

Amy Bailey at Garvey Award ceremony...

Apartheid is here

APARTHEID is here in Jamaica and nothing seems to be done about it while attacks are being made on South Africa because of its perpetration of apartheid, said Miss Amy Bailey, O.D., O.B.E., M.B.E., J.P., on Friday night as she received the Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence.

She said she did not know what it meant to have prejudice, "I know not about colour and it does not matter to me but that which is in the inside of the person."

Ninety-two year-old Miss Bailey was speaking at the Oceana Hotel in Kingston where she was given the award by the Marcus Garvey Centenary Committee. She said Mr. Garvey told her when she visited him in England that he was never coming to Jamaica because Jamaicans did not know how to treat their own.

Quit fighting

Jamaicans she said, should stop fighting and holding down each other, but instead work together for the development of the country.

Tribute was paid to Prime Minister Edward Seaga by Miss Bailey for the HEART programme which she said she had thought about some time ago, and was happy that her idea which was proposed was taken up by Mr. Seaga to improve the standard of young men and women for a better tomorrow.

A citation accompanying the award recorded that Miss Bailey who was the fifth of eight children was born on November 27th 1895 in Manchester. "She is a humanitarian, educator, social worker and writer who broke the bondage and remained unscarred by the society of her day," it said.

"She taught for 39 years at the Kingston Technical School where she fought for her graduates to secure prominent places within the Civil Service.

"Not a member of any of Garvey Societies, she accommodated meetings of the UNIA at her Housecraft Training Centre where she trained unemployed teenage girls".

Miss Bailey said she would give her award to God, the giver of all good gifts for His love for Jamaica and Jamaicans. "This is our award to the giver of all good gifts."

Wanted to do more

The peace-loving and Godfearing nonogenarian said she has done so little when she wanted to do so much.

'Queen Mother' Moore, of the Garvey Centenary in the United States, who also spoke, paid tribute to the Rt Excellent Marcus Garvey, and repeated the call for the removal of criminal blots on the National Hero's name. She demanded that his name be cleared "because the only crime Garvey committed was to liberate his people."

She called for Port Royal to be named a memorial for Garvey and for all those Africans who came in the Middle Passage and who "died for freedom".

Sir Florizel Glaspole, Governor General, who was guest speaker, extolled Garvey as one of Jamaica's greatest thinkers and speakers. "a freedom fighter whose spirit lives on today in many Jamaicans".

Still evidence

"His philosophy is adopted and upheld by many in the society for he was a powerful activist against racism, a visionary for a world where black would hold full recognition as equals and would foster methods of self-reliance in a deep-rooted religious brotherhood, mobilisation, unity and self-improvement; and, above all, his strong and steadfast belief: one God, one aim, one destiny," Sir Florizel said.

In this the Year of the Worker, it was appropriate that the centenary year celebrations ended here, he said, leaving Garvey fresh in the minds of the workers, for he was a champion of workers' right. "Garvey's fight for racial equality extended to the work arena."

The Governor-General said there were still some evidence of prejudice in Jamaica today because there are still some people who judge others by the colour of their skin and the texture of their hair.

Speaking about Miss Bailey, Sir Florizel said her life has been a conduit of hope, of place and purpose to hundreds of girls who have come to know "self", and whose lives have had changes far beyond their wildest expectations.

For years she gave her services free to countless under-privileged girls in the field of education and social service training.



Wilkinson photo

MARCUS GARVEY CENTENARY AWARD: "The award will be given to God, the giver of all good gifts, for His love for Jamaica and Jamaicans," said Miss Amy Bailey as she received the prestigious Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence from Lady Bustamante

on Friday night. Applauding, at left, is Mrs. Camille Henry, wife of the Minister of State for Culture; and at right are Mrs. Clover Thompson, Executive Director of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (partly hidden), and Mr. Seragh Lakasingh, board member of the Commission.