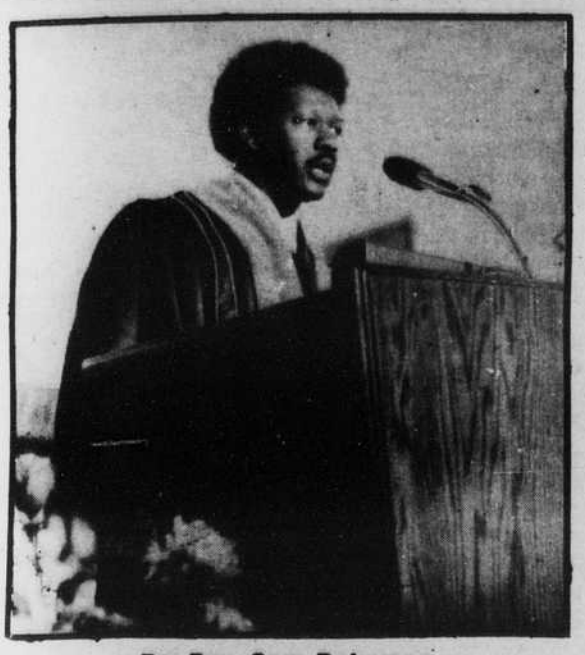
RELIGION



By: Rev. Sam Roberson

THE PREDICAMENT OF A MANAGER

Luke 16: 1, 2

Jesus now told this story to his disciples: "A rich man hired an accountant to handle his affairs, but soon a rumor went around that the accountant was thoroughly dishonest. So his employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about your stealing from me? Get your report in order, for you are to be dismissed.'"

During the days of Jesus a stewart was a person who managed the affairs of his employer. Evidently the rich man owned a business, and the stewart was the manager of the business. the owner probably had not been the kind of employer who stands looking over his employer's shoulders and dictates every decision. Evidently he trusted his manager and gave him freedom.

In a sense everyone is a manager rather than an owner. Our Heavenly Father owns everything. He allows us to manage His goods. Although our names are on the titles and the deeds, we are merely the stewards. The real owner is the Creator, our Lord. He does not stand over our shoulders, breathe down our necks, and dictate our every decision. He trusts us and gives us freedom in the use of what He has given us.

Trusting a person brings our his creative nature and allows him to attempt great things with the owner's goods. If all a steward does is react to the strings the owner pulls, he does not grow or make any contribution. He is merely responding as a machine or a computer. God has given to each of us a great amount of talent that is wrapped up in a wide variety of personalities. And as He allows us to express ourselves, something of the genius of God's design flows to the surface.

But trusting a person can also be risky. It can foster laziness, waste, dishonesty and selfishness.

Wouldn't it be great if we all handled the trust given to us in a truthworthy manner? Our whole nation would be greatly benefited if every person worked not for the cash but for the contribution he was making to society. Just imagine the results if all workers, management and labor, committed themselves to do their best because they were being trusted by the consumers who purchased the product that their hands had a part in making.

The owner in the parable learned that trusting was risky. His steward was accused unto him of wasting his goods. The accusation was made by someone who did not like the steward and who did it to get him into trouble. Perhaps it was someone who wanted the steward's job. More than likely, it was someone with whom the steward had been dealing in the business. He was someone who wanted to retaliate for some reason. We get the idea that the steward was not well liked. This is important to remember in order to understand why he did what he did later.

The accusation was that the steward had wasted his employer's property. The word "waste" literally meant "to scatter." It is the same word that is used to describe how the prodigal son spent his inheritance. It does not necessarily point to fraud. It may simply mean that the steward was wasting the owner's property through mismanagement of the business.

We can learn from this that we cannot hide our inefficiency or mismanagement of God's goods. We will be accused before God because of it. We must not deceive ourselves, for what we sow that will we reap.

There is a story about a man who tied his heavy money belt full of gold around his waist right before he jumped overboard from a sinking ship. Later the divers found him at the bottom of the sea with the weighty gold still in the money belt around his waist. While he thought he had gotten his gold, his gold had gotten him.

There is another story about a millionaire who was buried in a new Cadillac, diamond rings on his fingers and a ten dollar cigar in his mouth. As the Cadillac was being lowered into the grave, a bystander remarked, "Man, that is really living!" Few of us would agree.

Real living is not measured by how much we accumulate, but rather how well we use what we possess. Our living is measured by our stewardship instead of our saving.

Choir Sponsors Musical

The choir of Pilgrim Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A., located at 1515 North "D" Street, will celebrate Women's Day and its First Annual Fall Musical on Sunday, October 31 at 6:30 p.m.

All are invited to attend and rejoice together!

Laborers' Local 872 Officer At Conference

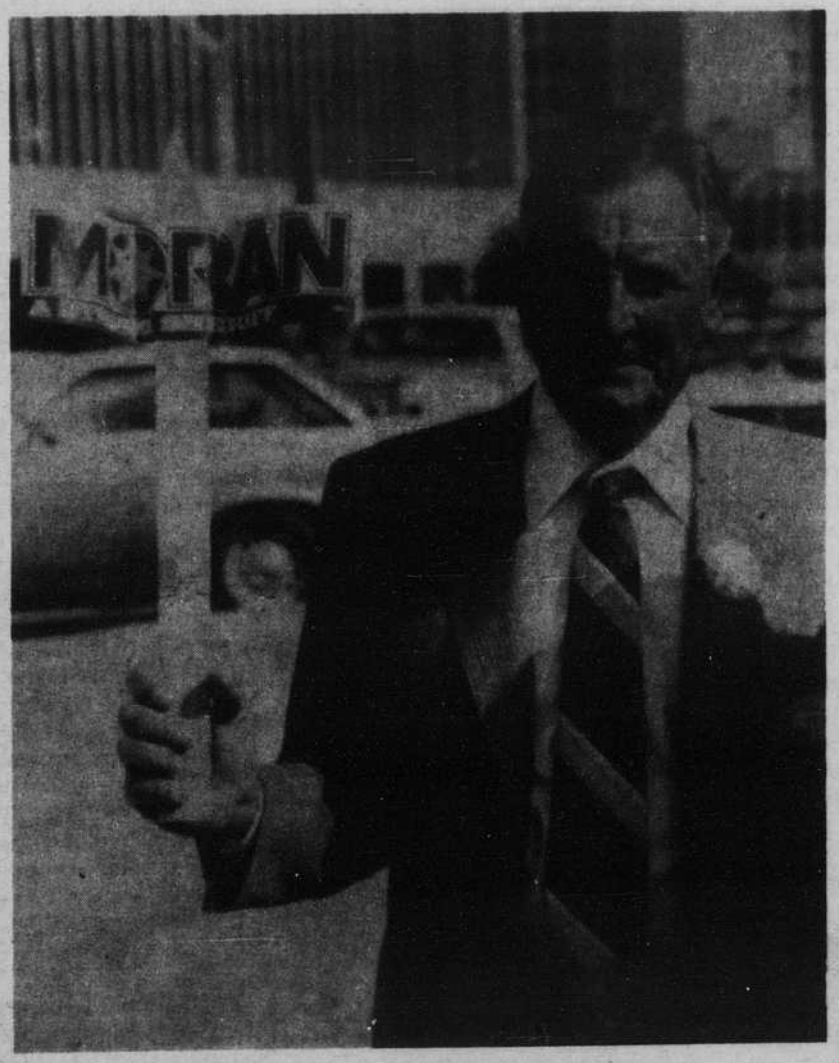
MONTREAL QUEBEC — George Osley, Sec-Tres. Laborers' Local 872, for the Laborers' Joint Trust Fund of Southern Nevada, was in Montreal, October 15-20, participating in the 28th Annual Educational Conference of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

The conference, sponsored by the nation's largest educational organization in the employee benefits field, provided an up-to-date assessment of the problems, prospects and status of the nation's private health, welfare and pension plans. More than 80 different topics were presented by experts in the field to the 5,000 registrants.

BARBER
NEXT PLEASE
IT PAYS TO LOOK WELL
Robert Swift
of
DIXON BARBER SHOP
PHONE
385-9367
413 JACKSON ST.
LAS VEGAS, NEV.

ELECT
MAHLON
BROWN
Democrat • Attorney General
MAHLON BROWN
CONSISTENT • DECISIVE • FIRM
Pd. Pol. Adv. Paid by the Committee to Elect Mahlon Brown, Mahlon Brown, Sr., Chairman

We Can't Afford To Go Backwards
To A "Lamb" Type Police Department!!!



"Action Speaks Louder Than Words"
Do You Remember The Way It Was?
"Keep Sheriff John McCarthy, We Can Trust Him"

Committee For Honesty in Government

the great ★ american smokeout

Nov. 18, 1982

SUBSCRIBE TO VEGAS VOICE
Nevada's Oldest Black Community Newspaper
Published and mailed to you every Saturday
6 months $14.00
12 months $25.00
Mail to:
VEGAS VOICE
1212 So. Eastern Ave.
Las Vegas, Nev. 89104
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
My check for $_____ is enclosed.