

Negroes Have America, Rev.

By Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, Concord Baptist Church

(This is the third of four articles in which leading Negro clergymen express their views on the condition of the Negro church today and what their ministers are doing to meet now and challenging situations. Editor)

BROOKLYN, N. Y. FOR ANP

A minority group living toward freedom cannot afford the luxuries which soften, weaken and ruin the majority class in any society. The Negro preacher must stress now, as he had done in other years, the certitude that we have a destiny as a race in this land which we must forever seek to clarify, and the awareness that will our sufferings can yet be the mean of our blessing this land.

For this reason, I believe there is truth on both sides of the argument for and against Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's "easy religion." Those who condemn the "cult" of renunciation are the right in insisting that religion turned inward is a perversion of earth's highest commitment. Dr. Peale, however, is emphasizing the perfectly valid Christian idea of adequacy for which the faith in God leads people to the threshold of Christian life.

Many people would like to see more freedom for the flaming emotions of race and war, etc., from the converts to Dr. Peale's message. The Negro church fits into the discussion in the sense that it must be led away from the individual peace for individual members huddled off in their individual burrows.

The Negro church must be the Christian conscience of America, although itself a sinner by being a church of one race, with its members committed to making our land really democratic and Christian.

In these crucial years of our thrust for full integration, we cannot afford the luxury of a faith which is concerned almost exclusively with individual happiness. Such religion among Negroes now ought to be haunted by the specters of Harry Moore, Rev. George Lee and Emmett Till.

Today's Negro minister must remind his people that "man shall not live by bread alone"—what Jesus was saying—was that all notions of spiritual life unrelated to streets and houses and jobs are counterfeit.

The Negro preacher must remind his people that we have too much at stake to waste our energy in soft living. This must be a generation of dedicated heroes and heroines.

South Carolina State Colored Fair Breaks All Previous Records

COLUMBIA—"The best Fair in the history of the Association" was the byword of officials and spectators at the close on Sat., Oct. 29 at the fifty-first annual South Carolina State Colored Fair.

A new record for total attendance was set for the Big week which began Monday with a preview attendance of 20,000 first nighters.

Friday's attendance was an all-time high for one day when more than 50,000 school children and teachers were special guests of the Fair and Prells Broadway Shows.

Wednesday's attendance was second highest when more than 10,000 New Farmers and New Homemakers of America in South Carolina came to the Fair, The Fair Classic on Big Thursday, The Fair Classic on Big Thursday, Benedict College, Columbia, S. C. and Claflin College, Orangeburg, S. C. drew the third highest attendance for the week.

Judges, after selecting more than five hundred prize winners, said exhibits were of highest quality and most attractively displayed.

Exhibits which were centers of attraction during the week included the general exhibit of farm products and handicraft of the New Farmers and New Homemakers in South Carolina, the Poultry exhibit and Hog Show of 4-H clubs in South Carolina, the canning and needlework display of Home Demonstration division in South Carolina, the trades exhibit of the Denmark Branch of the South Carolina Area Trade School and many individual, home and community displays.

ny As Race In or Declares

It is a fact that Negro ministers do not discuss enough with their congregations matters of frugality and thrift. We are bohemian in nature. Nor is it valid to discuss frugality without relating it to something more worthy than bigger bank accounts, bigger ranch-style house, or what have you.

Our churches have not yet perfected the technique of assimilation of the masses coming to our urban centers. Our hit-and-miss efforts must cause all of us great concern. Perhaps closer relationship between the Southern churches and their Northern counterparts may help to answer this problem.

Even so, the apparent relationship of church membership-ratio statistics is grossly misleading. Most Negro people in our cities, more church members, more criminals. Isn't this a natural sequence? However, if we address ourselves to increasing the meaning of Christian life, we will help lower the rate of crime in our areas.

People turn to cults and storefront churches because many of our huge Negro churches become so impersonal and leadership opportunity is deferred by the fact of numbers.

Intimacy, opportunity for leadership, and sometimes more uninhibited emotional expression account in part for the growth of storefront churches.

I know of some of those churches where devotion to the community's best interest is astounding. Others are obviously praying on the credulity and superstition of heretics of our people.

As for the young people, the church has forever been "losing its hold" on them. But, many college people do go to church. My church in Baton Rouge, La., a college community, had great numbers of college people. I know of many others.

To a very real extent the pulpit is failing to supply informative and truly inspirational leadership to the intellectual sections of the audience. Any conscientious minister would be the first to say that he needs to be doing his job better.

Churches need to get down where people live, while getting people up to a sense of their relationship with God. In other words, preaching and practice which do not touch people where they live do not reach them. A religion which is only another earthly, horizontal relationship does not help.

Our churches must speak to people for God. Our churches need their feet planted deep in the clouds.

Bishop Reid At Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church, Sumter, S. C. Leads Dedication Ceremony Of Education Building



EDUCATIONAL BUILDING IMPRESSES NORTHEAST CONFERENCE—Delegates and visitors to the Sixty-fourth Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference, which convened at Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church, Sumter, S. C., Oct. 29-31, 1955, Bishop Frank Madison Reid presiding, were not only greatly impressed with the entertainment extended by Dr. F. C. James and the members of Mt. Pisgah Church, but also by the New Educational Building at Mt. Pisgah. It is a masterpiece in design and accommodation. At the Dedicatory Service, Bishop Reid exclaimed it as a model for buildings of its type and size.

Perhaps, the most impressive feature is the quality of construction. It was designed by Rev. James and drawn by Mr. John H. Ely of the State College of Orangeburg. The building is valued at more than \$50,000.00. The lowest bid was \$35,000, and this was the actual cost of the building.

The accommodations consist of a church office, a reception lounge, an auditorium, a kitchen, a communion room, a choir room, a study, a reading room, a snack bar, a recreation room, a literature room, 4 rest rooms, 10 classrooms and 2 rest rooms. The building is fully equipped with durable type furniture. The kitchen is equipped to serve 100 persons at one time. There are 10 tables and chairs for dining service.

The church plans that the building be completed for the operation of a Day Nursery and that this project will be launched next Monday. The nursery is presently offered to babies and tots during the Sunday morning worship service in the social nursery room. It is hoped to continue toward the objective of progressive Christian Service.—W. R. B.

White Students Stay Home As Hoxie School Reopens

HOXIE, Ark., (AP)—Integration of public schools reopened Monday after a week-long strike by white students. Most of the 25 Negro pupils who have been attending the Hoxie school since July were on hand, but only about half of the white high school and junior high school students were present when classes resumed after a week-long strike.

Superintendent E. E. Vance estimated that a smaller percentage of the elementary school pupils were in the classrooms. He said it was possible some parents of elementary grade pupils were keeping their children at home for a few days "just to get it over with."

Vance said a rumor had been circulated at Hoxie that any parent who went to the school campus would be subject to a fine of \$100 and that some parents were afraid to go to school.

Parents were urged to bring their children to school and to support the school board.

The high school and junior high school attendance is reported to be about 75 percent of the total enrollment for this time of year when many pupils still are picking cotton, the superintendent added. Cotton pickers are scarce in Lawrence county this fall, and farmers are in need of help in picking the late maturing and bountiful crop.

About 1,000 white pupils were enrolled in the Hoxie schools when the school board ordered integration. There was little opposition for about three weeks after the summer session opened in July. Then a citizens group led by farmer Herbert Brewer, started a protest action and led parents to keep their children out of the integrated schools.

In August, the school board shut down the school two weeks before the opening of the school year.

Voorhees Holds Dedication For Menafee Men's Dormitory

Formal dedication services for the newly converted Menafee Trades Building into a Men's Dormitory were held Monday, October 24, with the Rev. R. V. Giffey, Alfred Cole, D. D., Bishop of the Upper diocese of South Carolina presiding.

President John F. Potts gave the background factors which culminated in the complete renovation of this imposing structure as well as what could be expected in the way of improvements to the physical plant of the immediate and future future. The conversion of the building cost approximately \$150,000, which raises its present valuation to about \$150,000. The remodeling of a student union building will begin in the near future and the conversion of a structure formerly used for a boys' dormitory into faculty apartments, will follow.

Mr. R. V. Giffey, Denmark Contractor, formally presented the keys to the building to President John F. Potts, symbolizing the final completion of this structure. Mrs. Martin A. Menafee, Sr., the widow of the late Martin A. Menafee, Sr., for whom the building is named was present to cut the ribbon marking formal entry into the building.

Cooperative Baptist State Convention To Hold 52nd Session

The 52nd Annual Session of the Cooperative Baptist State Convention will convene with the Central Baptist Church, Denmark, S. C., Oct. 16-20. The welcome and Pre-convention Program will begin at 7:30 on Wednesday, November 16. We are asking all delegates and visitors to be present to witness this program as follows:

- WELCOME CITY OF DENMARK—Mr. W. E. Brooker, Mayor
- WELCOME BAPTIST CHURCHES—Rev. D. C. Tschudy
- Music
- WELCOME LAYMEN AND BUSINESS—Mr. J. C. Horne
- WELCOME MISSIONARY GROUPS—Mrs. Ernie Anderson
- WELCOME EPISCOPAL CHURCHES—Rev. Walter Roberts
- Music
- WELCOME METHODIST CHURCHES—Rev. Mr. Drennan
- WELCOME THE SCHOOLS—Prof. John F. Potts
- Response—Rev. W. B. Coleman
- Music
- Sermon—Rev. C. D. Dowling
- Offering—Dr. J. P. Reeder, Rev. G. W. Bright, Dea. D. A. Jones, Dea. John Ginyard, Deacon John Jamason.
- Remarks—Rev. J. H. McKissick, President
- Announcements
- Benediction
- THE PUBLIC IS INVITED
- Thursday the Parent Body will continue on Page 8

COLUMBIA NEGRO CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO MEET

A meeting of the Negro Citizens Committee of Columbia and Richland County is called to meet Sun., November 6, 1955 at 3:00 P. M. at Allen University Auditorium.

While a major business is the election of officers for the organization, other most important matters may come up for discussion.

Ministers and the heads of a 11 other organizations are urged to

emphasize this announcement in order that a full attendance will be had at this meeting.

The Columbia Negro Citizens Committee, a local unit of the South Carolina Citizens Committee was organized in 1946, has done outstanding work through the years in a program of political and civic action. It has been announced by the Rev. J. P. Reeder, President.

Columbia Schools Observe American Education Week

From November 6-12, the nation is asked to pay special attention to its schools, and many families will have an opportunity to learn more about the classes and teachers in their own communities.

The theme of the 35th Observance of National Education Week is: Schools—Your Investment in America—and the patrons and friends of the schools of Columbia are asked to take advantage of Open House Day.

The schedule for Open House and the names for the schools are as follows:

WEDNESDAY—B. T. Washington High
Perrin-Thomas
Wheeler-Hill
Saxon

Howard Crane Creek
Ridgewood

THURSDAY—C. A. Johnson
Sarah Nance
Waverley
Roosevelt Village

FRIDAY—Carver
Fairwood

It is hoped that the week's observance will create a greater awareness on the part of every person, of the important role of education in our democracy and of his personal responsibility for maintaining good schools as the community's investment in America.

General Thurmond Stresses Need For Well Trained Reserve Forces

Columbia, S. C., Oct. 26—Speaking in his capacity as Brigadier General in the United States Army Reserve, J. Strom Thurmond, the junior United States Senator from South Carolina, last night stressed before officers and enlisted men of the Army, Naval and Air Force Reserves stationed in the Aiken Area that a Ready Reserve force of well-trained men must be ready for speedy mobilization.

During the evening General Thurmond discussed and explained Public Law No. 305 (The Reserve Forces Act of 1955), which was passed by the 84th Congress on August 9, 1955, and which will expire August 1, 1959 unless extended by an Act of Congress. All phases of the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 were covered by General Thurmond, including the structure and size of the Act, the Reserve Training obligation, recruitment

and training for the Reserve and the military obligation.

General Thurmond explained that President Eisenhower, in a emergency declared by him, has the authority to call a specified number of Reservists in the Ready Reserve to active duty without authority of Congress. Men in the Standby Reserve can be called only after an emergency has been declared by Congress, General Thurmond added.

General Thurmond stated that the new law reduced the period of obligation for all personnel inducted or enlisting in the Active services or enlisting in the Reserve to six (6) years. The old obligation was for a period of eight (8) years.

Following the discussion of the Reserve Forces Act of 1955, General Thurmond spent some time in answering questions concerning the Act.

Top Industrialists Say Discrimination Can Be Wiped Out

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sixty-five of the nation's top industrialists agreed Tuesday that racial and religious job discrimination can be wiped out by a "firm and determined" management policy against it.

Vice President Nixon reported this at a news conference following a closed session of government leaders and corporation executives called by President Eisenhower to combat job discrimination based on race, religion, color or national origin.

"Every man, woman and child in the United States is affected by discrimination in employment," Nixon said during a radio interview over the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Reporting that "substantial progress" had been made toward elimination of job discrimination against the Negro in the deep South, the vice president said, "we still have a long way to go."

He said the conference came up with three main conclusions:

1. That the problem now was not of hiring but of promotion.
2. That fears that industry had in nondiscrimination in the South were not borne out by experience.
3. To be effective, a nondiscrimination policy had to come from the top and be carried through firmly.

Specific cases of how anti-bias policies were carried out effectively were given by various business leaders in the closed-door sessions. Upon request to a nondiscrimination policy came mostly from employes in plants and sometimes from community leaders, Nixon said.

The conference had the blessing

of President Eisenhower, who originally was scheduled to have the industrial leaders as guests at a White House dinner after the meeting.

The President wired Nixon asking "the help" of the conference so "we can move further toward the goal of assuring every American equal opportunity for employment unhampered by consideration of race, religion or national origin."

Besides Nixon, other high government officials participating in the meeting included Labor Secretary Mitchell, Commerce Secretary Weeks and Deputy Secretary Secretary Robert B. Robertson, Jr. Mitchell said business and industry should discard bias in employment just as they would discard "outmoded machines." He pointed out that equality of job opportunity is "good business" both for maintaining worker morale and efficiency and for making the best use of the nation's resources.

Robertson, in his remarks, said the defense department is striving for better enforcement of contract clauses prohibiting discriminatory employment practices.

He said the defense department tries to use persuasion, education, mediation and conciliation, believing these are "the right tools for us to use in obtaining the consent of a reluctant contractor and to convince him to comply..."

WHITE METHODIST ACCEPTS NEGRO CONGREGATIONS

LOUISVILLE, KY. (ANP)—For the first time in its history, the all-white Central Kansas Annual Conference will have Negro congregations as members.