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Words for the World

GOD doth not behold differences of hue and complexion. He looketh at the hearts. He whose morals and virtues are praiseworthy is preferred in the presence of God; he who is devoted to the Kingdom is most loved.

—Baha'i Writings

Unity Basic Principle

EDITOR:

In view of the nationwide as well as the local unrest regarding the integration of the white and Negro races, it seems essential that every organization make clear its position.

Basic in the Baha'i World Faith is the principle of unity. That is, that all men are created of the same substance; all must be treated with equal justice and mercy by their fellow men.

From the inception of the Baha'i faith, communities have been established on this principle of unity. Those of the white and Negro races who have had membership in such communities have found enriching experiences in their social and religious activities. Furthermore, elected administrative bodies on the local, national and international levels consist, as a matter of course, of representatives of different races.

Unity in the Baha'i world is not only between the white and Negro races but also between various other racial as well as religious, national, and cultural minorities. In every country of the world there are Baha'i communities in which individuals are sharing this feeling of oneness.

From first-hand experiences, Baha'is know that fears of integration are groundless. The Golden Rule which is at the basis of all religions requires complete justice in employment, housing, schooling, religion, and all other facets of human existence.

Obviously this basic principle of unity, these experiences in interracial activities make clear that Baha'is support all efforts made in these communities to realize complete justice in every area of human endeavor.

BAHA'I ASSEMBLY OF URBANA
Eleanor Hutchins, Secretary.

'Take a Hand'

Remember that first day you went to school. Or maybe it was just a new school in a town you had moved to. You wondered what it would be like, and whether the other children would like you.

Up to a certain age it was a big help if "Mommy" could go along and hold your hand. Well, this fall there will be some cases where even "Mommy" would be glad to have somebody hold her hand.

The National Women's Committee for Civil Rights has suggested that where schools this fall are opening on a desegregated basis, it would be nice for white women to take the hands of Negro children and their parents and walk with them into the schoolroom that first day.

The heads of this committee are Mrs. Mildred McAfee Horton, former president of Wellesley College, and Mrs. Patricia Roberts Harris, associate dean at Howard University.

This, to us, is one of the most heart-warming ideas that has come out of the whole civil-rights discussion.

'Opportunity Is Individual'

By Kimmls Hendrick

LOS ANGELES

Some 20 years ago I sought and obtained an interview with George Washington Carver. So far as I know, it may have been the last newspaper interview the great Tuskegee scientist gave anyone. As the years pass, it grows in my thought as the most impressive newspaper experience I ever had.

Yet the recent 1963 conference of the National Urban League, that brought about 1,000 concerned white and Negro people together here from across the country, reminded me that what Dr. Carver did for humanity, many other Americans, usually less conspicuously, are doing constantly. Dr. Carver, I think, would have said so. Whether he would have approved the militancy of today's Negro leaders, I certainly do not know.

He had been ill, and his secretary told my wife and me, as I remember, that we must stay with him just five minutes. We must not, she added, shake

physicality and its needs had been reduced to the minimum.

Dr. Carver began by telling us that his favorite text came from the Gospel according to John: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." He went on, as I recall, to say something very much like this: "Free from what? From ignorance. And there are three kinds of ignorance—honest ignorance, stubborn ignorance, and what I call 'cussed ignorance.'"

Of honest ignorance, said Dr. Carver, it can only be said that it is hopeful: it wants to learn. Stubborn ignorance, by contrast, seems practically hopeless. As for "cussed ignorance," he called it "the curse of not knowing how much God loves you."

To illustrate this last, he told us about a Negro boy in a nearby Alabama reform school who had taken his own life recently. He did so, Dr. Carver said, because life looked worthless to him, and he felt worthless before life. But in that very place, the great Negro scientist observed, there were clays in the soil which, utilized, could transform the economy of the region. Had that youngster known enough, he could have found his career right there.

Sometimes people, hearing this story, have said to me, "Yes—it shows that opportunity is individual." Surely Dr. Carver, born a slave, proved that it can be, and won unsought honors from governments and scientific societies for his work. We noticed, however, that he himself had also devoted his career to helping others find the environment in which individuality could flower. He told us about the boy who failed with the air of one who regretted he himself had not been there first to prevent the chance of failure.

Listening to Urban League workers discuss the urgency of the Negro's present situation—and speaking sympathetically, from their background of moderation, about radical and activist Negro programs—I got a new light on Dr. Carver's comments to a young reporter and his wife. He did his work quietly, by example. He seemed to retreat visibly from self-assertion. Yet constantly, in his long career, he was helping create favorable environments for human success.

We thought, as we still think, that he seemed unaware that he was Negro, that we were white, or that color had any significance whatever. He was too busy to think about it. He was too conscious that any kind of man means humankind. To him, opportunity was like the promising clay in nearby soil—the thing nearest at hand. And he said to us in this context, as I clearly remember, "Opportunity is never a matter of complexion."



Associated Press Photo

George Washington Carver

his hand. But when he appeared, Dr. Carver took our hands and shook them vigorously. Then he talked to both of us for half an hour.

We had never been so moved by a human presence. He seemed to us little and very black. He seemed to us, indeed, almost the opposite of what we had expected. We knew we were going to meet a man whose contributions to the development and use of natural products was prodigious. I suppose we thought he would look and act imposing. Instead, we found ourselves thinking, as we said afterward, that we were in the presence of someone to whom thought was everything and in whom

areas to support his call for strong federal aid.

Dropout Issue Noted

Citing, for instance, the fact that "only about two-fifths of our nonwhite population" have finished high school—in contrast to nearly three-fourths of the young white population—the President declared: "This is the business of our country. These young people come West."

Citing school dropouts and their effect on employability, the President emphasized: "this is one of the most serious domestic problems that will face our nation in the next 10 years."

Citing the astonishingly large amount of "functional illiteracy" to be found among the nation's adult population, the President said vigorously: "This is a problem that faces us all."

Education Equality Urged by President

San Diego, Calif.

Receiving the first honorary doctorate ever bestowed by California's state college system, President Kennedy called on all Americans "to mobilize their aroused support" behind a national program of equal educational opportunity for all the nation's youth.

"We are the privileged," he told 2,000 graduates at San Diego State College and a commencement audience exceeding 22,000 people. "We should expand this privilege so that all men and women may share it."

For nothing in his commencement address, which the President delivered with numerous extemporaneous departures from his prepared text, did he receive warmer

applause than for his words, "We have no greater asset in this country than an educated man or woman."

Four-Day Trip

President Kennedy reached San Diego right on time in the course of a four-day Far West trip crammed with defense-base inspections and a visit to the Air Force Academy in Colorado. Aircraft filled the sky as his motorcade traveled from Lindbergh Field here along a parade route to San Diego State College's Aztec Bowl.

He took the contrast between California's abundantly provisioned educational program and the needs of the nation's educationally underprivileged



W. H. DONALDSON

Listen to these words of Peter: "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." What a gift, what a blessing, what a joy to be able to share our blessed Lord with those in need. What do you think the lame beggar would rather have, a coin of silver, or legs on which to walk? Certainly he received much more than he expected: a sound body and a cleansed heart, instead of a few coins that would have lasted but for a day.

All about us today are those who are sick, lame and needy; who need more than a casual hand-out. They need understanding and love; they need the joy of Christ in their hearts and "the peace that passeth all understanding."

To those of us who know HIM, who have tasted his love in our own souls, let us joyfully and willingly share HIM with those who reach out to us for help. May we say as did Simon Peter, "Such as I have give I thee, in the name of Jesus, be healed."

"Somebody did a golden deed;
Proving himself a friend indeed;
Somebody sang a cheerful song;
Brightening the way the whole day long;
Was that somebody you?
Was that somebody you?
W. Howe Donaldson

A Verse for Today . . .

Follow righteousness,
faith, charity, peace,
with them that call on
the Lord out of a pure
heart.—II TIM. 2:22