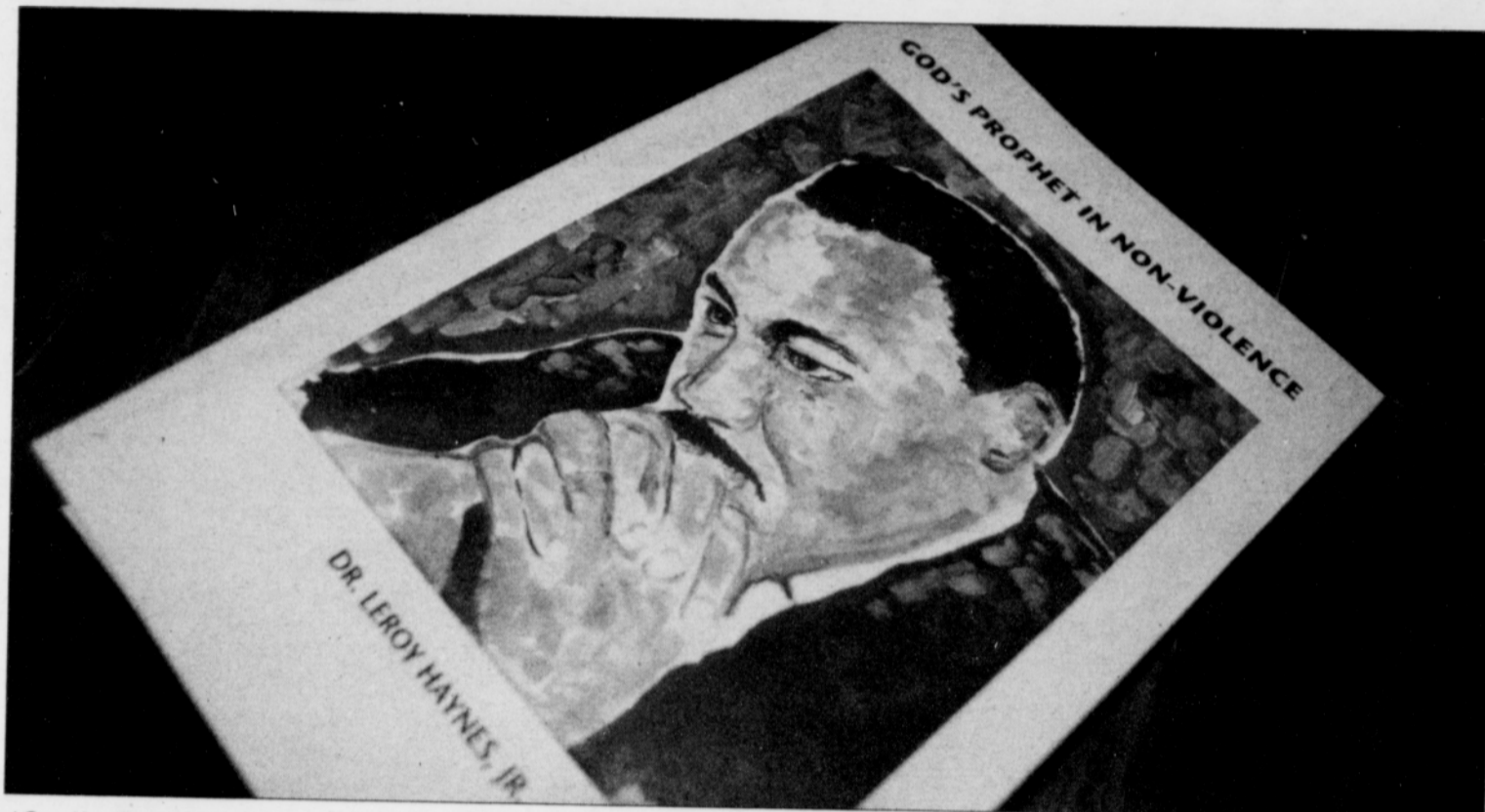
Ideologies clashed when the non-violent methods of the Civil Rights Era began to fizzle out. Before long the two groups would part ways, leaving many members left to decide on which group to align with; Haynes would choose the more militant of the two.

He went on to head the Dallas Black Panther Party and form cadres across Texas.

Haynes' newfound militant ways would only last for a few years. By his mid 20s, a brand-new instillation in the Christian faith saw him once again dedicating himself to a belief system of non-violence.

He forfeited his position as co-organizer of the Dallas Black Panther Party and began to dig deeper into his faith by way of his formal studies, attaining his Masters of Theology from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and then his Doctorate of Ministry from Brite Theological Seminary at Texas Christian University.

All the while, Haynes continued his work against racial oppression;



'God's Prophet in Non-Violence' by Portland Pastor Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr. explores the non-violent activism of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

a fight that brought him to the Pacific Northwest and a city dubbed the "whitest major city in America."

He has served as pastor to Allen Temple CME Church in northeast Portland since 1997.

While there he has been at the forefront of work to reform state and city policies around police work, issues like racial profiling and officer-involved shootings of unarmed black residents.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, which Hayne's co-heads with Pastor T. Allen Bethel of Maranatha Church, has been in operation since 1971 and represents 125 churches in the Portland area, most of which are stationed in north and northeast Portland.

Though he says many of the problems black Americans face in Oregon are not far removed from the plights they tend to face nationwide, issues like education, economics, affordable housing, mass incarceration, black-on-black crime, and institutional racism, there is a major difference in how the controversies are addressed here.

"Now the difference from the Southern tradition of racism, in Oregon and in particular Portland, is that sometimes it's hidden, and sometimes it's masked, and sometimes it's institutionalized, and it's given a very liberal progressive face; and there is certainly a very strong progressive community here, but there is also racism in this city," Haynes says.

In "God's Prophet" Haynes says that the successful attention brought to police shootings in Portland over the past decade, such as the Aaron Campbell and James Chasse cases, demonstrate the effectiveness of non-violent tactics as a mean of increasing mass awareness, civic engagement, and "one of the most potent forces for change and reconciliation."

Haynes cautions people that the ideas of "love" and non-violence King preached were not ones of

weakness, but self-empowerment in the face of wickedness.

"He meant that in terms of respecting every human being as a creature of God, life is sacred. Whatever skin color, whatever culture they come from, their religion, whatever class, that, that, that, their value and their worth is not valued by how society views them, but by the eyes of the Creator, the God that we have," says Haynes.

As a mentee of one of King's

closest advisors from his early years, a pastor named Rev. William B. Oliver III, Haynes also takes note of the importance of the Christian faith in King's perseverance, up until a bullet brought him down in Memphis, Tenn. in 1968.

"There has been an attempt to secularize him, and there's been an attempt to de-radicalize him," Haynes explains, "I've heard folks from Republicans to segregationists now quote King, and it's interesting that

the quotes are never put in a context," he says.

Haynes says context is so critically important because King cannot be accurately portrayed without his faith tradition or without his radical perspectives.

"We who followed him at that time were willing to die for the movement, and die for freedom. That's not the King that America is creating."

Not one to denote the title of "radical" to himself, Haynes says he is "a prophetic Black Freedom Fighter," implementing the tools of selective buying, picketing, marches, and civil disobedience as effective and non-violent methods for making racial progress today.

Repeating a focused drawl before finding the right words, he says he is at a point in life where "the ideal of King in the community is still our dream.

"I believe that the non-violent methodology is the most effective methodology for producing that type of social change we need in the beloved community," Haynes says.

"God's Prophet of Non-Violence" is available at Allen Temple Church, 4236 N.E. Eighth Ave. for \$13.99. You can also order a copy of the book by calling the church at 503-287-0261.

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