

ON THE LEVEL

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2004

God, Slavery, And The Civil War

by Janice McIntyre

Was the Civil War God's way of showing his displeasure and anger about slavery in America? Abraham Lincoln seemed to think so. He expressed these thoughts in his Second Inaugural Address given in 1865. His speech made three direct references to Scriptures in the Bible.

At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the

energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it

perish, and the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All know that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war; while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the

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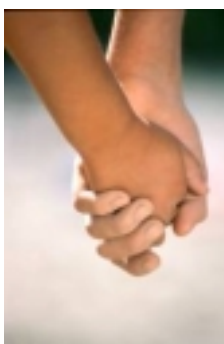
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They Are Waiting To Hear From Us

by

Denise Rowson, Evangelism Committee Chair



Their life is dependent on you reaching them. The first thing

You think about is how you will hear a cry for help. You find that your house is on fire and a loved one is caught up in the house.

You love them so much that you are willing to do whatever

it takes to save your loved one. My brother and sisters, this is the same attitude that the church must have for those who are unbelievers.

The condition of the people in this country and around the world is spiritually in a state on emergency. Everywhere people are lost or unsure of their faith. Families are broken, children abused and

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Photo from Soul Circle Calendar 2004
Heartstone Graphics Group

Love . . .

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails. NKJV

FAFSA DAY

**Saturday, February 21, 2004
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

Get free help completing and submitting your federal financial aid forms for college. Local sites: Durham— NCCU; Raleigh— Peace College.

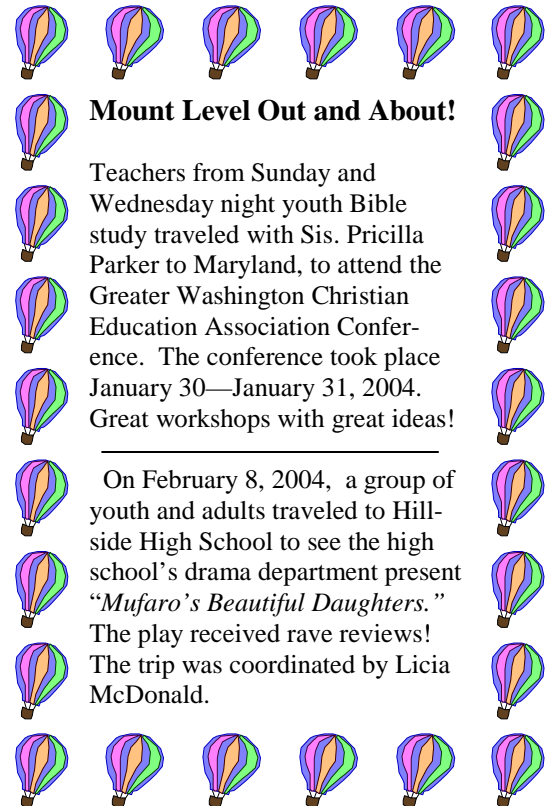
Useful Scholarship Websites

<http://www.collegeboard.org>
<http://www.collegequest.com>
<http://www.fastweb.com>
<http://www.srnexpress.com>
<http://cfnc.org>
<http://www.rams.com>
<http://www.finaid.org>
<http://www.jackierobinson.org>
<http://www.uncf.org/programs>

Black History Quiz

1. Hiram Revels, the first African-American U.S. senator, took oath of office on which date?
2. In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first African-American to do what?
3. Who founded Tuskegee Institute, one of the leading African-American institutions in America, in 1881?
4. Mary McLeod Bethune, a founder of Bethune-Cookman College and the National Council of Negro Women, also served in which capacity?
5. African-American political scientist Ralph Bunche won the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for which achievement?
6. Marian Wright Edelman, a successful lawyer and activist, established which organization in 1973?
7. Author, educator, and civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois published which collection of essays and sketched in 1903?
8. Track and field star Carl Lewis won how many gold medals at the 1984 Olympic games?
9. Which civil rights activist gained notoriety in the late nineteenth century for her scathing editorials denouncing racial injustice?
10. The 15th Amendment, which granted African-Americans the right to vote was passed in which year?

Answers on page 3



Mount Level Out and About!

Teachers from Sunday and Wednesday night youth Bible study traveled with Sis. Pricilla Parker to Maryland, to attend the Greater Washington Christian Education Association Conference. The conference took place January 30—January 31, 2004. Great workshops with great ideas!

On February 8, 2004, a group of youth and adults traveled to Hillside High School to see the high school's drama department present "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters." The play received rave reviews! The trip was coordinated by Licia McDonald.

Newsletter Deadline Date

The deadline date for articles, announcements, etc. to be published in an upcoming issue will be the last day of the previous month. The newsletter will be distributed the week of the third Sunday. Thank you.

Newsletter Staff: Janice McIntyre, Editor; Deborah Eaton, Staff; Dorothy Clark, Staff

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same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged (Matthew 7:1). The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh" (Matthew 18:7). If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which

having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsmen's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the

judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether (Revelation 16:7) with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.¹

God had not forgotten his people. Just as the Hebrew slaves were freed from bondage, so were the African slaves.

¹Millard, Catherine, *The Rewriting of America's History*, 1991. Christian Publications, Inc.

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neglected, teens threatening suicide, people are sick from illnesses and sicknesses that have no cure, people are unemployed in record numbers, the homeless fill our streets, and our unsaved loved ones trouble our hearts. People are trying drugs, alcohol, Buddha, Muhammad, money, cars, infidelity, extortion, abortion, identification fraud and all kinds of worldly acts to find peace. The people are looking for relief. They are "sick and tired of being sick and tired". They seek peace, a new way of life, they seek truth. They are tired of looking for love in all of the wrong places! Where are we to turn? What are we to do? The one and only answer in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:10 states that "His intent was that now through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be known to rulers and authorities in heavenly realms according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord".

The condition of the people in this country and around the world is spiritually in a state on emergency. Everywhere people are lost or unsure

of their faith. Families are broken, children abused and neglected, teens threatening suicide, people are sick from illnesses and sicknesses that have no cure, people are unemployed in record numbers, the homeless fill our streets, and our unsaved loved ones trouble our hearts. People are trying drugs, alcohol, Buddha, Muhammad, money, cars, infidelity, extortion, abortion, identification fraud and all kinds of worldly acts to find peace. The people are looking for relief. They are "sick and tired of being sick and tired". They seek peace, a new way of life, they seek truth. They are tired of looking for love in all of the wrong places! Where are we to turn? What are we to do? The one and only answer is in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:10 states that "His intent was that now through the

Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be known to rulers and authorities in heavenly realms according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord".

IT'S COMING!.....



**Women's Day
March 21, 2004**

**Mt. Level Missionary
Baptist Church**

Answers to Quiz, page 2

1. February 25, 1870
2. Win U.S. Open Tennis Championship
3. Booker T. Washington
4. Special Advisor on minority affairs to President Franklin Roosevelt
5. Mediated Arab-Israeli truce in 1948
6. Children's Defense Fund
7. The Souls of Black Folks
8. 4
9. Ida B. wells
10. 1870



Corner of Prayer

*The light of God surrounds us;
 The love of God enfolds us;
 The power of God protects us;
 The presence of God watches over us.
 Wherever we are, God is.
 And all is well.*

Pray for those who are ill.

- Sis. Viola Crowder, Treyburn Nursing Home
- Sis. Janie Evans, 416 Mimosa Drive
- Sis. Kathleen Gildon, Treyburn Nursing Home
- Sis. Essie Hall, 406 Oakwood Ave.
- Sis. Iris Hall, 125 A.E. Cornwallis Rs.
- Sis. Rochelle Joyner, 714 Justice St.
- Sis Bessie Lipscomb, Magnolia Gardens
- Sis. Roumanie Lipscomb, 4308 Denfield St.
- Sis. Alma Mickens, John Umstead Hosp.
- Sis. Ollie Moore, 801 Piper Street
- Bro. James Pettitway, Treyburn Nursing Home
- Bro. Robert Proctor, Duke Hospital #4315
- Sis. Lydia Timberlake, 3040 Forrester St.
- Sis Joyce Whitted, 302 Todd Street
- Sis. Mary Yancey, Durham Village

Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church
 316 Hebron Road
 Durham, North Carolina 27704
 Phone: 919-477-3893
 Fax: 919-620-9229
 Email: www.mtlevebaptist.org

The Nursery is open every Sunday. Parents are asked to bring children ages 12 months to 5 years old to the nursery during the church's greeting period. Parents of younger children are welcome to accompany them to the nursery.

Baby Dedication If you are interested in having your baby dedicated to the service for the Lord, please call Margaret Morrison at 383-0783 to schedule a date and time.

Mt. Level Sick and Distress Committee would like for members to contact the church when they are sick, have outpatient surgery, or will be hospitalized. This committee, under the leadership of Sis. Lillian Downey, desires to respond and show the church's concern.

Membership Profile Questionnaire & Change of Address Forms: All members are asked to complete these forms and return them to the church office ASAP. Forms are on the table in the vestibule.

The URL for Mt. Level's website is www.mtlevebaptist.org. Book mark the site for easy access, and pass the new URL on to a friend.

The Funeral Committee would like to have every opportunity to minister to the bereaved members, family and friends of Mt. Level. We are asking that you allow us to acknowledge and give our support when you have lost a family member. In order for us to do this, we are asking that you call the Church Secretary and give all the pertinent information. If you will be traveling out of town, please give the necessary information so that we can be sure to make contact.

Mount Level's Weekly Schedule

- Each Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Church School; 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
- 1st Sunday (only):** 10:30 a.m. Baptism / Communion
- 2nd Sunday:** 8:00 a.m. Worship Service / Breakfast; 10:45 a.m. Children's Church—Grades 1-6
- 4th Sunday:** 8:00 a.m. Worship Service / Breakfast
- Wednesday:** 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer; 7:00 p.m. Prayer Service; 7:30 p.m. Bible Study