

Churches Involved In Racial Problems

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International
"Organized religion has thus far played a relatively minor role in the struggle for racial justice in America."

Those words were written, by this reporter, a little more than six months ago.

They are no longer true. Today, churches and synagogues are deeply involved in the fight against discrimination.

Protestant, Catholic and Jewish organizations are working together to muster public support for passage of civil rights legislation. Ministers, priests and rabbis are marching alongside Negroes in non-violent demonstrations against segregation. Some have gone to jail.

In Washington, Chicago, Detroit and many other communities, tri-faith councils have been established to promote equality of opportunity in employment and housing.

Issued Pastoral Letters
During the past few weeks, at least 30 Catholic bishops have issued pastoral letters attacking

segregation as an unchristian denial of the dignity which God has conferred on every human creature.

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church has appealed to all Episcopalians to walk picket lines, give money to Negro organizations, and otherwise demonstrate the church's "identification with those who are victims of oppression."

The United Presbyterian Church has created a "Commission on Religion and Race" to stir Presbyterian laymen into emulating the example of their chief executive officer, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, who was arrested July 4 for participating in a protest against segregation.

The Synagogue Council of America has set up a "task force" of rabbis, who are available for picketing duty and protest marches. The National Council of Churches is urging white Christians both clergy and laymen—to join the "March on Washington" which Negro organizations have scheduled for Aug. 28.

List Is Lengthy
The list could run on and on. A similar ferment of activity is under way in many religious organizations besides those named.

Not all of their white members are happy about it. In fact, some are quite vocally unhappy to see the church "taking sides" in a social revolution.

Religious leaders are well aware that commitment to the Negroes cause may cost churches and synagogues a few members and a great deal of financial support.

They say, however, that the time has come for religious institutions to pay whatever price is necessary to demonstrate the sincerity of their conviction that God created all men, regardless of race or color, with equal rights and dignity.

This "damn-the-torpedoes" spirit was expressed in a recent statement by the general board of the National Council of Churches. It said:

"Now is the time for action—even costly action that may jeopardize the organizational goals and institutional structures of the church."

What Is the Cause?
What caused church and synagogue leaders to move suddenly from timidity to bold action on racial problems?

Three factors seem to have contributed.

One was the National Conference on Religion and Race held in Chicago last January. It was the first time in history that Protestants, Catholics and Jews had met together to examine their role in race relations. They went away from the meeting with a deep sense of shame about the past record, and a joint determination to prove that religion is neither indifferent nor irrelevant to what they called "America's number one moral problem."

Close on the heels of the Chicago meeting came the demonstrations against segregation in Birmingham, Ala. The already-sore consciences of many white Christians and Jews were sharply pricked by the spectacle of Negroes being doused by fire hoses, attacked by police dogs, and herded into jails.

Negro Patience Exhausted
The nationwide wave of demonstrations which followed Birmingham was the clincher. Religious leaders realized that Negro patience was exhausted, and that it was no longer a question of whether racial barriers should come down rapidly or gradually, but a question of whether they would come down peacefully or violently.

"Birmingham and what followed has confronted the nation with a near-revolution by Negro citizens," said Mathew Ahmann, executive director of the National

Rural Churches

MONROE METHODIST CHURCH
Charles E. Elam, Pastor
9:30 a. m. Morning Worship. There will be no Children's Choirs during month of August.
10:30 a. m. Church School.
12:30 p. m. Youth will leave for Senior Institute at Epworth Forest.
6:30 p. m. Jr. High M. Y. F.
No evening services.
WEDNESDAY
8:00 p. m. Mid-week services with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nussbaum as leaders. Topic is "Isiah."

PLEASANT MILLS METHODIST
Joseph Gibson, Pastor
Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.
Divine Worship service at 10:30.
Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren
Dolar Ritchey, pastor
Sunday School 9:00. Oscar Geisel, superintendent.
Director of Children's Work, Barbara Barger.
Morning Worship 10:00. Sermon subject, "The Tragedy of an Empty Life" Prayer meeting Wednesday evening 7:30.

Pleasant Mills Baptist Church
Lowell Noll, S. S. Supt.
9:30 a. m. Sunday School.
Help keep up the attendance during this vacation period.
Read II Chronicles.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY CHURCH
(2 Mi. East and 2 Mi. North of Monroe)
Robert R. Welch, pastor
9:15 Morning Worship
10:15 Sunday School
WEDNESDAY
7:30 Prayer and Bible Study
7:30 M. Y. F. and Childrens Bible Hour

RIVARRE U.B. CIRCUIT
Stanley Neuschwander, pastor
MT. VICTORY
Chambler Brodbeck, S. S. Supt.
Sunday School 9:30
Class Meeting 10:30
YPMB 7:00
Evening Service 7:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 8:00
MT. ZION
Roman Sprunger, S. S. Supt.
Sunday School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:30
C. E. 7:00
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:30

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
Preble
Norman H. Kuck, Pastor
Early service, 8:15 a. m.
Sunday school, Bible class 9:15 a. m.
Late service 10 a. m.

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
H. E. Settlage, Minister
9:00 Sunday School. Classes for all age groups.
10:00 Worship service. Sermon, "Followers of God."
Tuesday 7:30 meeting of the Women's Guild.
Wednesday 8:00 meeting of the Church Board.
Saturday 10 to 10:45 Children's choir rehearsal.

WREN CIRCUIT E. U. B.
A. N. Straley, Pastor
BETHEL
9:30 a. m. Sunday School.
10:30 a. m. Prayer service.
8:00 p. m. Evening Worship.
Sermon: "Divine Persistence."
Wednesday 8:00 p. m. W.S.W.S. Thursday, 8:00 p. m. Prayer meeting.

WOOD CHAPEL
9:30 a. m. Sunday school.
10:30 a. m. Morning Worship.
Sermon: "Divine Strategy."
Thursday, 8:30 p. m. Prayer meeting and Youth Fellowship.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Friedheim
A. A. Fenner, Pastor
Divine services at 9 and 10:30 a. m. with holy communion in 9 o'clock service.
TUESDAY
Walter Leaguers will meet in School Hall at 8:00 p. m.
WEDNESDAY
All day quilting by Ladies Aid, in church parlor with sack lunch.
THURSDAY
School cleaning day, all day, all ladies urged to take part, men also needed.

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Vera Cruz
Robert R. Olson, Pastor
9:30 a. m. Sunday School.
10:30 a. m. Worship service.
Installation of pastor, Rev. Henry G. Kroehler, president of the Michigan-Indiana Synod, preaching.
10:00 a. m. Sunday School.
WEDNESDAY
Junior Choir Practice at 6:30 p. m. Adult Choir Practice at 7:00 p. m.

ST. LUKE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Honduras
Robert R. Olson, Pastor
9:00 a. m. Worship service. Installation of pastor, Rev. Henry G. Kroehler, president of the Michigan-Indiana Synod, preaching.
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THIS WEEK'S BIBLE VERSE
"Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?"—James 2:5



Venture of Faith

Bible Material: Genesis 12 through 14
Devotional Reading: Romans 8:1-5
Divine Worship 10:00 a. m.
Duet — "Jacob's Ladder" Kathy and Brenda Roughia.
Sermon—"God's Mercy."
Scripture—Psalm 51.
Take note of the early time for the church school and the morning worship.

This will continue at this early hour through the month of August and including the first Sunday in September, the 1st.
On September the 8th we will be on the regular schedule.
There will be no evening services this Sunday. Next Sunday, August 11, is visitation Sunday. There will be no services all day. Plan to visit another church.
SUNDAY
Senior Youth Conference at Oakwood Park. This will continue until Saturday.
WEDNESDAY
No "Good News Club" for the next two weeks.
Hour of devotions and Bible Study—7:30 p. m.
THURSDAY
The "Charity Circle" will meet at 7:30 p. m.
Thought for the week: Today, we desire rest. But rest can be rest only in God, and rest in God is believing in Jesus Christ.

SALEM METHODIST
Joseph Gibson, Pastor
Divine Worship at 9:30 a. m.
Sunday School at 10:20 a. m.
MYF Seniors leave for Camp today.
Prayer meeting and Bible study Wed. at 8 p. m.
The Pastor requests that all youth going to Senior Institute Sunday be at Church to hear the announcement concerning rules at camp.

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Sunday school, Bible class 9:15 a. m.
Late service 10 a. m.

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Divine Worship 10:00 a. m. Duet — "Jacob's Ladder" Kathy and Brenda Roughia.
Sermon—"God's Mercy."
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GOD'S PROMISES TO THE POOR

The world is full of poor people today, and right here in the good old U. S. A. we have millions of citizens who are poor as far as the world's goods are concerned. Some are seemingly destitute, even in this time of high wages. But remember, God's promises are not just for the well-to-do, or the rich, but as we search the Scriptures we find that the choice promises are to the poor, for it says, "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world?" Some will ask, "Why does God choose the poor of this world?" We will answer by asking you a question: "How many humble people do you find among the rich?"

Note the words of Paul found in I Cor. 1:26, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called."

How many great men of the world today are humble followers of Christ and putting their complete trust in God? Look at the great scientists, inventors, financiers, rulers, kings, presidents. How many go down on their knees before God to worship Him in spirit and in truth? We know there are exceptions. For instance, that great General Douglas MacArthur, who comes out boldly and gives God the glory for the victories in the South Pacific, and just recently that wonderful prayer that Astronaut Gordon Cooper taped while passing over the Indian Ocean on

his 17th orbit. Yes, and there are others, but the great majority are telling what THEY are doing or what THEIR money is doing to bring success. Therefore, today as well as in the days gone by the real spirit-filled Christians are mostly to be found among the poor. But we realize our just being poor is not the only reason God chooses us. The Scripture says, because they "are rich in faith." Yes, there is where we made contact with God. Had faith that God could save us from our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. Had faith that the Holy Spirit could keep us out of the sin business. A person does not have to have an abundance of this world's goods to be rich in faith.

Poor people trust God more. The rich are inclined to trust in their gold and silver. The rich man or woman, as a rule, do not have much time for God and His work.

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