

Jim Jones and the Nation of Islam

*Excerpts of the diary of Peoples Temple member Edith Roller
who died in Jonestown*

Source: Jonestown Institute

Dates: 1975 - 1978



Diary Entries Compiled by Leila Wills

February 6, 2013

Audio of Jim Jones and the Nation of Islam available on YouTube

July 16, 1975

Jim came on the podium about 9.30.

Jim spoke on the Chicago trip. They met some important people. The future will show what was accomplished. The healings were beyond parallel. The meeting the last night lasted until morning. The group wants to establish a Temple in Chicago. Two miracles took place on the buses. They got in to Chicago hours earlier than they could have if no mishaps had occurred. The buses will come back directly. Our people were graciously received by the Muslim leadership, though their temple here had not cleared the appointment as they said they had.

"Socialism" is not a dirty word in Chicago. They met with Jesse Jackson's group and with another organization. If there are many cities like Chicago, people are going to break out of their bondage. We had an all-black audience. A doctor is coming out. He was so impressed. There was respect, reverence, awe, a difference between their attitude and ours.

Familiarity breeds contempt. They wanted to start a socialistic church; they asked me.

August 24, 1975

Service was at 10.30 so that we could finish early, as Jim with a number of members was going to the Nation of Islam mosque at 2.00. I was in line a little after 10.30 and my name was put on the late list which Jim had directed be taken.

Jim explained that the arrangement with the Muslims was a marriage of protection, not doctrine.

Jim told us of the Muslim meeting. Their leaders insist on perfect order and obedience. Their members had to listen to three hours of Wallace Mohammad's remarks transmitted by telephone. However, Jim said they stood for him after his talk to them.

April 3, 1976

Jim took offering.

Repeated instructions for tomorrow. Don't discuss politics.

Introducing Malcolm X film, Jim reiterated only mistake this great man made was to be baited into a rivalry with Muslims, giving the CIA the chance to murder him and blame it on Muslims.

Offering.

Malcolm X film shown again.

Jim said parts of the film are cut out. Jim mentioned lack of security in his case. We have learned to protect ourselves. Nation of Islam did not harbor those who assassinated Malcolm X.

Question: What led to his death? Went over the incident of “chickens come home to roost” and statement made about Elijah Muhammad’s illegitimate child by teen-age girls. It is a mistake to let internal rivalries give enemies their chance.

I excused guests who had come for film. Explained as a means of getting rid of an agent.

Another offering.

April 4, 1976

The visitors, about three rows of them, had been coming in with their Temple companions. I was not sure which of them was the reporter whom Jim considered a threat nor which was the reporter from the SF Examiner whom he had invited. Jim introduced some of the guests: Willie Brown, District Attorney Joseph Freitas, Dennis Banks, and a representative of the Nation of Islam.

Jim dismissed the meeting at 1.00, saying that those who wanted to speak with the newspaper reporter could come to the platform. The rest of the congregation should file downstairs preparatory to paying a visit to the Nation of Islam he said the children could go out and play which gave them much delight.

The Muslim service was extremely boring, consisting of prayer, a long sermon dealing with incomprehensible theology, and some remarks about marriages, betrothals and births, plus a display of a man’s suit for \$85, I think made by a member or members. Jim and the leadership arrived toward the end and Jim was introduced. The speaker had emphasized the new tolerance of the Muslims on race questions and was friendly toward Jim and the Temple visitors. The Muslim meeting ended about 4.00. Attendance had been rather sparse and I noticed few children. I didn’t want to stay at the Temple for the meal which was being served, as the crowd was too large and I had no problem as I had the car, I invited Beulah to come home with me but as I had little that I thought she would like, I proposed going to Geary and getting some Chinese food, This matter had not been settled when we met a Temple member, Evelyn Benefield, who had our purses in her hand and asked if we recognized them. She had found them in the park. They had been removed from the trunk of my car. Evelyn wouldn’t turn them over to us without consulting the Temple authorities. We checked the car, which had no obvious signs of having been broken into. Nothing else had been taken.

We went back to the Temple and spent an hour trying to find our purses. We had been told they had been turned in to Gene Chaikin, but when I found him he hadn’t heard of the incident. I also talked to Tim Stoen. Told Jim McElvane about the theft and he came up to look at the car. Finally we found Evelyn again and we cleared it with security to get the purses returned to us. Both purses had been emptied out. Beulah got back most of her

belongings except for \$8.00 which the thieves took. I lost the \$5.00 which I keep for emergencies in my wallet, what change I had, about a dollar's worth of stamps, my Temple membership card, my apartment house keys, my bank record, though not my checks, my little notebook, my compact, my pen had been ruined. My personal papers were intact in my wallet. With Evelyn, Beulah and I returned to the park to see whether we could find additional items. Mostly we found pieces of paper from my notebook scattered around. One of the Temple young people told us he had seen some small boys playing with the purses, not knowing they were ours.

Friday, April 9, 1976

Jim entered with Angela [Davis] whom he introduced. She spoke of organizing to seek freedom.

Jim took offering.

He said he would take a trip to Chicago 2 May next with W. Muhammad. Hold meeting for our people there, some 200.

Saturday, April 10, 1976

Questions

(5) Muslim discipline. Can't we file out the same. Jim: some things better. Double line exits a good idea but their leaders live above these members. They have fervor. We swallow them up 50 times. Advise security to study their system.

(6) Jesse Jackson, who is he? Jim: a sell out fink who supports capitalism, Carter who favors ethnic purity. Jackson opposed Abernathy who is socialist. Angela indicts the system, is perhaps naive, too optimistic. Dennis Banks hasn't learned difference between socialism and capitalism. Jackson said we don't need social champions; need increase of holy spirit. About attacks against us, had we not gotten those newspapers out, we wouldn't be sitting here tonight. Cecil Williams reported saying, "Fuck the church." He's right, church needs a good fucking. You can't bring forth unless you get fucked. I think the church needs to get raped and killed. The enemy doesn't want Williams to move toward socialism and live up with us.

He expedited a subject: you don't have the time to be fucking around like a god damn dog, can't learn to live under capitalism.

Not going to stop using such words as fuck until the Christians stop saying "Kill those Niggers," such as Christians, going to continue to cuss them.

District Attorney Freitas and wife arrived at this moment. Grace Stoen brought word, when they came in. Jim defending Cecil Williams. Church ought to get fucked, get pregnant and bring forth, fascism will always attack those who work against the establishment. Jim

complimented him.

April 11, 1976

As today was Open House and the Muslims also were visiting, special seating arrangements were in effect. I was put in one of the seats toward the front reserved for white people, so as to integrate the auditorium well.

Jim opened meeting a little after 12.00.

The choir sang. The congregation sang.

The Muslims arrived.

The girls did "Message to Jackleggers" again.

Jim read announcement from Nation of Islam concerning the joint convention in LA on 23 May in which we will agree on common action. Jim explained our stand on spiritual healing.

Jim appealed for letters to the magazine, which had defamed Cecil Williams. He described the attacks on black leadership which are occurring all over the city. Legislation has been proposed to kill the aged over 80, sterilize all blacks. Speaking of the charge that Williams advocated "Fuck the Church," Jim said the church needs to be fucked so it can bring forth child.

We are one with the Nation of Islam. Christians and the Bible are our enemy.

Jim introduced the leader of Nation of Islam who spoke. He used as text, the People's Forum Newspaper.

The Muslims left at 2.00.

There was a healing session.

The church was opened for new members.

Jim had the congregation, touch the altar.

The meeting was out at 3.00.

Everybody was supposed to go to the Muslims today, including children. We formed a double line. Women left their purses behind.

We entirely filled the Muslim temple, arriving about 3.15, we were supposed to stay only 45 minutes. The Minister taught from the Bible. The meeting lasted until 4.45.

Sunday, April 25, 1976

Jim asked all who were not communal to come to the altar. Communal people could leave baby the side door and go directly to the buses. We would not return to the temple after going to the Muslim service. Bag lunches would be put on the buses. We left the Temple about 3.00 and arrived at the Muslim Temple about 3.30. Left our purses and coats on the buses. The Muslim Temple would not hold all our people and we were seated gradually, as space was made for us.

The greater portion of their service was a recording of a sermon which had begun before we arrived. About all I got from it were references to Old Temple figure.

At the end Jim was presented and he talked for about 2 minutes, emphasizing this dislike for the Christian religion. The title "Christ Church" in our name was, he said, "a masquerade."

Their service was over at about 5.30.

Saturday, May 1, 1976

After preliminary activities, announcements were made concerning the Chicago Trip. The selected participants are to leave tonight about 1.00. Food is being provided. Luggage will be put under seats. Those taking medication must bring it. There will be only one meeting. Jim entered on the podium but took no active part at first. He seemed sorely preoccupied. Jim meeting king from Arabia on Monday. In the church to set the captives free. I have invaded the church. God is love. You can't have love without equality. Equality is socialism.

Of Howard Hughes' will, I am going to tie up that will a long time, because I am not going to let the Mormon Church have 125 million dollars.

Nation of Islam elevated the white spook to a black spook. Prefer a black spook to a white one.

Wednesday, May 5, 1976

Jim while we sang. Told some details of Chicago trip. King of Arab nation. Many healed. Some coming out. Met with Nation of Islam leader. Wonderful response from auditorium. Jim gave them the whole truth. If some of you would be willing to go in my stead and let me go to take the truth to others. It's a shame how indifferent some are here. Forget your selfish life, take on the Christian life. Wish I'd stay there but have to come home and take on the little bitty, picayune problems.

Friday, May 7, 1976

People who had been to Chicago made comments.

Jim was on the podium at 9.25.

Told about Arab leader he met. Told extent of all creeds expressed with our church, will be visiting us.

Jim took offering. Put great emphasis on getting pledge for another \$1000. He was very stern, predicted dire results to those who wouldn't take it on.

Jim says we'll take another trip in June. Put your name in if you want to go.

Jim said he gave people whole truth about religion and socialism. Can do it there because they have enthusiasm and are receptive.

Bob Christian asks about Nation of Islam stand.

Jim: they don't know a thing about politics. They respect us because we came to defense of one of their leaders and because we save money and have a p.l. [promised land]. They're in debt. They tried to keep me from meeting this sheik. He gave them 1 million dollars. Know what they did with it? Going to buy new temple. They'd be broke without a few Arabs. I'm going to get to know all their Arab friends. Who the hell needs a temple in times like these. They drove up in a fleet of Cadillacs. Sheik is building free housing for his people. Moses a hell of a prophet. Led his people to the only place in the Near East that doesn't have oil. The Christians have Jesus, all he could do is get hung on a cross. he has done nothing for us either. Calls Jesus a stupid son of a bitch. My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? I'd shit on you spit on you and piss on you.

Saturday, May 8, 1976

Jim says the Muslims will be here tomorrow, tells of finding Arab leader, talked of ___ of the Nation of Islam five million dollars in debt and going to build a new temple.

Told of Moses for 40 years wandering to find p.l.[promised land] 40 miles only spot in Near East which had no oil. I could get drunk and wander around in the desert and do better than that.

Expatriated on Judges 1:19. "Drove out" the inhabitants of the mountains. Could not drive out the inhabitants of the plains because they had chariots of iron. Made the situation ludicrous. Speaking in tongues mocked.

Sunday, May 9, 1976

Hugh X took the offering. Muslims arrive about 12noon. Showed slide show from Nation of Islam. Jim asked the Muslims not to be misled by references to Christianity. We are not Christians. We are closer to the Nation of Islam than any group on earth. He remarked on Judges 1:19. As they sneaked up on us, we have sneaked up on King James. We've got to

come out from under the oppression of the white man's religion. Introduced the Nation of Islam, representatives from the Nation of Los Angeles.

He spoke on Jubilee planned for 23 May. Said problem not one of color but mind. We're going to upset the West Coast, Nation of Islam and Peoples Temple are going to cause an earthquake in Los Angeles. Jim said Wallace D Mohammed should be president. That's the highest I care to go. Praised him. Local ministers introduced. Letter paid tribute to mothers. Jim spoke on unity. There had been some mention of difference of opinion about place for Jubilee.

Question: Are we going to merge with Muslims?

Jim: glad some of these jackleg preachers are worried. Keep them worried. We will never lose our identity. We will be true to our concept that there is no God but what we see. Jim spoke of those who like healings but don't like reality. White oppressors will use you to bring slavery back. He referred to those who were nervous about his attack on religion (people had been asked to bring as many guests as possible).

Had hassle over common bills with Muslims for Jubilee. Not going to pay anything to be pretentious. We don't owe anybody a penny. Told of his economies. Don't sleep in fancy hotels. He spoke of black preferring to patronize whites. Some of you need to have a better image of yourselves.

May 12, 1976

Several young men were put on the floor for bad conduct at the Muslim temple, among them John Miles (not present tonight), William Klingman, Marvin Wideman, Rory Macon [Bargeman], Billy Jones. Marvin had helped carry some heavy equipment into the auditorium. His case was dismissed by Jim.

Saturday, May 15, 1976

Listened to the Temple broadcast. A considerable number of staff were introduced and told about having been healed by Jim, though Jim had explained that spirit healing was a minor concern on the coming Jubilee in LA of Peoples Temple and the Nation of Islam, to which the public is invited. The advantages of cooperation between different religions was stressed.

Sunday, May 16, 1976

On the Jubilee, will cater to their ego. We won't attempt to build our own program. The intelligence level of this place is higher than most places. They won't grasp some ideas. They may get out to find the society that they can't get out. Caught between a truth bringer and a personality cult.

Jim took offering.

CIA was saying. They're with those Peoples Temple. When we get away, they'll come and see the Muslims, ask why did you appear on the same program? If you flatter some people's ego, you can do anything. Don't know what they have to go back to. After seeing our liveliness, still be hard to go back to listening 5 and a half hours to somebody on the telephone. Jim described preaching to the Muslim leaders. Convincing them to fight for homosexual rights.

Picked up on their leaders statement comparing whites to adults and blacks to children.

Wednesday, May 19, 1976

David Swinney. Misbehaved in Muslim Temple. He's black, must be adopted. he had been assigned 50 whacks. He fought with a brother. Jim says he used to help us teach by boxing. He got 50 whacks and work all night.

Friday, May 21, 1976

Jim came on podium.

Read announcement from black newspaper about Muslims' intent to buy Peoples Temple property in Redwood Valley. Jim said 3 Muslims showed themselves in the Valley, were magnified first to 15 then 88. He got calls from the district attorney, sheriff and many others. Our emphasis in approach to Muslims is to get resources together for survival against fascism threat.

Sunday, May 22, 1976

Jim gave a rousing sermon.

He denounced the Muslim's religious beliefs while he made a strong appeal to give another \$1000 for a hotel. The ideas of Marcus Garvey had been perverted. He attacked religion and held up the necessity for atheistic socialism.

On the Muslims. He is not going to accept their religion or any religion. To those who claim Universal Mind is God, Jim said: Mind is impartial, indifferent. He hadn't noticed Mind doing good to people until it was combined with his body.

Monday, May 23, 1976 - Spiritual Jubilee

Beulah arranged a ride for me and Earlene. We were picked up at about 9.00. Choir members came in, many with white robes. Jim said: What did you do, go slumming for choir robes? He decided how their scarves should be adjusted. Red scarves were donated by other members so that all choir members could have one.

Jim conducted a healing service.

Several of the seniors were to ride with Jim in a hired Cadillac (I don't know what happened about the plan to use a Rolls of one of the members. Probably a security decision. I was surprised when I was selected. Joyce Parks took us through the staff door and put us in the car. There were three black sisters, Mom Taylor, Annie McGowan and another whose name I don't know and two white sisters, Valor St. John and myself. We waited until Jim dismissed the service and got in the car. Two security guards were with us. The driver of the car, who is accustomed to driving prominent people of all types, told me "these are very easy people to work with."

We seniors were deposited at the side and Jim was taken to the back entrance, undoubtedly for his safety, so that the impression he wished to make was probably lost as the Muslims didn't see him drive up with the seniors.

I helped Mom Taylor who was not able to walk alone. She had been told to keep the group together, but Valor and Annie apparently resented her tone of authority and did not wait for us. We did not even know where they were seated.

Our workers and the Muslims were co-workers on all tasks, although the security search seemed to be conducted by Muslims alone, and their ushers seemed to predominate.

We were seated at 12.15.

Our Black Velvet troupe performed; our choir sang two numbers with Norman Ijames and Melvin Johnson as soloists.

In the ladies' room, I was told that the African dancers whom I had expected to see were not going to perform.

There was a long wait, then at 1.45 got underway.

Mike Prokes introduced Tim Stoen, who introduced Joseph Freitas, S.F. District attorney, and Carlton Goodlett, as President of the Black Newspaper Publishers Association, who both spoke briefly. The next two speakers were Kenneth Hahn, L.A. County Supervisor and a representative of the Islamic Foundation. Mayor Tom Bradley of L.A. spoke, then Angela Davis who described the racial situation abroad and in the city, out particular emphasis upon North Carolina. A woman representative of the Sikhs spoke, then Lt. Governor Mervyn Dymally, acting Governor of California.

Jim spoke for half an hour, giving unity in the struggle against racism as our chief motivation.

Wallace D. Mohammed spoke from 3.40 to 4.45. He was as dull as ever.

Either Sharon Amos or Karen Layton sat in the row in front of us during the meeting and Mom Taylor told them how Valor and Annie went off on their own. Karen said Valor was

losing interest in the cause. She “loves America.” We were kept in our seats for the final prayer.

Sharon Amos got Tom Adams to escort us to the back, and we got into the Cadillac for the return trip. After some time Jim joined us and we were whisked away. Elaborate security precautions were taken. Jim asked where Valor was. I said she and Annie got separated from us but the third lack sister said, “They separated themselves.”

We were among the first to arrive at the Temple at 5.15. The rest of the members followed us in the buses, but it seemed that a good many went home instead of coming into the auditorium. I changed my clothes.

Everyone to whom I spoke expressed massive boredom with Wallace D.’s speech.

The session upstairs started at 5.45.

There was much praise of Jim. He remarked: “It probably means this looks good compared to what I just saw.”

Jim said we were glad for the opportunity to show the white world we’re together. He said his kidneys were affected by the bad vibrations. We didn’t show enough enthusiasm. We didn’t follow instructions. We were intimidated by the Nation of Islam, some of us admired them, applauded then more than we did our own. “You’re going to repay.” Security almost got in a brawl. Dennis was one of them. I have not come to be misled by carnality.

He continued with a critique of Wallace D.’s speech. He didn’t state any specifics of how to create a new earth.

Wednesday, June 2, 1976

Muslims giving us a meeting hall in Chicago. Jim inquired how many have friends and relatives in each city. Announcement will be sent there.

Sunday, June 6, 1976

Question: Opinion of Martha Mitchell. Jim: she talked too much. May have been injected with mydoma [?]. She had unique ability to tell truth. Quite conceivable they killed her. Sad she died alone when she had 2 children. Indictment of capitalist system. Not uncommon at all.

Even Muslims don’t understand much any more how we are imperiled by white America. Only two white people came though Brown’s presence advertised.

White America has already proven itself a murderer.

We ran black people out of here today by the dozens. He sent word, “This meeting is for

field niggers only, you assholes.”

Teaching for those who think they are rich: In depression you'll lose you home because you can't pay taxes, social security, going bankrupt, with this inflation system won't last. Muslim paper, Los Angeles Times wouldn't print Angela Davis' name because she said too much.

You can learn a lot if you listen. You'll get depressed . Better to be depressed and wise than optimist and a fool.

Jim spoke of advantages of being communal.

People living communally, don't give that body with out taking up with us. But people who belong to other churches and come to get healed, for some green stuff.

Don't bring me any more white people unless married to a nigger or adopted a nigger.

Monday, June 14, 1976

Walked up to Haight Asbury where I had a registered letter at the post office. It was from an official of the Government of Sharjah on behalf of Sultan Bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi. A letter was enclosed to Eugene Chaikin whose address they did not have. He wanted to thank him for the numerous letters received from the Temple congregation.

Sunday, June 27, 1976

Tape of Jim's.

Bob Christian did an energetic job leading the congregation.

Suzanne. Message from Jim. Successful meeting with the Muslims. It being shown a video tape in Muslim temples across the country. Jim took off the cast of arm of a counselor who had arm broken. Jim removed the bandages from a girl's shoulder. She had been stabbed and the blood was crusted. He has been received across the country not only for his _____ power but his revolutionary and communal message.

Jim has made important contacts for our benefit across the country.

Sunday, July 4, 1976

Jim on podium at 2.45.

The p.l. [promised land] Not the pains and disappointments there that we have here. No one gave me a moment's concern. Young people there disprove the doctrine of original sin. Nothing to celebrate on this day except pain. Some have gone out and be traitors. 2007 people sentenced to die by capital punishment decision on Thursday. Israel invaded

Uganda today. In SF officials celebrated this is Congregational Church. Religion justifies all kinds of evil deeds.

In Muslim tradition women do not even have a soul. In this country where religion doesn't reign, materialism does. Some of you are very religious. I don't want title of God. Religion has done nothing for America. Almost harder for a white person (or Mexican) to enter society than a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Whites have a great responsibility here. Do not break anyone else's heart.

Monday, July 5, 1976

Among those I had talked to over the weekend were Bob Stroud, Ray Godshalk and Chris Kice.

Bob and I talked about how fascism might come to this country. I told him what circumstances in my opinion might cause it to be imposed and how a leader could come forward.

Ray is living in East House. He spoke almost tearfully of what great power Jim has. Jim's statements: "before the Morning Star was, I was," and "I am Universal Mind" much impressed him.

Chris is enrolled in the degree program for registered nurses at Santa Rosa Junior College and struggling with her required English course. She has never liked to write, I had her show me what she had written for the class and I gave her some suggestions.

Wednesday, July 21, 1976

Jim on podium about 9.00.

Muslim leaders in Guyana seeking land as ___ ___ Blacks not going to be safe in America.

Guyana withdrew from Olympics as protest for relations with South Africa of other nations. Not one black American player backed out. Seems as if America dies in 1968. Last protest in this country. Our own people have no pride nor dignity.

Warning to someone who talks with people who are against this faith, you're not an enemy yet. But stop tonight. I'm sending messages to some people. We believe the constitution.

Spiritual darkness that rules in high places had its center here. God has some angels. I hate treason. I wouldn't be talking like this if I didn't have some tractors. I've laid plans for all circumstances because I know people. Even if you think I am dead, I have messengers who won't forget any enemy.

People who go out always go out for a piece of ass. I don't believe in love.

Sunday, July 25, 1976

Jim spoke of unity of opposition: as against our anarchy. Refusal to stand. Refusal to clap. Why don't you show your individuality when you are in trouble? Either will make a demonstration her or in the p.l. We won't allow any dissidence . We're interested in instilling respect and reverence for the center of this movement, the hub around which we revolve (in reference to the bus incident) there is racism even here. You like to get into white neighborhoods, get out of mixed places. I've seen enough white honkies. We have to be unified around white unification. I'm not going to live here. If I have to stay here in account of you dissidents, rebels, you'll see me die. I trust none but ourselves. Black Muslims trying to suck up to the system. You would get the chance to kill my movement, I'll kill it myself. I'm not a racist, I'm a realist. It's realistic to admit that white people don't like us.

"Why do you like to give money to people who will kill you?" He ___ ___ cars, clothes, jewelry. Our black leaders sold us. There was no demonstration for rights in the Democratic convention. There won't be in the filthy Republican Convention. You will not be free unless you sell what you have. Put your money in land in a black nation. You can never be trusted. They will always remember you associated with a true revolutionary and if I can't go, I'll do something spectacular that you won't be allowed to forget you were in Peoples Temple.

Sunday, August 1, 1975

Jim outlined some conditions here: earthquakes, can't take money out, drought, viruses, no vaccine going to be available, when 18% unemployed, what black people going to do then, black leaders returning to Jesus. Few firebrands among Muslims keeping alliance with us, not their leaders. But he's trying to get land in the p.l. [promised land]

Sunday, August 15, 1976

Muslim leader says his grandfather was white. He can't hate the white man.

Sunday, August 5, 1976 [This entry was found in September. Possible date mix-up during transcription]

Jim entered on podium 12.45. Shortly went backstage.

Jim: planning big rally in Chicago with Muslims where one brother in trouble. Kansas City, Detroit also. For about a week. Jim not satisfied with number. Has to be first ...October 4 and 5 in Chicago 6 & 7 in Detroit. Back here by 10th . \$150 charge.

Move against black people in this country going on right now would make you nervous. Jim took another offering by sum.

Angela Davis in North Carolina now with some of our people.

Saturday, September 4, 1976

Moslem Jubilee.

They face lien on property. Our buses will run until the Jubilee in which we will participate.

Wednesday, September 22, 1976

Jim: Kansas City trip important.

Number of Muslims beginning to standup for freedom. First group to hold our own meeting in a mosque.

Saturday, October 16, 1976

Johnny Brown testified. He said on this trip Jim preached as he never had before, particularly in Chicago.

Other testimonials. Mary Wotherspoon was raised from the dead on the trip in Harlem , New York.

Another offering taken.

Choir sang.

Another offering.

Tape of Chicago sermon.

Pentecostalism if practiced would save the world. Muslims in Day of Pentecost had all things in common. No church manifested int. People do not ever get ___ of life. Explanation of holiness, unselfishness. When you see him you will have to be like him.

Jim's coming soon referred to throughout the service.

Sunday, November 14, 1976

Choir sand one song. Jim said effort to get offering intense but not successful. Plains, Georgia, church voted today to admit all those who worship Jesus Christ. System established to decide who should. De Clerk who supported freedom in South Africa manhandled by a movement. Don't believe anything good can come out of West Christian capitalist civilization. 97% of blacks supported Carter with out any demands but learn he was Baptist. Rides to have Cleveland Jackson represent blacks on Housing Commission. She says: "Why go to their churches when we don't have our own churches?" Remind me to do something about her.

Church of Scientology.

Everyone who leaves is fair game.

Their work on Interpol which keeps a pool of all who displease them. What I try to get over to you that they were threatening system. Some of you so oppressed you'll be in the newspapers. You're afraid of your shadow. We're going to takeover the NAACP in SF.

We're going on the offensive. I don't expect a good press from the capitalist newspapers. I don't give a damn what they say about me.

Wednesday, November 17, 1976

Jim: on handling money give only to Rose. Someone stealing. Better tell if you have stolen anything from a brother or sister in this cause. Something dreadful.

Scientology legal stuff exposed Interpol run by ex-Nazis. "Fair game" if you leave their church several their people disappeared. Still functioning so you don't have to worry.

Jim gave list of people who did well in the test today.

Paulette Jackson. This man you're associating with. Jerry Wilson. Saying takes you out to dinner. Jerry is a brother. Reported he said he could get pussy whenever. Her packet of change money came back \$40 short. Man said he bought clothes for her. Jim spoke on how worthless are men outside. Some of you fool around with Muslim men. Muslim woman don't do this. You can destroy us; we haven't come to this, but if you have to do it, come up with some scheme that will pay. Paulette gave him the communal number. He came three times to church. "You can't think what effect you might have had on him if you had represented socialism instead of sex." Lee Ingram wanted to know why CJ went to Paulette's job to bother her when he could have been looking for a job.

Saturday, December 18, 1976

"Know no man after the flesh, not even Jesus." He went on to show the discrepancy in Matthew and Luke concerning the ancestry of Jesus.

He spoke of living on a dream. That Jesus is coming again. We have instead a real p.l. [promised land], 27,000 acres.

Blackness in our language, everything bad is called black. No wonder our children have no pride. Everything good, baby in the womb, plants from the ground is black. In the dark. Harriett Tubman freed the slaves. Nation of Islam has essential teachings of Elijah Muhammed. As long as I am alive somebody is going to preach black is beautiful.

Jim led congregation singing "I'm Black Today and I'm Glad," then "I'm Socialist Today and I'm Glad."

Sunday, December 19, 1976

All members who had obtained membership in NAACP were asked to come to the platform for instructions. Laurie Efrein was in charge and no one could hear her until a system was devised., We were able to sit in the auditorium and were divided into four alphabetical groups. We exchanged sample ballots for new one which had been prepared. Monitors were assigned to help members, some 250 or 300, go over to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church where the NAACP election to be held. A bus took handicapped seniors. Others walked. I thought we were to leave in groups throughout the afternoon but if that had been planned, the arrangements broke down and we all arrived at about the same time. We had a long wait in line. Almost everyone voting was from PT. I saw almost no one other than our members.

Results of the NAACP election Vern Gosney elected overwhelmingly Secretary. Norman Ijames, Johnny Brown, Jim Jones elected to the Executive Board. Jim got huge number of votes.

Friday, December 31, 1976

Invited to inauguration, taking bus will be in Washington, Philadelphia, Detroit and Chicago, asked to give names of relatives so Temple can send information.

Friday, January 7, 1977

Where are the Muslims?

They're all gone. The faces I once knew I don't see anymore. The movement has been sold out by its leaders. A movement should be carried on by those who have the spirit, not because they are the children of the leaders.

Sunday, January 9, 1977

Quiz period:

(1) Meaning of swastika. Jim: Emblem of Indians meaning power, but taken over by Hitler to symbolize Nazis. He described National Socialism. Then another strength in America. Disintegration of the groups, particularly Muslims. Elijah Mohammed in spite of non-sensical religion that white power stressed.

April 1977 - Transcript of telephone call

Conversation between Michael Prokes and member of Nation of Islam

Muhammad: Hello.

Unknown male: Is this Nathaniel Muhammad?

Muhammad: Speaking.

Unknown male: Yes, I have a representative for Reverend Jim Jones returning your call.

Muhammad: Yes sir.

Prokes: Hi. Mr. Muhammad?

Muhammad: Yes sir.

Prokes: This is Michael Prokes. I dined with you and Reverend Jones in Kansas City when we had our meeting there and— along with the Reverend Jones' sons.

Muhammad: Yes sir.

Prokes: And he is in our agricultural mission right now and— but I'm sure uh, he would want me to get back to you and see what— any way we could assist you, what, uh, we can do.

Muhammad: Yes sir. Where is he at now?

Prokes: He's in our agricultural mission in South America. He, he— (Laughs)

Muhammad: He was telling me about that.

Prokes: Pardon?

Muhammad: I think he was telling me something about that when he was here.

Prokes: Unfortunately he had a collapse. Uh, I don't know if you're aware of it, but uh, he is uh, the chairman of the San Francisco Housing Authority and he collapsed during one of the meetings, just from *exhaustion*, and the doctors insisted that he get away and get some rest.

Muhammad: I'm sorry to hear that.

Prokes: He's just been getting two hours sleep a night for months and months, and finally it caught up with him, and uh, we're trying to keep him there a while uh, so he can recuperate and get some rest but uh, uh, it's awful uh, *intense* back here, there's a lot of pressure and we thought he should— the doctors thought he should be away from it for a while.

Muhammad: Yes, I understand. I'm *glad* of that, glad he got away. But I'm real sorry to *hear* that though.

Prokes: Well, I— I'm sure he'll be okay if we can just keep him a little bit (Laughs) less

active.

Muhammad: Well, my prayers will go out for him.

Prokes: Thank you.

Muhammad: Sure.

Prokes: What can we do?

Muhammad: Uh, we have a, uh, you know, the (unintelligible), my brother (first name unintelligible) Muhammad?

Prokes: Yes.

Muhammad: He's supposed to *be* here on the 12th of June?

Prokes: Uh-huh.

Muhammad: That— You know we had uh, Reverend Jim Jones out for the jubilee?

Prokes: Right.

Muhammad: (Unintelligible word). But the chief couldn't make it 'cause he's out of town?

Prokes: Right, I uh, I remember.

Muhammad: Right, he— well, he sent up a consigned letter for me to talk to Jones?

Prokes: Talk to Jim.

Muhammad: Yes sir, we wanted him to, uh, share our, uh— Reverend Jim Jones to share the platform again with us.

Prokes: Oh, good.

Muhammad: Ah, if he can't do it, then will you— will you come as a representative?

Prokes: Of course.

Muhammad: Yeah that'll be fine. If not— We'll send you a letter, we'll send you a photostatic copy of his letter—

Prokes: Okay.

Muhammad: — of the, uh, uh, invitation, and we also, we want to know, you know, we said

we would uh, finance uh, at least five of his uh, him with five more.

Prokes: Pardon?

Muhammad: We would finance with, to the fair, for him to fly in along with five of his lieutenants or whoever comes.

Prokes: Oh, well, that's very kind. Uh, okay, let me— Do you have our address?

Muhammad: Yes sir, we have uh— You haven't *moved*, have you?

Prokes: No.

Muhammad: Okay, well, let me get it anyway.

Prokes: Yeah, uh, it may not be the same one I'll give you, uh. You can send it to my attention.

Muhammad: Okay, just a minute, now let me write this down. All right? (Pause) Yes sir.

Prokes: Michael Prokes.

Muhammad: Michael?

Prokes: P-r-o-k-e-s.

Muhammad: r-o-k-e-s?

Prokes: Yes.

Muhammad: Have I met you?

Prokes: Pardon.

Muhammad: Mi— Michael?

Prokes: Yes.

Muhammad: I think I met you—

Prokes: Right, right, we had dinner there at uh, your restaurant.

Muhammad: (Unintelligible)

Prokes: Yes.

Muhammad: Okay. Michael Prokes. Right.

Prokes: And it's just Peoples Temple, and then, Post Office Box 15157.

Muhammad: 15157.

Prokes: Right. San Francisco 94115.

Muhammad: San Francisco, right?

Prokes: Right.

Muhammad: 94415?

Prokes: 94115.

Muhammad: 115.

Prokes: Right. And what's the date again?

Muhammad: June the twelfth.

Prokes: June twelfth.

Muhammad: Um-hmm.

Prokes: Okay. Well, we'll have so— uh, he or myself, depending on what his situation is.

Muhammad: Right. We'll send you the, uh, invitation along with the, uh, accepting letter where he uh, accept the invitation, okay?

Prokes: Okay.

Muhammad: And I thank you very much.

Prokes: Thank you, sir.

Muhammad: Be careful, and take care.

Prokes: You too.

Muhammad: Give all the members my love and greetings, and make sure you extend my love and greetings from me and the believers here in this area to Reverend Jim Jones, and tell him our prayers will go out for him. I will mention it to the, uh, body today that he is uh, sort of convalescing in South America.

Prokes: Okay, he, he's doing much better, it's just a matter of uh, uh, you know, lessening, letting up on his schedule some, but uh, I see no major problem at this time.

Muhammad: I can understand it, because he is a very good man, he needs the rest.

Prokes: (Laughs)

Muhammad: I understand exactly what he's, what you're saying.

Prokes: Thank you for your good wishes, and I'll pass them along.

Muhammad: Thank you very much.

Prokes: Thank you, sir. Bye-bye.

Muhammad: Bye-bye.

March, 1978

Meeting

Male Youth: Yes, Dad, uh, I know earlier this week you mentioned that Eldridge Cleaver [Black Panther leader] had uh, joined in with Wallace Deen Muhammad [leader of Nation of Islam]. I just wanted to know if you can elaborate on that.

Jones: I don't know how to elaborate on it. It's a sad state of affairs that Eldridge Cleaver, who wrote *Soul on Ice* has now joined the Iman [Imam]. We change Black Muslims to whatever the world community of Islam in the *West*. I don't know what the fuck it means.

But uh, Eldridge was a Baptist preacher three weeks or four weeks ago, and he went to Washington, they wouldn't have his ass there, 'cause he was still black. All of his sellin' out, they didn't- they didn't believe in him. Doesn't make any difference how much you sell out.

Some of you people always used to say, "Well, white people never did nothing to me."

'Cause you, honey, you were so blind, you didn't see what they were doing to you.

Crowd: (Murmurs of assent)

Jones: You could go in and set there and they'd patronize you, and you was a token little gal in the choir, and they didn't never invite you to their home for no tea and you were settin' there and you say, "Well they- they're nice to me." *Hell* yes, they're nice to you. They wanted your *voice*. They wanted to say, "Hey, I got wha- well, you're nice to black people, we got one Aunt *Jane* singin' up here in the choir." But you didn't get invited to the preacher's tea.

Crowd: (Murmurs of agreement)

Jones: No, no, no, no.

Crowd: (Murmurs)

Jones: You didn't know. You said, "(unintelligible word) white folk were nice to me." You were too *stupid* to know when people are bein' *bad* to you!

Friday, March 17, 1978

Jim: on the situation. Got away just in time. Panthers have been destroyed. They would have done the same to us. We are all that is left. The dangers we faced while leaders of Guyana were out of this country at Panama Canal Conference, we were invaded. This is no protest movement in America. Gossip didn't help. We believe in group criticism, traitors in all our families. Names traitors. The absolute zero of personality that is a true socialist. We kept socialism alive in Guyana. Blood shed, but not ours. Soviet Union stood by us. President Carter freed our social security checks. No one leaves until all are here. If you want to go home, you can swim. We won't pay your fucking way home. You can relax tomorrow, but don't fuck off the next day.

We're selling off our properties in a package deal.

Scientology is selling everything. Soviet Union is our spiritual mother, has been behind every liberation movement. The conspirators never would tell what I really was, a Marxist-Leninist. Most of government decisions made in town forums on Tuesday and Saturday nights. Miners subpoenaed in the US, sent back to work. "They" hoped to have me dead. The San Francisco police killed Chris Lewis, at Tim Stoen's request. Injected cancer cells into Mother [Marcy]. We have medical evidence. The cancer was suddenly gone.

Friday, March 24, 1978

Jim gave a number of startling facts.

Representative Charles Biggs, a black businessman who has been indicted on 27 counts of fraud, indicative of the determination to end the career of any prominent black person who stands up for minorities. Synanon is moving to Mexico having found it impossible to do its work in the States, although it is not a socialist organization. They gave us tons of supplies last night. The church of Scientology is moving out too, but it is not known where.

April 12, 1978

Transcript of Meeting

Jones: Two Cypriot— Two Palestinian Liberation Front members, Arab members, and they were, uh, they were— they *took* over an Egyptian plane and killed a Egyptian publisher in

uh, Nicosia, Cyprus. You better find it in the ah— out there, right in the Mediterranean, just above Africa. An island. And they took over the plane, and they run it all through the Mediterranean, where'd they try to go, uh, (unintelligible name— March?), where'd they try to go?

March: I didn't— I wasn't around (rest of sentence unintelligible)

Jones: I can't hear you, whatever you said, but uh, okay. We'll move on rapidly. What happened? They tried to land in *Libya*, they tried to land in all kinds of place, they couldn't make it to Yemen, which is a socialist ri— oil-rich nation, they couldn't get down there. Didn't have enough gas, so they were offered some— *one* place they wouldn't go. King. Theresa King.

Theresa: Syria.

Jones: Syria. Why wouldn't they go? (Pause) 'Cause it was backed by the atheistic Soviets. And they were Mo— They were Moslem socialist, right?

Scattered voices: Right.

Jones: Uh— dumb ass Mohammedans, that believed in God, and uh, that— their belief in God got 'em killed. Then the ch— the captain threatened to land the sonofabitch in the *sea*— (Pause) and they'd been better *off* 'cause they could've taken off on a b— on some *rafts* and gotten out of it. Or at least they could've *died* in some dignity. Killed all the sonofabitches with them, they give— they gave— they gave the opportunity for a big White Night, to make a hero of himself. Who was he? I oughta kill that prick. I like the adventurous— I'd like to sh— see them all shot. *Who* was the big White Night?

Murmurs from crowd

Jones: The captain of the airline. He volunteered— he said he'd be able to outwit them— and— and he *did*, with their fears.

Voice from crowd: — took a buddy with them.

Jones: Take a huh?

Voice: Took a buddy with him, too, when he was—

Jones: Yeah, took a buddy, and said he left his wife home and— great big adventure, wild west s— story. He gets to win, 'cause he's too— (World weary) Wait, how did he scare 'em? How'd he scare 'em?

Woman: He said he'd go— He said he'd land in the water, and that they—

Jones: What'd he scare them about the water?

Woman: Sharks. Sharks.

Other voices: Sharks.

Jones: (Disgusted) Sharks. Any fuckin' socialist afraid of sharks.

Woman: So he went— They agreed to go back to where they started from.

Jones: They went right back to the airlines, and the international pressure was put on Cyprus, and now they're gonna— they're gonna die by hanging on June first, and then, if they hadn't been *religious*, hadn't believed in God, and Islam, and all that Mohammeded shit, like uh, we knew the Black Muslims by— up next to us that're now in the International uh, Muslim League. Imam Wallace Deen Muhammad. If they had not listened to that bullshit, they woulda been in Syria, safe, because the Prime Minister of Syria [Mohammed Ali Al-Halabi], that's pro-Soviet, offered them sanctuary. But they don't like the Soviet Union, because Soviet Union is communist and atheist. So let 'em die. Let the fuckers hang. I hope they die. I hope they die slow. Any pricks that haven't got no more backbone than that ought to die.

Thursday, May 28, 1978

We got up and had breakfast at 11.30. Then we returned to the pavilion for further discussion of our situation.

A new method of revolutionary suicide was tested in case we did not have time to use the potion alone. We would pack ourselves into particular buildings and these buildings would be blown up. The demolition material was tested.

The windmill which is being erected as a watchtower was discussed. It is intended to look like part of a children's playground and whether this instruction was carried out was questioned. Jim suggested some changes. The device actually generates some electricity.

Whether the structure could also be taken as a radar device from the air was discussed but it was decided that no one familiar with radar would be so deceived.

Friday, July 28, 1978

In the midst of questioning, Jim spent some time on the Huey Newton article. Showed around a copy of magazine "New Times" with painting of Huey, makes him worse than Manson. Geared to those who can't read and those who can. They don't have to assassinate any more. The media shoot him down. Some people can't stand this type of attack. All they had was their public image.

Tuesday, August 8, 1978

Jim entered.

He has been coughing badly. The doctor has determined he has lung cancer; with the strains upon him he can expect to live 3 or 4 years.

He appealed to the members to cooperate as much as possible not to make excessive demands so that he can serve the commune and prepare the leadership. An operation offers small hope of success and the government would be put in a difficult position if he left the city as they are under orders to arrest him. He was unemotional though he admitted he was in constant pain.

Jim read prognosis of his condition prepared by Dr. Larry [Schacht] he thinks this will give leadership time to develop selflessness, not to need recognition, and least of all to need appreciation.

10 September 1978

Dear Jim,

I want to report to you a rather strange event which may possibly have security implications – absurd as this may seem.

Yesterday I missed a big blue binder in which I kept the typed copy of the journal I write. It contained a record from August to October 1977 and about 50 pages of blank paper. The last time I used it was last Sunday, 3 September. I never take it out of the cottage and did not do so this time, I looked thoroughly among all my possessions. I kept it in a crate which I left unlocked a good deal lately, as the lock is beginning to rust and Edith Cordell is in the cottage most of the time. As I checked, I found that another folder was missing, which contained the handwritten notes from August 1977 to August 1978, as I had never thrown any of them away.

My first thought was that somebody just stole the binder (which was a good one) for itself and the paper that was in it. It would have been easy to lift the top of the crate and take the binder, as it might have been near the top. However, the other folder is a different thing – it was buried deeper, it was bulky and would have been harder to walk away with, and the paper in it would have been of little value to a thief, as it was all written on.

I don't think the security danger is very great, no matter who has the notes, as I know no secrets, but these notes contain items on individuals, and I know intelligence agencies consider any information important. It seems unlikely, though, that any agent would have happened on my papers unless Tim Stoen were involved. As you remember, he knew of the journal, as I used to turn it over to him for delivery to Carolyn Layton. That is why I am bringing this to your attention, in case there is a possibility of espionage, rather than just old-fashioned theft.

The paper in the notebook is probably not like any other in Jonestown – good bond, punched for a three-hole binder. I suggest that the tests taken last night be checked for this type of paper and other paper which may come to attention – three-hole punch is probably scarce.

Pardon the typing. I got my typewriter fixed, but now something else is wrong with it.

Sorry to bother you with this.

Much love,

Edith Roller

November 18, 1978

Guyana Tragedy