

Follower of Chenault Says Present-Day Events Are

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Special to The New York Times

DAYTON, Ohio, July 6— "Everything is predetermined. There's nothing you can do about it. It was all written 2,000 years ago."

With these words Walter B. Brooks, a follower of Marcus Wayne Chenault, attempted to explain why he feels there is little uncertainty about the present or the future.

One has only to observe the present and then find the proper scripture in the Bible to determine the meaning of the event and how it will work itself out, Mr. Brooks said.

Mr. Brooks is one of four young men and two women in an informal religious group that followed Mr. Chenault, now being held in Atlanta in the killing of Mrs. Martin Luther King Sr., mother of the late civil rights leader.

Interviewed here, his and Mr. Chenault's home town, Mr. Brooks gave another example of a sign of "the truth" that he maintained made every event obvious once that truth was grasped.

He said that when he and Mr. Chenault watched President Nixon on television riding in a limousine through the streets of Egypt, he was, to them, transformed into Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, riding in a chariot through his kingdom—doomed to destruction by God.

"All you have to do is look around," said Mr. Brooks, a 21-year-old former Ohio State University student, while sitting Thursday in the living room of Hananiah E. Israel. "I saw all the things myself on TV and even in the music."

He as well as the three other young men had been introduced to "the truth" by Mr. Chenault, who late last spring was instructed by Mr. Israel, a 69-year-old man who has spent the last 25 years reinterpreting the Bible from a black perspective.

The other male followers are Harvey Cox Jr., 22, who dropped out of Bliss College last fall and is now unemployed; Ronald Scott, 19, a cousin of Mr. Chenault who graduated from high school this spring, and his brother Robert Scott, 22, who works in a local foundry.

The women members are Almeda Water, a student at the University of Dayton, and Ramona Catlin, a former student at Ohio State University.

Truth, Not Troop

This informal group is what news accounts in The Dayton Journal referred to as "The Troop," which Mr. Brooks was quoted as saying was devoted to killing black ministers and civil rights leaders. Mr. Brooks said that the group had never given itself a name.

He said that when he spoke of "the truth" the Dayton reporter misunderstood him to be saying "the troop."

The Justice Department said Thursday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had made an evaluation of the evidence and had concluded that there was no conspiracy in the shooting of Mrs. King.

Mr. Brooks, a tall, slim black youth with broad shoulders who starts his day with a breakfast of two ounces of honey, said that Mr. Chenault "never preached violence."

Such preaching was unnecessary, he explained, because a black god who was capable of both giving life and killing would carry out the prophecies that were written in the Bible.

The prophecies of Jeremiah, who predicted the downfall of Babylon for following false prophets and subjugating the Israelites, are seen by the fol-

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All Explained in the Bible

lowers of Mr. Chenault as referring to the United States.

"It is not necessary for us to do anything," Mr. Brooks said. "It's all been laid out in the Bible."

One of the prophecies of Jeremiah in Chapter 51, Verse 23 reads: "I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock."

To the group, whose members sometimes refer to themselves as Israelites and all of whom have adopted Israel as their last religious name, this meant the inevitable destruction of the black ministers who they felt were exploiting black people and keeping them from "the truth."

Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cox in several interviews said that Mr. Chenault had never asked them to take action and had never spoken about action that he would take himself to carry out this prophecy. Mr. Chenault, he recalled, said that one only had to wait and the destruction would be carried out by God.

Making Interpretation

The members of the group had been meeting irregularly since last November in Mr. Chenault's parents' house. Later when the parents became upset at their son's ideas, the group began to meet at the home of one of Mr. Brooks's girl friends.

Mr. Brooks said that Mr.

Chenault urged them to reach their own interpretation of the Bible by using the Bible, a dictionary and an encyclopedia, a technique taught by Mr. Israel.

They also gave up eating pork and fowl. They fasted to purify their bodies. They spoke about "the truth" even when they went out to dances, parties and football games.

Mr. Brooks said that it gave them a sense of closeness. When they were ridiculed by others, he said, they, particularly Mr. Chenault, would cite Biblical quotations that forecast the doom of their opponents.

The main thing that Mr.

Israel said he taught Mr. Chenault was to reach his own interpretations and Mr. Chenault in turn passed this on to his followers.

Mr. Brooks, who has converted both of his girl friends to the truth, gave an example of the technique, citing a passage in the Bible saying that the heritage of Esau would be laid waste for the dragons.

In the Old Testament, Esau and Jacob were the twins sons of Isaac and Rebecca, Esau, the first born, was his father's favorite but Jacob, by impersonating Esau, got the blessing from his blind father to be the chosen son.

Mr. Israel says that Esau

was the father of the white race, which is to be destroyed, and that Jacob fathered the black race, which is destined to be saved.

Mr. Brooks looked up the word dragon in the encyclopedia and found that it was the symbol of China. From this he interpreted that the present society built by the sons of Esau would be taken over by China. He said that the process had already begun by the influx of imports from the Far East such as soy sauce from Japan.

"It's been modernized," Mr. Brooks said, "but the same system [Babylon of the Bible] is still there. It will fall."