

Why Messenger's Program Benefits Black Womanhood

By Abdul Basit Naeem

Writing in this space last week, I had mentioned, though only briefly, how the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's teachings have enabled U.S. Muslim women to achieve a social status hitherto entirely unknown in the ranks of any segment of this country's female population. This presentation is intended to offer a few additional remarks—my personal observations—on the Messenger's role of a true benefactor of our sisters-in-Islam and hence, of all black women everywhere.

First of all, it is my opinion that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's accomplishments in this direction cannot be adequately measured without an understanding and fair analysis of the background and circumstances surrounding the physical operations of his noble mission. Let us, therefore, briefly examine and ponder the problems constantly confronting the "lost-foinds" (or so-called "Negroes") of America—inclusive of their womenfolk.

Here you'll agree, I am sure, that, generally speaking, the panoramic view of black America—as grasped by our normal sense of sight—is rather bleak. Hardly any bright spots highlight the enormous scene. Expressions of true human joy and dignity are virtually nonexistent in the composite picture beheld by our eyes.

inevitably affects the innocent minds of their offspring who—torn in their love for the parents—begin to shun both of them and, sooner or later, simply vanish from their sight.

Heartbreak

The sequence of tragic events narrated above does not, of course, terminate here. As the family's split becomes a "matter of common knowledge," its members experience further heartbreak and humiliation—this time at the hands of their neighbors and casual acquaintances. At this juncture, when the crisis has already entered its final and most precarious stage, even the church "suddenly" finds itself unable to provide adequate moral or material aid—thus leaving the all-important question of their salvation to the Hereafter, a mute wooden cross and the invisible "Holy Ghost."



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sewing, and in the case of mothers or mothers-to-be, in child care. Last, but certainly not the least, they are provided—as aptly described

Bleak Life

Hundreds upon hundreds of black families across this land, we find, are leading a life that is, at best, merely trifle better than that of the pet dogs and cats in a Caucasian (white) household. Reduced to a state of near-decrepitude—first through the cruel processes of slavery and, later, by virtue of a superbly-disguised scheme of socio-religious sanctions of the "former slavemasters"—they are compelled to rely for subsistence on "relief" (governmental charity dispensed through the state or city "welfare" agencies).

Countless other (so-called) "Negro" households attempt to supplement their income through the "only alternate means possible," that is to say, gambling, games of chance and a variety of other illegal pursuits.

Speaking specifically of the (so-called) "Negro" woman's status, she certainly does not constitute the backbone of her household as God and Nature intended her to be. If anything at all, her position, unfortunately, appears totally devoid of elements that might be termed "reflective of family togetherness."

The black woman lacks the respect of her husband, father and brother. Her spouse, in particular, constantly bickers with and accuses her of misconduct and infidelity.

The husband-wife conflict

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad's formula—or his solution for the (so-called) "Negro" woman's problems—is, in essence, a simple one. It lies in the "M.G.T."—short for "MUSLIM GIRLS' TRAINING"—program of the "Nation of Islam."

Under this program, select "M.G.T." instructors—thoroughly trained by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad himself and well-versed in his philosophy, history of mankind and other related subjects—teach the "Nation's" female members everything pertaining to the rights and duties of a righteous (Muslim) homemaker.

The Muslim sisters also are instructed in the culinary arts, dress-designing and

by a senior M.G.T. teacher—the "knowledge of our native culture and civilization that (had once) put us on top . . . and will (someday) return us to our original position as the queens of the Planet Earth!"

Boston U. Speaker

BOSTON—A former African cabinet member will be the principal speaker on the annual Spring commencement program of Boston University here on June 6.

The speaker will be Dr. John Karefa-Smart, former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Sierra Leone, but now Columbia University's director of International Health, School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine.



A MOST popular booth at the recent Unity Bazaar in New York City displayed and sold MUHAMMAD SPEAKS newspapers.