

CHANNEL 5 (KPIX) San Francisco
VIBRATIONS - Cecil Williams, Host
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Cecil: People who are not only doing things, but people who are really bringing about change in our society, one cannot talk about it at all unless one mentions the name the Reverend Jim Jones. Jim Jones who is the Pastor of the Peoples Temple Christian Church. He is charismatic, he is serious about what he is doing, he is an excellent spokesman, a great articulator, what else can I say about you, Jim, except the fact that I'm delighted that you're on our show today.

JJ: Thank you very much, Cecil.

Cecil: And we're going to be talking to this man and what he is about as soon as we come back.

Cecil: Reverend Jim Jones, Peoples Temple Christian Church. You know I really don't sit and talk with personalities on a one-to-one basis that often, but when I do I try to bring to you the views, the very most important people in regards to this kind of thing, and I've brought to you a minister, you know that's something that's very difficult for me to do unless he is a unique minister and he is. He is the man today. Jim, I'm amazed by...you know many times I can't find words because you are sometimes indescribable. You are a very important person, a very powerful person. You are a prophet in this time and ahead of his time. How did this come about, starting with yourself, moving in the direction that you are moving in?

JJ: Saw a need I guess, responding to it the best I could. It always seems so insignificant, Cecil, compared to the vast needs around you. That's how I got started, just looking at the needs.

CECIL: And when you talk about looking at the needs you of course are relating to a lot of needs, not only in Northern California and in the state of California, but needs throughout the country as well as needs throughout the world. We're going to be talking about some of those needs, but let's focus in on them. Why did you say, Look, we got to meet some needs? and go about getting at those needs.

JJ: I feel like I'm the jack of all trades sometimes and master of none. Which direction?

CECIL: Let's talk about one ⁱⁿ particular, Jim. One has to do with the fact that first of all what are the things that you do is when it comes to issues, and especially when it comes to defending people who have to face injustices, you are always there, one way or the other. I think about, for instance, the situation in regards to the communications industry, the press.

JJ: I thought Nixon was coming down severely upon the press and of course without the _____, where are we? As was clarified in the Watergate situation. We were concerned about the repression this represents, so we thought that we had to get out there and represent different newsmen who were under attack because of their sources. And I guess our support funding spread all over the United States. First, then Fresno Bee and then we gave money to various news associations. We are very concerned about a free press.

CECIL: Some even here in the Bay Area too.

JJ: Oh yes.

CECIL: In regard to the free press, what were you really trying to say? That it should take place, that in fact any information the press feels that it must keep confidential it should be given that right to do so.

JJ: It has to be because of the intimidation we have received in such instances as Watergate. The press has to be able to keep those sources, and I felt that our whole democratic fabric

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was being threatened, not only myself but;our congregatiön of 8000. It wasn't something unique to me. We are very much concerned that the press has the right to monitor society and be able to regulate excesses; help to bring conscience to the community. We just felt there was nothing left for us to do, we had to respond, because it seemed that Mr. Nixon was on a tirade against the press.

CECIL: And yet there are times, Jim, when you and I and others are approached by the press and they do a disservice to us.

JJ: Some. Every once in a while.

CECIL: We are misquoted, we are taken out of context and;that kind of lthing. How do you deal with that kind of thing, you know when it happens to you. You're often in the press, you're often talked about.

JJ: I don't know what one can do. I guess we just hae to take our chances for the negative aspects in order to allow the press to be free. We have to take the chance that there will be a few that will practice yellow journalism and I think there are a few, and I know one that got us both, so I don't get too much worried about it as long as, the old saying goes, they print my name right in the paper. But wehave to take the chance for the excesses. It hurst ~~mixx~~ when the press is not responsible. I've seen that in your case and in myself, but still the press is the bulwark of democracy.

CECIL: Jim you've taken a chance. You've taken a chance because you've got all kinds of people in the Peoples Temple Christian Church. How far does your constituency extend? Again, how many places?

JJ: We have 8000 in San Francisco, then we have a church that I found—we're all related to the Disciples of Christ, 2,000,000 denomination. Then I have 10,000;members in our Los Angeles parish. I don't know the breakdown of Frsno, Bakersfield, Sacramento, but;it is pretty sizeable. And then in "edwood, California we have a pretty sizeable congregation up North, around the Ukiah area.

CECIL: Why did you begin to work with the vrious racial and ethnic groups, tryngng to bring them together?

JJ: Seems to me that it was just right that we be together. And I thought of all places Jesus Christ did not teach inclusiveness. He said that we are our brother's keeper, and God is no respecter of persons, and certainly I ~~mixx~~ believe in a voluntary type of approach to social problems. ~~IXX~~ We are ~~xxxxxxx~~ somewhat Jeffersonian, the government that governs least governs best. If the church doesn't take its responsibility, where are we? It seems to me that the church had to initiate responsibility.

CECIL: Well you have taken a great deal of responsibility, for instance let's talk just a little bit about some of the ~~ixxix~~ things you've engaged in in regard to the ~~ix~~ treatment of people. One in patticular, drugs. People that are strung out on dope, things like that. What do you do, Jim?. What hae you come upon din regards to this kind of issue? How dolyou get at this issue?

JJ: In our situation, we bring them into our home. My wife and I have many in our home. Love...just a little bit of love, you dont have to have a great deal of professional skill. Our rate is very low on heroin, for instance. :But this savvy, professional know-how I dont think we hae so much in that area. We hae two psycologists working with us. I have seen great achievements being made by someone who just takes them into their home.

CECIL: It takes a lot of your time too, Jim.

JJ: YES, a great deal.

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CECIL: Jim you got involved in one particular case of a black young woman...

JJ: MARIE Duckett.

CECIL: Marie Duckett. Tell us a little about that.

JJ: She was an amazing person. She came hooked on a habit of about \$400 a day and of course she was involved in every type of crime she could possibly get into to maintain that habit. Of course it was no time before she completely rehabilitated herself, I have to allow the emphasis be kept on the individual. We gave her support and acceptance. We found out later that she had actually left probation; she had been a fugitive from two sentences, and when she brought this to our attention the church decided well we're going to get in there and fight to straighten up her record and we were able to achieve that by solidarity and appealing to the probation department, and the judge was most sympathetic. He allowed the probation to continue and I think it is going to be finished about May 7th.

CECIL: You know, I'm just going to move along with you here because I've got so much to cover, Jim. Let's talk about other people that you've given support, other causes that you've given support. For instance, Angela Davis. You did support her. Why did you feel that you had to support her??

JJ: I believe that when one person's rights are affected, everyone's is. We supported a John Bircher on an occasion. It seemed to me that Angela was the victim of political repression. I don't care whether she is a Communist or whether she's a member of the Nazi party. I believe in the First Amendment rights. I think that's very essential. It was Pastor Niemuller who said: When they came for the Communists I did nothing because I wasn't a Communist; when they came for the Jews I had typical protestant prejudices and I didn't react; when they came for the Catholics and Trade Unionists, the same type of response; when they got around to coming after me there was nobody left to defend me, and I think it was enlightened self interest. I don't believe we can restrict anyone's right of freedom of speech.

CECIL: Well you know that puts you in a category of being, you can easily be called a Communist just by supporting the rights of a Communist.

JJ: I know that. I don't really care about that.

CECIL: Jim, you've been involved in a more recent defense and standing up for persons, namely Dennis Banks. Now, before we get into that I just got a sign from the man that says take a break, so we're going to take a break and we're going to come back and talk to Jim Jones about Dennis Banks.

CECIL: We're talking to the Reverend Jim Jones from Peoples Temple Christian Church. A vast number of people he's brought together of all colors of all ethnic backgrounds all socio-economic levels, Jim you have been working very hard to ~~max~~ guarantee at least Dennis some in regards to what he is going through as it relates to his extradition. What are you doing in regards to Dennis Banks? What are you doing? I read a very fascinating story not too long ago about something that you did in bringing his family together, tell us about it.

JJ: His wife Kamook suffered a great deal of maltreatment. Her baby was born behind bars, named Iron Door Woman, and she wasn't allowed the normal process of her breast for the milk to be taken care of, so she developed an infection. She had been there for 4 months. We felt as a congregation that we had to respond. Dennis Banks is a good man. We've helped a lot of people and when they get their help they're gone. The moment we helped this man, I think we raised \$20,000 for his bond for her, he came back time and time again, responding with such graciousness, warmth and compassion. He wept before a congregation of several thousand, it was really spontaneous. This is a good man. I think Skermerhorn said in the Examiner that all his witnesses and even his counsel were being ~~xxx~~ intimidated by the state

where he had come from, and even but put up his bond said he had no other choice to leave because there was even threats put out on every one of his witnesses. And most people have the feeling that the best resolution

CECIL: See that's why you are so important because you get out there when the water is rough. You get out there when the wind is blowing very strong currents against ~~xxx~~ people, and you in many ways and the people that you work with help change that current and that tide in regards to the lives of people. I want to deal with that in just a few minutes. You did something in the tenderloin area for the senior citizens. They were about to lose their protection. What happened in that situation, that's my area, that's where I'm located and yet you come down, getting in on the problems that we face down there.

JJ: You get enough problems anyway, so we thought we would help you out. This situation touched us. Here is an interracial group ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ of Vietnam veterans who had a warm relationship with predominantly white citizens who had no love in ~~xxxx~~ their lives, couldn't even get someone to get them some groceries and out of their meager salaries they were helping support these senior ~~xxxxxxx~~ citizens, and so again the church felt that they should respond, their program was about to go down the tube. We came up with the \$6,000 to tide them over until they got funded. Now they're funded; and I am very happy that that was one of the successes.

CECIL: Another thing I want to say is; that on November 30 of last year when I had sort of likely my culmination ~~xx~~ of my 10; years in San Francisco, we called it the change, ages coming together, a celebration for change. And; at that particular time the center for Self Determination, a new program we began at Glide, had a benefit and it was Jim Jones who brought 1500 people to that benefit and who bought tickets, close to \$6,000 worth of tickets to that benefit. It was this man here and his people who did that. Jim, lets go. I want to publicly say to the people what you have done for me, but not only that but just being a brother, being a close friend where we can talk with each other.

JJ: I wasn't doing it for you to I think the community has to realize that ~~xxxxxxx~~ if they are concerned about tyranny, communistic or fascistic, they are going to support groups such as yourself that have been involved in everything and show the people who feel alienated they have a chance ~~xxxxxxx~~ to work within society. It wasn't just a personal friendship, we approve of the things you're doing.

CECIL: Let's talk about something that you've got going in South America. You've got quite a resourceful relationship and some very fascinating things are taking place down there. What have you got to say for it?

JJ: We have an agricultural mission there on several thousand acres which we acquired from the Republic of Guyana. For instance last week we brought in 60,000 pounds of yams, and that goes along ways in helping with the poverty. Plus it is not a paternalistic type of Christian mission. We give employment to about 200 people. Again that ~~xxxxxxx~~ helps to alter the ugly American image and combat the forces of tyranny.

CECIL: That kind of response certainly does help. As you say it is important to give jobs. But you see that's the way you are, you do that constantly. You've made your stand, you keep making your stand, you will continue to make your stand. Do you know, the interesting thing about this man is the fact that you have a lot of resources in regards to taking care of not only people...but what do you ...why did you get interested in animals?

JJ: Well, I am very sensitive about animals.We feel that you have to have total sensitivity to all forms of life (tape inaudible - voices mixed) (some talk about ~~xxx~~ medical services offered at P.T.

CECIL: Do you treat everybody?

JJ: Oh yes.

CECIL: You wouldn't hold back on anybody?

JJ: No. No membership requirement.

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CECIL: They don't have to become members or nothing like that, to start ~~xxxxxxx~~ following some kind of discipline that you put on their heads, etc.

JJ: No, No. I don't believe in having to say a prayer before they get in.

CECIL: Jim, you do have, one thing that you are involved with that has to do with something that you and I call a healing ministry, both of us, and a lot of people talk about the healing ministry. I had a sister who had cancer 12 years ago. She was operated on and the doctors gave her up, said in 3 months she would be gone. My sister is still alive, teaching school, back to health, she's cured. She has a lot of faith, she says she will not give up.

JJ: There is a place indeed for responsible, sane spiritual healing. It must be in conjunction with medical science because we know there is no panacea. We've had similar remissions. I was just thinking while you talked. There is a lovely Russian lady who... metastases of cancer was so thorough that each of her lymph glands were swollen like a ball, and similarly she had faith. There is a tremendous dimension that we are unfamiliar with and of course even the Soviet Union, a materialistic nation supposedly, is spending 12 million dollars a year to study paranormal faculty therapeutic healing. Many medical scientists and medical schools, nursing schools are emphasizing ~~the~~ therapeutic healing, the laying on hands in direct correlation with physical treatment. So undoubtedly this is the mission the responsible church must take over. And if we don't, what are we going to leave it to. The type that says trust God and don't go to the doctor. So many people involved in healing want to knock medical science and many of them die. I think they do far more harm than good because they will keep people from going to medical science. When we find someone who thinks they have a healing we say get to the doctor and verify it.

CECIL: Good, we have to take a break. We will be right back with the Reverend Jim Jones.

CECIL: Jim Jones. Jim, where do you get your... how do you maintain all these great programs that you are a part of, that you give leadership to, how do you maintain them?

JJ: People give generously when they see how their money is being used. We have a community center with indoor swimming pool; I think we have a novelty in geriatrics where senior citizens themselves manage and direct; the only input is the manual labor. ~~xxx~~ We don't dictate to them about their diet, their decor, etc. When they see results, people give generously and we don't have a mandate about ~~xxxxxx~~ tithing, some do, and of course we have a large membership and that explains the support, and they will put on projects of various sorts. We get no outside help from the community to speak of. Our people are very, ~~xxx~~ very generous.

CECIL: Jim where are we going in terms of society, of America, of the world, where are we going, can you give it to me in 30 seconds?

JJ: I think we must be very careful that we must do something about the alienation of the ethnic groups and racism. Roy Wilkins, a conservative has just retired, and we got a problem. We've got to overcome that because a house divided against itself can't stand. We must do something about racism quickly.

CECIL: Here's a man I have to tell that, being honest with you, I think he is a genius, I think he is a prophet, charismatic, he's one of our great leaders, I'm glad to be associated with you. Brother, we are going to stay together because I know that if I stay with you, we gonna make it. We'll bring about change. WALK THAT WALK, AND TALK THAT TALK, AND BE THAT BE AND LOVE THAT LOVE AND STRUGGLE THAT STRUGGLE. Look for us, we'll be there.