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Disposal of the lights and pews

After 22 phone calls to black leaders and clergy in Pittsburgh I was finally contacted by the Rev Dr. Monroe, Pastor of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church (Hill Districk) who was coordinatng efforts to help rebuild five black churches ~~that~~ were burned down in Boligee Alabama, a predominately black cross roads in central Alabama, located in Greene County.

My contact person became Jon Nelson, a teacher at Allerdice High School, whose church the Community of Reconciliation Ecumenical Church was helping the Pittsburgh Presby Group to gather materials for these black churches. I took Mr. Nelson and an Attorney from the Presby group to see the pews where they were stored in Rochester. They were surprised how beautiful the pews and the lights were.

It was determined that it would cost about \$1800.00 to ship our things plus a few other items collected in Pittsburgh. I informed them that we had no funds and referred them to the Jewish Federation who were collecting funds to help fire razed churches in the South. However, their funds had already been sent to the National Council of Churches in New York. The Presby Group went about seeking a mover. They finally found a mover who through the Presby Group volunteered to do the hauling. They had a load going to Alabama but our storage company was not cooperative and the first shipment was missed thereby causing us an extra month of storage. (Mort Cohen knows of this)

After eight phone calls back and forth to Mort, he finally got our storage man to be receptive to the new date for pick up which was a week ths past Monday.

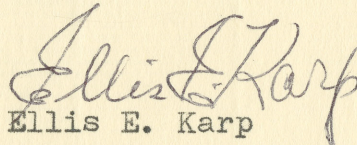
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Our pews and lights were sent and received by The Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Boligee, Alabama whose Pastor Arthur Coleman is ever so grateful. I spoke with him and he sends his sincere thanks. His church is now rebuilt and a picture of it is on pages 110 and 114 of the September issue of EBONY magazine.

It was my pleasure to deal with Jon Nelson, who went out of his way many times to contact me and to help in completing this act of charity.

I want to especially thank Mort Cohen for his help and for the many phone calls to me.


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