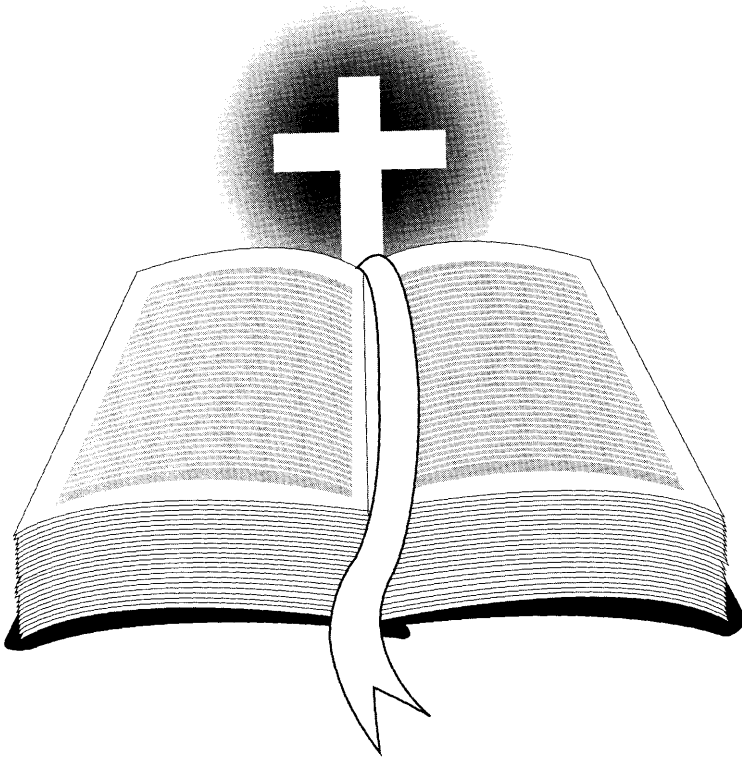


## Part Two



## The Message

This the House of Prayer for all people, and Lord Jesus, there are moments in our lives when we want to steal away. We want to get away from the clatter of our world and we want to find a quiet place where we can talk face to face with Thee. . . .

Have mercy on us, Lord. We're stealing away because the Black community seems to be under siege again—dope running rampant in our community; hoodlums and thugs have frightened our women; our churches are being broken into; houses are being burglarized; and we seem, our Father, to be destined to destroy ourselves. We need Thee, Jesus. Have mercy on us. . . . Is there a Balm in Gilead? Is there a word from the Lord for those at the bottom of the ladder? Is there a word? Is there a healing word, a word of hope? . . .

Anoint Thy servant this morning, Lord, in the midst of agony, to speak a word to Thy people. The sheep look up in hope, O Lord, that the undershepherd would hear from the Chief Shepherd and will have a word for the children of color, the children of oppression, the disinherited and dispossessed. . . . Let this moment not be in vain. . . . In Your blessed Name and for Your sake we pray this morning. Amen and Amen.

Fred C. Lofton,  
“We Need Thee, Lord Jesus, As Never Before” (1993),  
taken from *Conversations with God:  
Two Centuries of Prayers by African-Americans*