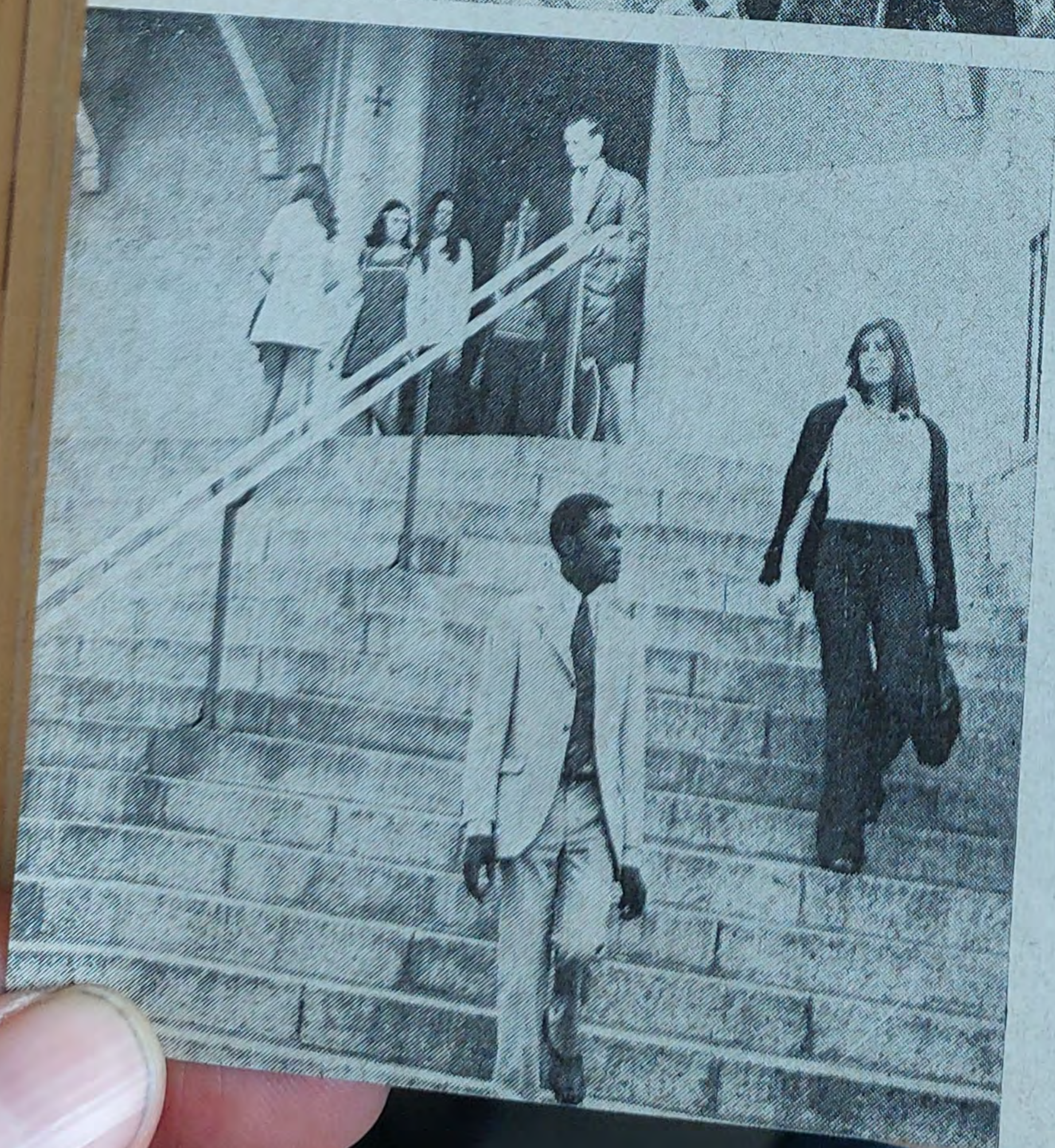




TWO OF A KIND



PREJUDICE

Prejudice is a weed hard to kill, because Ignorance is its mother and there is plenty of it the world over. Prejudice is a judgement about a person or a group that we form in our twisted minds on the basis of emotions, lack of understanding, selfish motives, before we even come to know the facts and persons involved. Now, you may ask, who is prejudiced? Just about everyone, my friends, just about everyone! At one time or another in our lives we face the temptation to wrongly judge others. What we do with that temptation is the measure of our inner honesty and Christian charity.

As the weed of prejudice spreads out to the world it takes many familiar names and many forms: racism, tribalism, religious bias, xenophobia (fear of strangers), isolation of handicapped, and many more. As you read these lines you may want to ask yourself what type of prejudice tempts you more often than others. To help you along this examination of conscience, let us meditate on the pictures here at the left.

EUROPEANS ONLY reads the sign. A disgusting statement indeed. Rightfully every demagogue in Africa can't sleep at night if he hasn't inserted a blast to South Africa in his latest speech. But let us be honest. Close your eyes and try to write on that sign your pet prejudice. How does it read? Africans Only, My Re-

"Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to saving power open the boundaries of States political systems, the vast fields of culture development. Do not be afraid. Christ knows man'. He alone knows it." (John Paul II)

ligion Only, My People Only, W Only. Which one be a hypocrit; s before you judg do this?

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vast fields of culture, civilization and
be afraid. Christ knows 'what is in
it.' (John Paul II)

Only, My Tribe Only, Healthy
People Only, Wealthy Only, Military
Only. Which one fits your minds? Don't
be a hypocrite; straighten out your house
before you judge others. How can you
do this?

BE LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN.
These P. 2 children at the United Nations
do not know the meaning of prejudice.
Not yet, anyway — their parents haven't
yet had a chance to teach them how to
hate. They do not yet know that being
White or Black, or Yellow, or in between,
can be a crime. They have not yet been
told that the way one worships God can
be an asset or a liability in their advance-
ment either in government or business.
They are too innocent and simple for this
kind of sophisticated thinking. Wouldn't
be great if we could couple the wisdom
of our age and their innocence? Who
can lead us along this path? True religion.

The CHURCH remains believable if
it can open its doors to everybody. Bishops,
priests, religious, lay people are tempted
by prejudice just like everybody else
(they are human, aren't they?). Only
Christ knows no prejudice. To be a true
Christian one must erase from the mind,
the lips, the emotions that ugly word
'Foreigner'. Only a Christ-like openness
to ALL human beings can dispel the
loneliness of the man sitting on a kerb,
somerly watching an alien world go by.

"Undoubtedly not all men are alike as
regards physical capacity and intellectual
and moral powers. But forms of social
or cultural discrimination in basic per-
sonal rights on the grounds of sex, race,
colour, social conditions, language or
religion, must be curbed and eradicated
as incompatible with God's design".
(Vat II)

"The ultimate goals of the decade are
to promote human rights and fundamen-
tal freedom for all, without distinction of
any kind on grounds of race, colour,
descent or national or ethnic origin,
especially by eradicating racial prejudice,
racism and racial discrimination and to
put an end to racist regimes." (U.N.,
1973).



“It is up to private and public organizations to be at the service of the dignity and destiny of man; let them spare no effort to banish every vestige of social and political slavery and to safeguard basic human rights under every political system.” (Vat. II)

“Only the narrow-minded man remains attached to the gloomy and evil superstition that sees his world limited by the next hill, or his universe by the river-bank, his human community by the circle of those who share his town, his ideas and the colour of his skin.”
(Robert Kennedy)

“We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” (U.S. Dec. of Independence)

ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD OR THE PRISONER OF VILLAGE MENTALITY?

Test yourself. If you need healing pray for light and take immediate action. These days people recover from this disease — prejudice.

Here are some hints:

- * Write down your first reactions when you hear words such as, Asian, Protestant, Catholic, Kakwa, Muganda, Leper, European (add more of your own). If your reactions are negative or offensive then you have a lot to do before you may call yourself Christian.
- * Reach out to meet someone who is not a member of your limited circle of friends. You will find new treasures.
- * Are you overly sensitive to jokes about your race or tribe or religion? If you can't laugh at yourself you need to grow up and accept yourself and others as a mature adult.
- * Are you inclined to blame others for your failures (colonialists, the former governments, other religions, for instance)? If so roll up your sleeves and shoulder your share of work.

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