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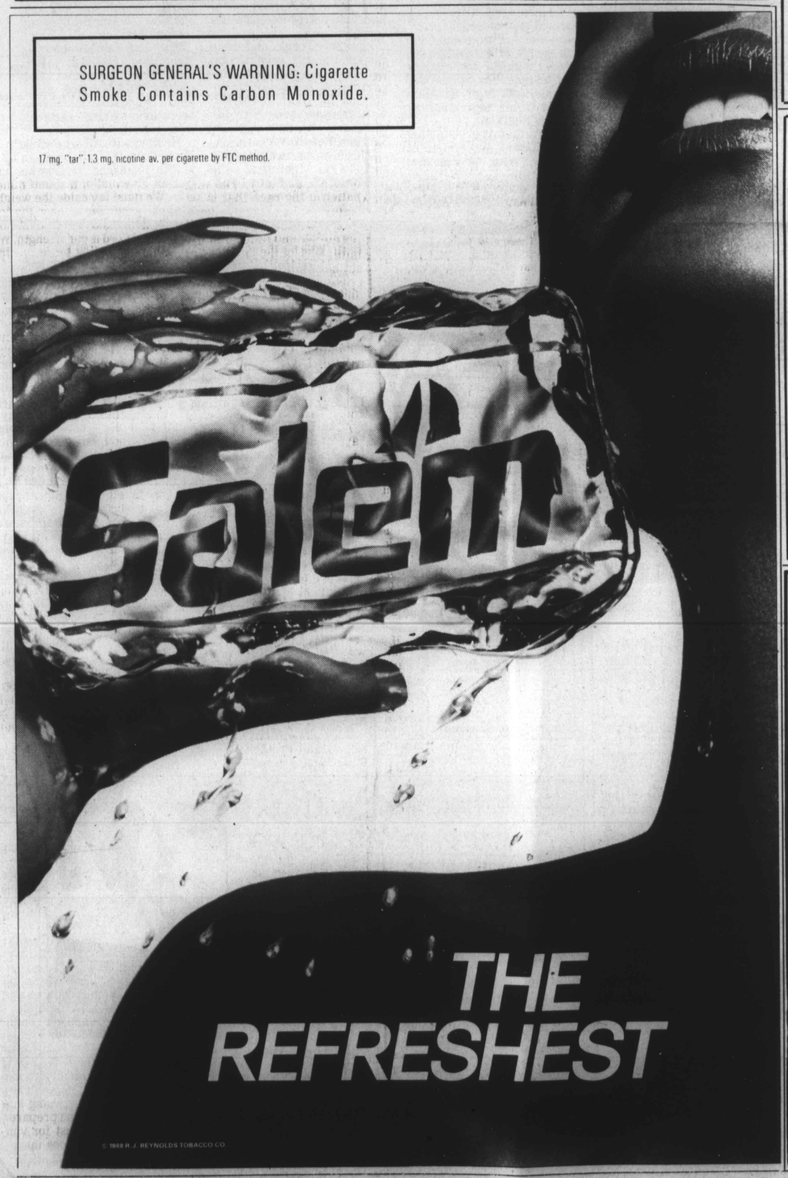

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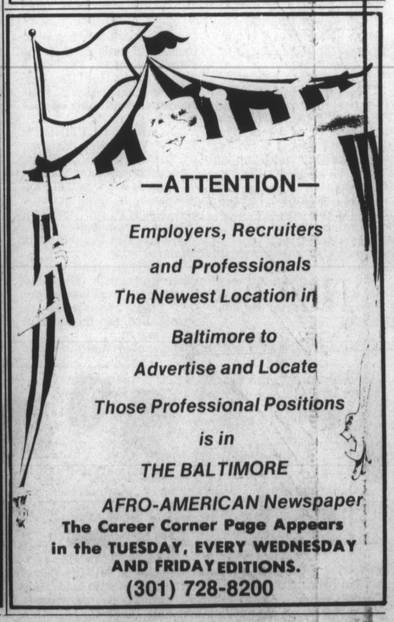

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The Afro-American Section C

THE LIVING CHURCH

■ Church Photo Page 2C
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■ If You Ask Me 4C

Bethel hosts Bryant for Bishop Banquet

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

A promotional banquet for the Rev. John R. Bryant, pastor of the historic Bethel AME Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave. was held Saturday, May 21 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

More than a thousand persons were present in support of Bryant as he initiated his campaign as an Episcopal candidate at the 43rd session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The conference is scheduled for July 5 through the 15th in Fortworth, Texas.

The Master of Ceremonies was the Rev. Walter S. Thomas, the pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church in downtown Baltimore.

Thomas was successful in moving the program from one point to the next in a smooth and spiritual way.

Several honors were bestowed upon Bryant at the occasion set in his honor and for his promotion.

Representing the city was Mayor Kurt Schmoke who gave acclamation and thanks to Bryant for his willingness to help so many others.

In recognition of Bryant's contributions to the spiritual as well as the socio-economic upbuilding of Baltimoreans, Schmoke proclaimed May 21 as Rev. John R. Bryant Day in Baltimore.

Presentations and remarks were also made by Senator Larry Young of the 39th Legislative District and Congressman Kweisi Mfume the 7th District.

Representing Bryant's 86 sons and daughters in the preaching ministry was Rev. Michael O. Thomas, pastor of Hunter Memorial AME Church, in Md.

Expressions of love and appreciation were also given by the family, who was represented by the bishopric candidate's father, Bishop Harrison J. Bryant.

Also making a presentation was Joseph C. McKinney, treasurer of AME Church.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Bishop John Hurst Adams, presiding prelate of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church.

Bishop Adams said he is impressed with the high character of Bryant, and that he is convinced Bryant will remain committed to the work of the church once elevated to the office of a bishop.

"Rather than becoming impressed and puffed up, he will be humbled by the awesome new work the Lord has put upon him," Adams said.

". . . He will have a deeper sense of humility and a greater sense of obligation."

Adams commended Bryant for his efforts to making a brighter future for others.

MEN OF THE CLOTH — Rev. John R. Bryant, Episcopal candidate, poses for picture with Bishop John Hurst Adams, presiding prelate of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church.

JOHN BRYANT DAY—Mayor Kurt Schmoke (right) brought greetings and a resolution from the city proclaiming May 21 as Rev. John R. Bryant Day in Baltimore.

FAMILY SUPPORT—Among the capacity crowd were members of Rev. John R. Bryant's family. Pictured left to right is Rev. Theodore McPherson, his wife, Thelma McPherson, the honoree's mother, Edith Holland Bryant.

". . . Pastor Bryant sought to bring relief where there has been pain. . . "

Adams said Bryant will be an asset to the AME Church. "I believe he will bring a ministry that is inspired, directed and controlled by the Word of God," he said.

"I want to commend him to the church because I believe he will be faithful."

Rev. Ronald E. Braxton, pastor of Emanuel AME Church in Portsmouth, VA introduced the honoree as he used each letter of Bryant's name to reveal some part of Bryant's character. The audience arose with applause as Bryant came forth to make his address.

"I feel just like David . . . my cup is running over," said Bryant.

Bryant said he was thankful for Bethel Church. ". . . You are a special, special people," he said. "I thank God that he honored me to come your way."

He thanked Bethel for always supporting the work of his ministry.

"You have never been the slayer of my dreams or my visions. I could never ever forget your love and support," said Bryant.

Bryant also thanked God for his parents Bishop Harrison James and Mother Edith Holland Bryant, and the example of Christian integrity they serve in his life.

He thanked God for his wife, Rev. Cecelia Williams Bryant and for their two children, Jamal and Thema, who also support his ministry.

"I thank God for each one of you . . . you light up my life," said Bryant.

Music for the evening was provided by Bethel's John R. Bryant Inspirational Choir. Other program participants were Paulette Coleman, president of the Lay Organization for the Second Episcopal District; Pastor Goodwin Douglas, Treasurer of Second District; Rev. Frederick G. Jones, Sr. Presiding Elder of the Baltimore District; and Delores Winston, the chairperson of the Bryant for Bishop Banquet.

Bryant has been pastor of Bethel AME in Baltimore since 1975. Through his vision and emphasis on worship and praise the church's membership has soared from less than 1600 in 1975 to over 7000 members in 1988.

There are currently 24 ministries at Bethel which include ministries to married couples, singles, prisoners, youth, the deaf, and new members and new converts.

Some community outreach efforts include a Credit Union, The Word Ministry Bookstore, five Sunday radio broadcasts, one Sunday television broadcast, the Spirit Newspaper, Bethel Christian School, GED programs, classes for hearing impaired individuals, Bible Study Courses, The Women's Resource and Development Center, and the Teen Parenting Enrichment Program.

Services in addition to Sunday morning worship include the Tuesday Night Preaching Service; Bootcamp Training for Christians in the Army of the Lord; Friday Night Prayer Service; and Sunday School.

Through his nurturing, many of Bryant's sons and daughters in ministry have gone on to become prophets, evangelists, apostles, pastors and teachers.

Also, Bryant and the Bethel family have birthed three new churches: Adams Chapel AME, Greater Faith AME and Agape Fellowship AME.

62nd Baptist Convention held

The United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries of Maryland (UBMC) recently held its 62nd Annual session at the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 2201 Garrison Blvd. in Baltimore. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Benn was host pastor. The Rev. Dr. Olin P. Moyd, PH.D., pastor of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church was re-elected to his third term as president of UMBC.

The Annual Session was

(Continued on Page 2C)

Rev. Olin P. Moyd

GOSPEL COUNTDOWN

By Demetria Marshall
AFRO Correspondent

I have been getting many requests for the same song lately. The number one "Hot Song" of the week is "It's Alright Now" by Hezekiah Walker and the Love Fellowship Choir, Yes, that is the song of the week.

"Everytime I hear that song, I start moving and clapping my hands. That song is so unique. When I am going through my worst time, that song, inspires me the most," said 16 year old Trina Phillips of The Mark of Excellence Christian Academy.

2. Mary Don't You Weep . . . . . Take 6
3. I'm A Soldier . . . . . Rev. William Hudson, III
4. The Blood . . . . . Shirley Ceasar
5. Stay on the Line . . . . . Pilgrim Jubilees
6. Lord You Made the Difference . . . . . Southeast
7. 99½ . . . . . Barbara Ward Farmer
8. Thank You Lord . . . . . Angelic Gospel Singers
9. Everything About Me You Know . . . . . Barbara Ward Farmer
10 O the Blood . . . . . New Jersey Mass Choir

WBGR's Pastor's Pick Hit

#1 on the chart
1. It's Alright Now . . . . . Hezekiah Walker and the Love Fellowship Choir

METRO CHURCH BRIEFS

Eighty-fourth Women's Day planned

Macedonia Baptist Church is celebrating its 84th Womens Day, on June 1. The theme is "The changing roles of the Christian Woman moving forward on Faith."

Wednesday, June 1, there will be a midweek revival service at 7 p.m. The Rev. Vashti McKenzie, pastor, Oak Street A.M.E., will speak.

Sunday, June 5, there will be an 11 a.m. morning worship with The Honorable Judge Mabel H. Hubbard, Huber Memorial Church of God in Christ. From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. a dinner theatre will be held with The Gentry McDonald Players, of Morning Star Baptist Church.

One in the Spirit Crusade coming

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Sound the alarm on His holy mountain! The One in the Spirit Crusade — Part 3 will be held at the Baltimore Arena in downtown Baltimore, Monday, May 23 through Friday the 27th. Preaching throughout the week will be the Rev. Walter S. Thomas, pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church, and the Rev. John R. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church. An anointed Mass Choir will sing nightly and outstanding soloists will be featuring in song. Come and be blessed. Call 523-4273 or 837-4616.

First Abyssinia Plans Revival

First Abyssinia Baptist Church, 2500 Arunah Ave. will sponsor a revival Monday, June 13 through the 16th at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Rev. Harold A. Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church is the revivalist. Call 566-0011.

A WORD OF HOPE

By Maxine L. Wallace
Church News Editor

"Wherefore seeing we also encompassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2.

Living a Christian life is like running a race. A race has a starting point and a race has an end. A race is run with the expectation of winning a prize. A race requires endurance.

And so it is that the Bible says the race is not given unto the swift, but to them that endure until the end.

When you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour that was the first step of your walk to faith.

And God has already mapped out the path that you must travel. He has a good and perfect plan for your life and the first day of the rest of your life began when you gave your life to Jesus.

Yet it is up to us whether we will sit on the side line or whether we will put our proclaimed faith into action. But in order to actualize our faith, we must prepare to enter the relays . . .

Not competitions with our sisters and brothers but we must prepare to go that course that God has already set before us. For God has chosen a path that I must go and He has chosen the road that you must take. And yet we are all on the King's highway . . . the highway that leads to heaven . . .

Yet if we are going to run this Christian race, there are some things we must do in order to run successfully.

The Bible says we must lay aside every weight and the sin which doth easily beset us. For in order to run this race, you can't be encumbered with a load of care. We must take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there. And because the problems and cares of this world would seek to hinder us from going forward, we must lay aside any and everything that would serve as an obstacle.

Therefore we must lay aside the weights of doubt . . . for with God nothing shall be impossible unto you. We must lay aside fear and anxiety . . . for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. We must lay aside the weight of depression . . . for the joy of the Lord is our strength. We must lay aside pride . . . for God hates a proud look. We must lay aside backbiting, and envy and strife . . . We must lay aside greed and superficiality . . . We must lay aside anything that would impede our progress and venturing forth to do the will of God.

Not only must we lay some things aside, but we must have patience. We must learn to be patient. The Bible says I waited patiently upon the Lord, and He inclined unto me and heard my cry. Sometimes in this life, you are going to have to wait on the Lord. For our blessings do not always come according to our time schedule, but sometimes we have to be patient with God . . . Knowing that His time is the best time.

So therefore, beloved do not become discouraged as you are running this Christian race, but know that if you put your hope and trust in God, He will work out every detail in your life. Remember, God does all things well.

Not only must we be patient, but we must keep our eyes stayed on Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith.

In this life, storm clouds are going to rise and it may even rain on your parade. In this life, things are not always going to go the way you want them to go. Yet God is in control.

Therefore, we must keep our eyes stayed on Jesus . . . looking neither to the left nor to the right. So do not focus your attention on the problem, but look at the problem solver. For Jesus is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Look to Jesus and live!

My friend, then you must endure. You must hold on and hold out. Stick to the fight . . . even when times get rough. Hold on to the Master's hand. Don't give up, for your blessing is on the the way. For if you hold on and hold out, one day, you'll go to a place where there will be no weeping and wailing . . . God has prepared a special place just for you. Don't give up . . . look up . . .