Religion In Modern Life

Black Baptists pledge 500,000 new 1984 voters

by Joey Ledford
UPI Southern Correspondent

WASHINGTON—An organization of 1,500 black Baptist churches pledged Thursday to register 500,000 new black voters before the 1984 election to work for the defeat of President Reagan, spokesmen said.

The Rev. Charles W. Butler, a Detroit pastor and president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, said church membership rolls will be compared to voter rosters to identify and register non-voters.

"We think that a prime objective and concern would be to do all we can to make as sure as we can the absence of the present occupant of the White House come the next election," he said.

The Rev. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the black churches have set a goal to register 500,000 voters. One-fourth the NAACP'S target of 2 million new black voters in 1984.

"If we are to succeed in getting this tremendous reservoir of strength onto the rolls, it will take the efforts of every strong organization in the black community," said Hooks. "There's no question in my mind that the black church is still the strongest organization in our community."

The group, meeting in Washington, represents 1,500 black churches across the nation. Butler said the organization's strength is concentrated in cities along the eastern seaboard, the central south and the midwest.

"Our effort will be to encourage pastors to become deputy registrars," said Butler. "We will seek to widen the use of absentee ballots by both students and senior citizens."

Butler refused to affiliate the group with the possible candidacy of Jesse Jackson for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

"Our national body has never taken a position on political candidates," he said, adding later however that it did not oppose a black candidacy for president.

Likewide. Hooks said the NAACP will not take a position on the Jackson candidacy "for many, many reasons."

The Rev. Otis Moss, a Cleveland pastor who will head the voter registration effort, called it "a formidable task, but one we must grasp."

"We look forward to the next 12 months of hard, but significant work," he said.



'THE SOFT WINDS,' returning by popular demand, from Patterson, N.J., along with the 'Bells of Joy,' will be in concert at Gillis Memorial Church, 4016 Park Heights Ave., on Saturday, August 27, 7:30 p.m. Five dollar donation in advance; $6 at door.

Two church conventions emphasize how to apply Christianity in life

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

The Highway Church of Christ and United Council of Community Churches are holding their annual conventions in Baltimore this week.

The Highway Church of Christ Apostolic Faith Convention is holding its 11th annual session at Highway Church of Christ, 3100 W. North Ave., where Bishop Fred Page is the pastor.

And, the United Council of Community Churches of Maryland and Vicinity's 20th annual session is at Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church, 4016 Park Heights Ave. Dr. Theodore Jackson is the pastor.

Seminars, lectures and workshops are being sponsored featuring discussions on how to be a good church official to how to apply Christianity in our daily lives.

There will be Bible discussions, ordination of ministers, election of officers and planning of objectives for the next year.

Bishop Page, general chairman, said of the Highway Church of Christ's convention, "It's great; in fact one of the greatest we've ever had. We have a combination of field workers and talent as we've never seen before, and they are coming from all over the country and some even from other countries."

With approximately 3,000 people in attendance, the United Council of Community Churches convened on Tuesday welcoming ministers, singers and dignitaries from all over the state and surrounding areas.

Guests at the conference have included Mayor Schaefer along with various candidates holding and presently seeking public office.

"It is a great convention," said Dr. Jackson, first vice-president of the Council. "People leaving this convention will have gotten a new start on the togetherness of our church. We look at these meetings and focus on how they will build spiritually. This convention will build its participants spiritually."

These conventions for years have been instrumental in reassuring the faith in each of its members and have provided for each church a structure, an organization that allows for the smooth functioning of the Christian church.

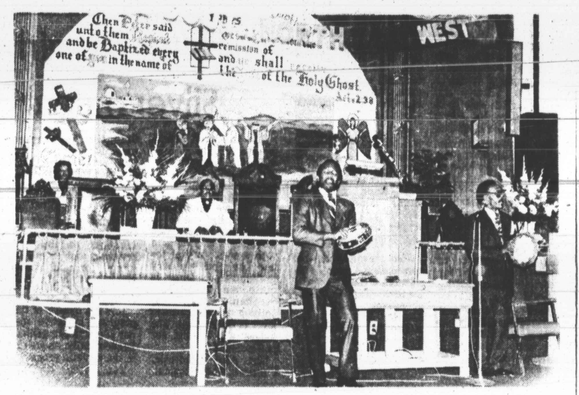
They create a sense of pride and offer an adequate education to the membership.

Cisero Gasque describes his attendance at the HCOC's convention as "fine. It's exciting and it's special. We're finding out how to actually participate in life and what God means for us to do."

Services for both conventions begin nightly at 8: p.m.

The HCOC convention ends tonight with Rev. L.E. Best of Elizabethtown, N.C. bringing the closing message.

The UCCC convention will go through the weekend ending Sunday with ordaination services. Rev. Charles White of Wilson Park Christian Community Church is the president of the council.



DEACONS AT the Highway Church of Christ convention welcome participants from all over the country in a highly-spirited testimonial service.



AFRO Photo by Racine S. Winborne

DRUMMER for 'We Need Prayer' band seen beating his drums in Druid Hill Park is Eddie Phillips, son of the Rev. Antoinette Phillips. The headquarters of 'We Need Prayer' is located at 912 N. Gilmore St., and is open daily for those in need of prayer.



Photo by Lorenzo Long

BROWN MEMORIAL BAPTIST pastor, the Rev. Dr. Douglass Miles was one of the local ministers seen last Saturday preaching in Druid Hill Park.



AFRO photos by Racine S. Winborne

FOUNDER—The Rev. Antoinette Phillips is founder of the 'We Need Prayer' Headquarters, 912 N. Gilmor St. A variety of activities was held prior to the eighth annual Prayer in the Park Services, where more than 300 people attended.



THE YOUTH CHOIR of New Shiloh Baptist Church participated in the annual Prayer in the Park Services on Aug. 6. The day-long services, in Druid Hill Park, were sponsored by the We Need Prayer headquarters. The Rev. Antoinette Phillips is founder, and director.

AFRO Photo by Racine S. Winborne

METRO CHURCH BRIEFS

One of the number one gospel singing groups will be singing on August 22, 7 p.m. at the Calvert Educational Center, North and Guilford Ave.

The Rev. F.C. Barnes and the Rev. Janice Brown of Rocky Mount, N.C. will be singing two of their most popular songs, "Rough Side of the Mountain" and "When It Rains It Pours."

Also appearing will be the Inspirational Tiny Tots of Baltimore. Emcees are Mary Cee and Deacon Abraham Cash. Tickets can be purchased by calling 566-1362 or 233-4910.

It's Benny Cummings & Kings Temple Singers here in Baltimore Friday, August 12 at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Druid Hill and Lanvale.

Tickets are $4. The concert is sponsored by the Recording King Choral Ensemble. Service will begin at 7:30 sharp.

Brown's Memorial Baptist Church, 3215 Belvedere Ave., will present Miss Pam Yerby in concert on Sunday August 28. Program is scheduled to begin at 7: p.m. Tickets are $3 in advance and $3.50 at door.

For further info. call 542-5700.

The Bethel Christian School has begun at Bethel A.M.E., Lanvale and Druid Hill Ave. The school is an alternative institution of learning for grades K-2.

Applications are now being accepted for the academic year from Sept. 12 to June 19, 1984.

Further info. can be obtained from William Benjamin at 435-1658.

Reverend Joshua Hutchins, Jr., district superintendent of the Washington Central District in the Baltimore United Methodist Conference, preached at the John Wesley United Methodist Church, 6924 Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie, on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 11 a.m.

The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. is being held this week in Washington, D.C. through Aug. 14. Mayor Harold Washington of Chicago will address the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Night Rally at the Sheraton Washington, the convention headquarters.

The School of Theology of St. Mary's Seminary & University will offer 23 graduate theology courses during the 1983 Fall semester, Sept. 7 through Dec. 21.

Further info. can be obtained at 323-3200, ext. 44.

A senior citizens' dinner will be held Sunday, August 14 at 2 p.m. at Mt. Zion Holiness Faith Evangelistic Alliance, Inc., 132 Willard St. For further information, call Pastor Mae "Mother" Johnson at the church, 945-5697.

Bethel A.M.E. hosts youngsters from Guadeloupe, West Indies

Bethel A.M.E. Church hosts youngsters from Guadeloupe, West Indies Visit last week, French - speaking teenagers stay in local homes.

The Guadeloupe Youth Project, a group of French - speaking teenagers visited Baltimore and Bethel AME Church under the Rev. John R. Bryant. Minister Joan R. Wharton headed the committee that played hosts and hostess for the group.

In a visit to the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers their teachers confided that the youngsters hoped to develop their language abilities. Most of them could read and understand English but were not fluent in speaking.

The group arrived in the United States in New York on July 17 at Kennedy Airport. They stayed overnight at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. They arrived in Baltimore on July 18 and were greeted by Bethel AME young people and their hosts families.

The group reports they enjoyed all of their activities in Baltimore which included reception at the Maryland Science Center, visits to the Aquarium, Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore Museum of Art, ART-SCAPE '83, Provident Hospital.

They enjoyed worship at Bethel AME, visited Washington, D.C. and went skating at Shake and Bake Family Fun Center.

They toured the McCormick Building downtown, went swimming at a beach party. They visited the Walters Art Gallery and the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers. Before leaving they spent three days at the AFRAM Festival, having previously visited the West Indian Festival.

Hosts and hostesses include Joan L. Wharton, Thelma L. Wharton, Ayana Wooden, Teresa Bailey, Rudell Thompkins, Mr. and Mrs. William Jordan, Thea Lee, Jackie Williams, Ms Carole Wright, Salimma Mariott, Anthony Steward,

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sartor, Margaret Williams, Frank Wharton, Cassandra Lusca, Grayce Johnson, Angelea Fleming, Mrs. Clarice Brown, Georgine Edgerton, Alice Nelson, Dorothy Burgess, and Joanne McDougald.





Photo by Kathy O. Parrott

Visitors from Guadeloupe toured the AFRO plant and viewed a slide presentation showing the history of the company. Female members of the group picured were: Minister Joan Wharton, Mademoiselles Jocelyne Auguste, Tonia Narol, Francine Filomin, Eliasabeth Gustave, Gladys Bienville, Line Theophile, Catherine Mayeko, Marie Laure Mareba, Nathalie Larifla, Claudia Forbin, Myriam Coppry, Brigette Angelyque, Jacqueline Ajax, Myriam Mephon, Danielle Bourguignon, Claudia Lipard, Myriam Bourriquia, Danielle Albina, Nicole Amelie, France-line Meynard, Yolaine Velain, Regine Raynard, Lucie Pradel, and Corrinne Lubeth. Male members were Monsieurs Gilles Mephon, Nirin Ishmat, Rhoid Zami, Marlo Maurin, Frantz Mina, Francois Xavier Louis, Sylvio Frise, Bruno Angely, Sedio Dicko, Franck Auroque, Laurent Latifla, Frederic Thole, Laurent Vales, Harry Moulin, Ruddy Youyoutte, Jean-Philippe Judor, Pascal Barreau, Christian Pauloby, Fabrice Lomon, Gedion Cesaire, and Thomas Geolier.



SAD FAMILY — Members of the family of Randolph Jordan are shown entering Our Lady of Lourdes Church for Tuesday noon funeral services. From left are Mrs. Bertha L. Jordan, wife; a son, Gregory A. Jordan, and daughter, Miss Sharon R. Jordan. Son Randolph Jordan is in background.

Noted Motown musician is dead

Los Angeles (UPI)— James Jamerson, whose electric bass was the driving beat behind most of Motown's biggest recording star, including Smokey Robinson and the Temptations, has died at the age of 45.

Jamerson died Tuesday, August 2 at County-USC Medical Center, his wife disclosed Thursday.

Jamerson was born in South Carolina but worked most of his life in Detroit, playing from the late 1950s to early 1970s for such Motown stars as Robinson, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, The Temptations, The Four Tops and Gladys Knight and the Pips.

"The Motown Sound was built, as many have said, around the heavy bass," Jamerson's wife, Annie, said in an interview. "That was James on 97 percent of Motown's hits.

"People on the street in Detroit called James 'Mr. Motown.'

During the 1970s Jamerson also accompanied such non-Motown stars as Bobby Darin, Tom Jones, Brian Wilson, Joan Baez and The Jazz Crusaders.

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Eight and Eleven O'Clock
Marion Curtis Bascom preaching

Anthems
8:00 —
I've Been Baked — Hall Johnson, arr.
Hymn For a New Day — Robert Swift, arr.
11:00 —
Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveller — R. Nathaniel Dett, arr.



Photo by Kathy O. Parrott

Minister Joan Wharton acted as the official hostess when Bethel AME Church received a group of students from Guadeloupe, West Indies. Photo by Kathy O. Parrott dies. Minister Wharton is shown here with Ms. Corrinne Lubeth, chaperone with the students.

St. James Episcopal Church
Arlington and Lafayette Aves.
Lafayette Square
The Reverend Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert T. Ford, Deacon
Maurice Murphy, organist — Choirmaster
8:00 A.M. — Holy Communion
10:00 A.M. — Holy Eucharist
The Public Is Cordially Invited To Attend All Services

If you ask me

(Continued from page 9)

(Little Willie) Adams, Hot Rod Hulbert, the public relations exec, and Brenda Brown; Mr. and Mrs. Algernon Jackson and Mrs. Edna Thomas;

And the Clarence Dysons, Samuel Blackwells, Medford Reynoldses, Judge Milton Allen, Cyrus Marshall, Mrs. Berine Bundara, Mrs. Zelma York, KLW members Mildred Nelson, Mamie Jones, and Geneva Small, with Riddie Staton, and Mrs. Dee Dee Richardson.



FRIENDS REMEMBER — Miss Jeanette Coley Davis, Delta Airline flight attendant dead at 31. Co-workers memorialize her. See details in If You Ask Me.

'Deeply loved'

Thirty-two co-workers from Delta Airlines in Atlanta were in Baltimore for Sunday rites for 31-year-old Alea Jeanette Coley Davis of Fairview Ave.

A Delta flight attendant for five years, she was remembered as "one who was deeply loved by all who knew her," Sheri Austin spoke for her associates.

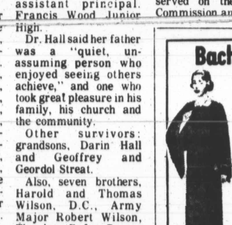
The August 7th services were at New Metropolitan Baptist Church, with the Rev. Lawyer Swinson officiating.

Miss Davis was a graduate of CCB, Coppin State College and did graduate work at Morgan State U., before taking the airline post. ("She just loved her work and the travelling," her mother recalled.)

Survivors: Her mother, Mrs. Louise Coley Mitchell; father, Robert Coley; stepfather, Willie Mitchell.

Also twin brother, Richard Coley, Conn., Donald Coley, N.C., Ronald Coley, Baltimore; sisters, Deborah Harris, Portsmouth; Diane Thompson, Ahoskie, N.C., Tracey Mitchell, Baltimore and one stepsister, 6 stepbrothers; and her grandmother, Mrs. Pauline Coley, Wilson, N.C.

Cuff note: The Delta Airline co-workers served as honorary pallbearers and flower bearers. This is quite a tribute when you consider Miss Davis had been ailing since February when she returned home due to illness.



LARGE FAMILY survives Ira A. Wilson, Sharon Baptist member and community worker. See details in If You Ask Me.

Ira Wilson

The large crowd at Sharon Baptist Church Saturday nooh (August 6), was there to memorialize Ira Armster Wilson, 66, longtime Harlem Ave. resident and beloved church worker, father, and good neighbor.

A 3 engineer at Bethlehem Steel Co. for 41 years, Mr. Wilson was affectionately known as "the best at the stripers." He retired in 1978.

Since then, he has been active as a number of the James Mosher Associates, serving as manager of the group's baseball teams. And, he has enjoyed gardening, advising relatives about the family-owned farm in his native Wakefield Va.

He served as church usher and was active in the Prince Hall Masonic Union Lodge No. 153.

No question about Mr. Wilson's love for children, his own and those of others.

Large family

He and his wife of 41 years — Mrs. Doris Virginia Johnson Wilson — reared two daughters, 3 nephews and opened their home to more than 30 foster care children!

Daughters surviving are: Dr. Doris Hall, on leave from her deanship at Antioch College to serve as special assistant to Mayor Schaefer; and Mrs. Gloria Street, assistant principal, Francis Wood Junior High.

Dr. Hall said her father was a "quiet, unassuming person who enjoyed seeing others achieve," and one who took great pleasure in his family, his church and the community.

Other survivors: grandsons, Darin Hall and Geoffrey and Geordol Streat.

Also, seven brothers, Harold and Thomas Wilson, D.C., Army Major Robert Wilson, Theodore, Rufus, George and Willie Wilson, all of Wakefield;

And, sisters, Mrs. Portia McClenny, Wakefield; Mrs. Eva Wilson, Capitol Heights; and Mrs. Ruby Phipps, California; and aunts, Mrs. Carrie Brown, Mary E. Chambers, both of Wakefield; and Mrs. Ethel Ford, Baltimore; and son-in-law, Godfrey A. Streat.

Cuff note: Many know Mr. Wilson's widow, she has been active in Sharon Baptist for years-especially the Birthday Circle.

Plus, she is a volunteer worker at Provident Hospital. One of her jobs there is manning the Tel-Med emergency line (728-2900), which counsels persons with special problems.

SPECIAL BLESSINGS ON HER DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES!

Dr. Gill

Some 250 relatives and friends from 16 states and D.C. joined relatives and friends from 15 states and D.C., gathered here on Friday, August 5, for memorial services for Dr. Robert Lewis Gill, 71.

He was the beloved scholar, author, civic leader.

Morgan State University president, Dr. Andrew Billingsley, and a number of Morgan associates and former students were present to recall the deceased's 34 years as political science professor.

The pastor, Rev. W. L. Clayton, told of his service as deacon.

There were tributes from alumni of Livingstone College and the University of Michigan, where he earned his bachelor's and doctorate, and from his beloved Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

200 Omegas

Over 200 brothers turned out for the fraternal rites. Moving was the musical tribute he had requested — "When I've Done the Best I Can" — by Omega's oldest son, Dr. W. H. (Bubba) Young of Anderson, S.C.

Speakers recalled Dr. Gill's love for students, his family, and his work — how he taught at 22 other colleges in the summers, and was active in his support of the NAACP and other civic endeavors.

A Republican, he served on the Airport Commission and the Jail Board.

Survivors: His wife, Dr. Rubye C. Gill, longtime city school music teacher and active community leader; son, Dr. Walter Gill, Morgan U. staffer; and daughter, Roberta, the attorney.

His stepmother, Edna; six sisters and four brothers also survive. Unique: The family floral tribute of silk flowers, depicting the broken wheel.

The sisters who came, accompanied by large numbers of family members and friends: Mrs. Sara Brownlee, D.C., Mrs. Essie Huff, Salisbury, N.C., Mrs. Willa Hudgeon, D.C., Mrs. Bernice Fair, Spencer, N.C., Mrs. Mabel Ellis, D.C., Mrs. Marlene Stoener, Spencer, N.C.;

The brothers present with their families and friends: Will and Theodore Gill, D.C., Jack, Spencer, N.C., and Raymond, Fayetteville, N.C.

Bishop here

Among other kin here, Rev. James L. Gill, and family of 9, from Flint, Mich., Dr. and Mrs. George Freeman, Houston, Tex., Ms. Ramona Gill, Albuquerque, New Mexico;

Other friends here: the Rt. Rev. William M. Smith, Mobile, Ala., senior bishop of the AME Zion Church; Dr. and Mrs. Elwood Boone, Etricks, Va. (he's retired Va. State College dean); Dr. and Mrs. Romeo Henderson, Wilmington, Del., Rev. and Mrs. Lawrence Glenn, Detroit; and Dr. Howard Wright, Atlanta.

Editor's note: The list of relatives and friends, who travelled to memorialize Dr. Gill, fills ten sheets. What a lovely tribute!!

Baltimore morticians attending the national funeral directors' convention in Detroit this week include, Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Jones, Mrs. Juanita Morton, Mrs. Rosa James, Leroy Dyett, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Locks Sr., and local president, Vernon Bailey, and Mrs. Bailey and their sons, Ronald and Ulmar.

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