

The Voice

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Rev. Melvin L. Shakespeare

Publisher and Owner

2225 S Street Phone 5-6491
If No Answer Call 5-7508

Rubie W. Shakespeare
Advertising & Business Manager

Roberta Molden
Associate Editor

1966 U Street Phone 2-1407
Mrs. Joe Green
Circulation Mgr.

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Editorial

President Truman went all of the way in demanding an end to discrimination. These words give hope and comfort to those of us who have been battling for the application of Christian principles to race relations. The White House quoted him as saying he will not retract any part of his civil rights message to appease the South.

The Negro leaders who have been close to President Truman and the Democratic high command, express considerable doubt that Mr. Truman can be pressured into backing down. If the party is split it would mean a certain victory for the Republicans. There are still enough Negroes who believe in righteousness and the principle of the Constitution of America to defeat by ballot any such move. There are still enough Christian white people who will not allow this nation to get into such hands as the southern democrats would have it. Victory for such a set up as that would mean a shameful reversal of all of the progress this great nation has made.

It is time that the United States of America turn a deaf ear to such demagogues who have brought nothing but shame to the people they represent.—M. L. S.

Integration of Negroes Into Navy

The navy has published a book by Lieut. Dennis D. Nelson, the only Negro naval reserve officer now on active duty. Nelson wrote a critical analysis which assails discrimination but praises efforts at reform. This is basis for hope that the reforms will really be carried out in the most conservative branch of our armed forces. The principal change is in the integration of Negroes into the navy, a policy announced in 1945.

During the war it was often not possible to segregate white and black men aboard ship. No trouble resulted from mingling of races, any more than mixing Americans of Italian, Polish, German, Russian, French and Japanese descent caused conflict. This disposes of the main argument for segregation.

There are now three other Negro officers in the regular navy, and one Negro cadet at the Naval

Our Children

By Mrs. W. B. Davis

Should my child be allowed to talk back? Such a question would never have been asked by a parent fifty or perhaps even fifteen years ago. If it had it had been asked, the answer would have been an emphatic "No!" for talking back was considered one of the most serious forms of disrespect which a child could show to an adult. If a child talked back, mother blushed and frequently took out the hair brush. The fact, now the question is asked so often is an indication of a different attitude toward the child, a questioning about his needs and rights.

There are times when most adults feel that something for which they were blamed, was not fair. We do not criticize who in such a situation says, "I don't think that was a fair statement. I was not late deliberately, but..." But if a child who is scolded for coming home late starts, "But mother, I don't think you're fair..." Mother without waiting to hear the explanation may say, "Don't talk back to me!" We have learned a great deal in the last few years about the feelings which all of us have even toward those people whom we love. Should a child be given the same right as an adult to defend his actions and to express disagreement with others? It is wise to let the child tell his story and offer his excuse. But beware! Lest we get too far on the other side of the conventions of parents and children. We must keep control of the situation. Talking back may seem to threaten our control. We are afraid that if the child gets away with it our authority will end. We will have lost face. This does not mean that children should be encouraged to be ill-mannered toward their parents or other people. The wise parent, while understanding the child's need to talk back as an outlet for his feelings, will also try to find out why he has this need and will then go on from there to try and help him.

Academy at Annapolis. Lieut. Nelson writes that "the willingness of the Navy Department to embark upon a positive and constructive program for greater education, training and utilization of its Negro personnel is, in itself, a great advance." His main criticism is directed at white officers, who can think of Negroes only as servants doing menial manual work. Publication of this book by the Navy is an encouraging sign of progress.

President Truman has called upon Congress to end Jim Crowism, lynching and poll-taxes. It would be heartening if, as Commander-in-Chief, he issued an order abolishing all segregation in all the armed forces of our country. This would prove American sincerity to the three-quarters of the world's inhabitants whose skin is colored.

—THE NEW LEADER.—

Sunday School Lesson

By Rev. R. E. Handy

Subject: The Fellowship of Christian Believers.

Scripture: Acts. 2:37-47 Eph. 4:1-6.

Golden Text: "There is one body and one Spirit, Even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: One Lord, One Faith, One baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all," Eph. 4:4-6.

—Applications—

The complexities of life press around us on all sides with such force, that was it not for our fellowship with God, and fellowship with real believers, life would not be worth living.

At these times when God reveals Himself in our hearts and we understand that He is actually giving us a direct message, we experience the greatest delight it is possible to know while in our earthly bodies.

The verses preceding our lesson tell of Peter's sermon that he preached, immediately after the Pentecostal Shower.

Many who were converted came crying "Men and brethren, what shall we do." His answer: "Repent believer, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." As an act of obedience they were to be baptized with water.

Here is a most wonderful gift. God's spirit, the third member of the Holy Trinity offered as a gift. This gift will take from your life worry, bad temper, and fitfulness makes your disposition sweet and you are rendered taken out toward the other fellow and his beliefs. Should he want to belong to another church you will be able to fellowship and love him, knowing you both have the same High Priest and the same Spirit. And when the spirit falls you both will be touched and shout together. This fellowship with other saved saints, no matter what their denomination.

Real Christianity makes people unselfish, no matter whether you are Baptist, Holiness or Methodist, no matter what race, all Christians, worthy of the name, are working together, and will continue to work together to bring sinners to the feet of Christ.

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By Kathrynne Favors.

We shall continue this week to discuss some Negroes who had either been freed or bought their freedom.

To name a few of the Negroes in Cincinnati who were successful businessmen, there were Robert Harlan, the horseman; A. V. Thompson, the tailor, J. Presley and Thomas Ball, contractor; and Samuel T. Wilcox, the merchant, who was worth \$60,000 in 1859.

"Robert Gordon," according to Woodson "was born the slave of a rich yachtsman in Richmond, Virginia. His master placed him in charge of a coal yard. He managed it so faithfully that his owner gave him all of the slack resulting from the handling of the coal. Selling this to local manufacturers, he thereby accumulated thousands of dollars in the course of time. He purchased himself in 1846; and, after inspecting several Negro settlements in the North, went into the coal business in Cin-

cinnati. Having then about \$15,000, Gordon made much more progress in this coveted enterprise than his competitors desired. They thereupon reduced the price of coal so as to make it unprofitable for Gordon to continue in the business. He was shrewd enough to fill all of his orders at the white coal yards by making his purchases through mulattoes who could pass for white. Soon there followed a general freezing on the Ohio River, which made it impossible to bring coal to Cincinnati. Gordon then sold out his supply at advanced prices. This so increased his wealth that he was later in a position to invest extensively in United States bonds during the Civil War and afterward in real estate on Walnut Hills in Cincinnati."

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