Evening Meditation

"For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."
— Luke 16:28

It is a regrettable thing that a multitude of people will wait until the hour of misery before they get a missionary vision. While there is time, accept the Saviour and use every means to spread His word.

Worthwhile Achievement Recognized

It is always gratifying when someone in the local community receives recognition for worthwhile achievement.

So it is that this community can take pride in the Rev. C.L. Faison. On Thursday the North Carolina Human Relations Commission cited his outstanding citizenship by presenting to him this year's North Carolina Citizen Award. It is a distinctive state honor.

An ordained Baptist minister for over 60 years, the Rev. Faison, 85, has been called "an inspiration to all who know him."

In a letter announcing the award, Robert Kilroy, vice chairman of the Human Relations Commission, said the Rev. Faison has devoted most of his life to the service of the frail, sick and lonely in hospitals and rest homes and to the service of young men and women in the military through wartime correspondence, and also is involved in many aspects of the community and several organizations in the Vance County area.

The award winner helped establish the Good Neighbor Council in Henderson, the forerunner of the Henderson-Vance County Human Relations Commission. He also has been a leader in the Vance County Voters League, which is credited with boosting the number of registered black voters in the county from about 800 in 1960 to 4,500-plus by 1966. He is a past president of the NAACP chapter in Vance.

He has long advocated better services for the community's poor and elderly and has done much to foster better human relations and improving race relations. Associates say he is a caring person who has provided support for many, many people in times of trouble and grief.

In his personal philosophy the Rev. Faison has said, "Don't ever try to use your influence until you get it." He got his long ago.

It is a pleasure to offer congratulations to the Rev. Faison for his award. And thank you, sir, for your exemplary services in helping to make the Vance County community a better place in which to live.
Minister Strikes Chord As Citizen Of Year

By REGGIE PONDER
Daily Dispatch Writer

"It's bad to thunder, if you can't do some lightning," says the Rev. C.L. Faison, a veteran of Henderson's human relations struggles.

But Faison has unleashed civil rights and humanitarian lightning in the community for 40-plus years, and Thursday the N.C. Human Relations Commission recognized him as the state's outstanding citizen by presenting him the annual Citizen Award.

"I feel very humble, in a way, and I feel proud, too," Faison said.

The 85-year-old Faison, an ordained Baptist Minister for more than 60 years, was president of the Vance County NAACP chapter from 1960-64, helped found the Good Neighbor Council in Henderson which prefigured the Henderson-Vance County Human Relations Commission and has advocated better services for the community's poor and elderly.

"He has been very helpful in working toward better human relations and improving race relations," said Dr. Roland Perry, chairman of the Henderson-Vance County Human Relations Commission, which nominated Faison for the state award.

"He's very active for a man in that age bracket," Perry said. "He's a valuable person here in this city."

Faison was instrumental in black voter registration in Vance County, according to Rep. James P. Green Sr., D-Vance.

Due to Faison's efforts with the Vance County Voters League, the number of black registered voters grew from 800 in 1960 to 4,500-plus by 1966, Green said.

"Rev. Faison was a member of the Committee of Black Leaders who were the first to be served at..."

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local lunch counters," Green wrote in his letter recommending Faison for the award.

"This award symbolizes exemplary services by an individual in the area of human relations," according to Robert Kilroy, vice-chairman of the N.C. Human Relations Commission.

Kilroy wrote in his letter announcing the award that Faison has devoted most of his life to the service of the frail, sick and lonely in hospitals and rest homes and to the service of young men and women in the military through wartime correspondence, and also is involved in many aspects of the community and several organizations in the Vance County area.

"He's a very nice man," said Jean Hight, secretary of the Henderson-Vance County Human Relations Commission. "We're very happy about it. It's a great honor to be picked out for the citizen's award for the entire state."

Clarence V. Knight, a Vance County commissioner and retired principal, wrote in a letter recommending Faison for the award that Faison "has always been concerned with the progress and welfare of all the people."

Faison's personal philosophy has been shaped both by the Gospel he preaches and by bits of worldly wisdom he has picked up from various sources through the years and, in his words, "engrafted" into his own soul.

Some samples, in addition to his saying on 'thunder,' include:

- "Go slow, so you can go some more; if you go fast, you may not last."
- "The less you say, the less you have to take back."
- "That which you can't help, you have to endure."
- "Don't ever try to use your influence until you get it."

Faison and his wife, Susie, have been married 55 years. They have a daughter and four grandchildren.

He has pastored numerous churches — though "retired" he currently preaches at a Presbyterian Church in Franklinton every Sunday — and been active in statewide church organizations.

And he has worked on state boards such as the N.C. Legal Assistance Board.

But he always has found time for the sick, lonely and bereaved in his community.

Joyce Ard and Darene Hedrick, receptionists at Maria Parham Hospital, wrote their own letter of recommendation for Faison.

"He has helped many people in their times of trouble and grief," they wrote. "He volunteers a portion of his time every week visiting patients in the hospitals and rest homes. He ministers to their needs, prays with them and helps relieve their burdens in whatever way possible. He is an inspiration to all who know him."