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Southwest Digest

December 31, 1998 thru January 4, 1999

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An Independent Pictorial Newspaper for All People • Primarily Serving the Black Population of Lubbock County and the Surrounding Area • Black Press of America

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. Military Denies Murdering Black Soldiers

The U.S. Army has officially denied charges that it murdered 1,250 out of 3,000 troublesome Black soldiers on a military training base in Mississippi during the fall of 1943. The allegations were made by author Carroll Case in his book "The Slaughter: An American Atrocity," released in August.

Responding to request for an investigation from the NAACP and Congressman Bernie Thompson (D-Miss.), Army Secretary Louis Caldera, in a letter to NAACP CEO Kweisi Mfume, stated, "We have examined a sizable portion of the records, and we have found nothing that supports Mr. Case's allegations."

According to Case, for 13 years he was unable to get the records from the Army because he was told "they were destroyed in a fire." The book states that 1,250 members of the all-Black 364th Infantry

Regiment, stationed at Camp Van Dorn in southwestern Mississippi, were machine-gunned, loaded onto boxcars and carried to mass graves. He says the victims' families were notified that they died in the "line of duty." The book is based on eyewitness accounts, declassified government files and missing records.

The NAACP is not satisfied with the Army's investigation and is calling for "a more thorough and impartial investigation of this alleged incident."

Critics Say Tobacco Deal Ignores Global Problems

A \$206-billion settlement unveiled by major U.S. tobacco companies will go toward paying for the health costs of smokers in the United States, but critics argue it will not help the new pool of smokers worldwide.

Analysts of international tobacco sales contend that the settlement announced between four tobacco giants R.J.R. Nabisco, Philip Morris, Brown and Williamson and Lorillard and eight U.S. states does little to deal with the main problem: the huge expansion by those companies in overseas cigarette sales.

"There is not a single international tobacco-control measure in this deal," says Robert Weissman, co-director of Essential Action, a Washington-based group which opposes the big tobacco firms. "The attorneys-general who are backing this are making a mistake."

"It is irresponsible of the attorneys-general to let big tobacco (firms) off the hook," adds Karen Licavoli, associate executive director of the American Lung Association of San Francisco. "Any settlement must protect public health both in the United States and abroad."

The deal's defenders contend that the settlement will provide money to states the largest amount given in a civil suit ever to help those states recoup money spent on health care for people suffering from lung cancer, emphysema and other smoking-related ailments.

Court Hears Case For Homosexual Marriage

Three gay couples brought a suit before the Vermont Supreme Court on Nov. 18 as the campaign to legalize homosexual marriages gathered steam in the United States.

The case, which will take months to settle, began with one judge, Denise Johnson, pondering the issues of "Why are people being excluded from a marriage license here?"

Beth Robinson, the lawyer for the couples, urged the state Supreme Court to follow the lead of California's Supreme Court, which in 1988 lifted an interracial marriage ban and prompted other states to follow.

Yet, the chances for winning gay marriages in the Vermont case remained mixed. In the Nov. 3 elections, voters in both Hawaii and Alaska backed measures to ban gay marriages by two-to-one margins, reversing decisions by courts in both states which would have made them legal.

The Assistant Attorney General Eve Jacobs-Carnahan argued that if the couples want to have their marriages recognized, they should take it up with the state legislature and not with the courts. Having the courts redefine marriage "would eliminate the safe harbor for the legislature about where it can operate, where it can legislate without looking over its shoulder" to the courts, she argued.

President Clinton and First Lady Commemorate Human Rights Day

On December 10, 1998, President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton commemorated Human Rights Day in a ceremony at the Old Executive Office Building. The President announced a number of new policy initiatives to advance human rights at home and abroad.

During the event, President Clinton also awarded Rep. John Lewis the

Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights for being at the vanguard of civil rights struggle. From Freedom Rides to the House of Representatives, he has educated and mobilized generations of Americans in the crusade against injustice.

From left to right are: President William J. Clinton, Rep. John Lewis, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.



Avis Williams - A Very Inspirational Person for the Reading Blue Devils

Avis Williams is a special lady to the Blue Devils Football Team. Each Thursday she brings cookies to the team and gathers with them in prayer. She does this out of love for "God's children." Her reason for doing this is to let them know that God loves them and is always with them - in all places - football, school and at home. She started this four years ago when the Lord put it in her heart to pray with the boys on the team each week to give encouragement, protection and unity. The main objective was to help the boys understand they should seek Him first, glorify Him and not themselves, the coach or the school. God will always be there for Avis' son Marcus is very proud of his mom. A senior on the Blue Devil team, he realizes that children draw near her wherever she is. The boys on the team love to give Avis a hug. Some parents find this strange that their son will not hug them (they are too grown up) but will give Avis one.

Avis has written several poems, one called "God's Got Your Back" and "Huddle Up With Jesus." These



poems help inspire the team as well. Avis also gives her time a church, she is a Minister of Music at Beyond The Veil of Christian Fellowship in Bond Hill. Some of the players have even attended church with her. Avis takes her Christian values with her wherever she goes. She is a shining example on the field, in the community and in person. Coach Ken Minor calls her the "Spiritual Coach." Another person stated that AVIS stands for

"A Very Inspirational Saint." It seems appropriate.

(Editor's Note: This article appeared in the Valley Courier, November 11, 1998. It is about Avis Elise Patterson-Williams, the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. (Bobbie) Patterson of Lubbock, Texas. She was a graduate of Dunbar High School and also attended Texas Tech University. She resides in Hamilton, Ohio.)

Black Mayors Prepare For New Leadership Roles

Atlanta, Georgia -- The National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM) is making plans to hold their 11th Annual Leadership Institute for Mayors (LIM) on December 11th through 14th at the Eden Roc Resort & Spa in Miami Beach, Florida.

"EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES" is the theme of LIM98. Member mayors of NCBM who attend the Leadership Institute (LIM98) will take advantage of the leadership skills and techniques shared by other mayors as well as a team of corporate and governmental service professionals who gather each year to participate in this learning experience.

The Honorable Carrie Meek, member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the 17th Congressional District [D-Florida], and Theodore Mastroianni, Associate Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, will open LIM98 at the Friday (12/11/98) opening session. Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Dean of the School of Continuing Education at Florida Memorial College, Past President of NCBM and former mayor of Opa-locka, Florida, will introduce Congresswoman Meek. Other notable speakers on the Institute's agenda include Winston Smith, AT&T; Dr. Gloria Mixon, Clark Atlanta University; George Springer, Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees; John Rosenthal, Environmental Counsel for NCBM;

Lorenzo Wilson, American Express; Robert Rice, L & R Telecomputer Services; Annie Ruth Brown, Florida Memorial College and other member mayors of NCBM. Mayor Gordon D. Bush, President of NCBM and Mayor of East St. Louis, Illinois, will be on hand to address the participants upon their graduation from the Institute on Monday, December 14th.

Over the past eleven years, the Leadership Institute has evolved into NCBM's premier training forum. LIM faculty consists of both academicians and practitioners who share their expertise and strategies with newly-elected mayors in order to prepare them for their role as chief executive officers of local governments and to provide in-service training for mayors currently in office.

Contributions from AT&T, Philip Morris Companies Inc., AFSCME, American Federation of Teachers and Laborers International Union of North America provide funding for LIM98. Mayors who complete this training receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from Florida Memorial College.

The National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that has provided technical and management assistance to its membership for more than twenty-four years. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, NCBM has a membership of 438 mayors whose constituents include more than twenty million citizens.

An Evening With Joe Williams To Take Place At The Majestic Theatre

An Evening With Joe Williams To Take Place At The Majestic Theatre On Saturday January 9, 1999 beginning at 7 pm will unfold a wonderful evening with legendary jazz and blues singer Joe Williams. He will be on stage at the Majestic Theatre to render the melodious sounds of his hits at a benefit concert for the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts, Inc. The foundation was generously donated a building to carry out the dreams of arts on stage and visually displayed to benefit South Dallas and beyond. However, taking one step at a time, the building is in need of roofing repair and renovation to carry on programming presentations. Mr. Joe Williams agreed to spend an evening with Dallas-Fort Worth to benefit the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts to help meet its needs.

Joe Williams brings with him some of the finest talent and music he himself has made classic. His

voice is of such pure resonating quality that makes him an original for which there is no copy for, to meet the fun, sensual baritone that emanates only from Joe Williams. After the holidays, plan on a sophisticated evening with a mature audience, celebrating the legendary blues and jazz of Joe Williams at the Majestic Theatre in Dallas. Tickets will be on sale at Ticketmaster locations beginning on December 9. Opening for the legendary Joe Williams will be the Meeks 5 featuring veteran jazz musician and composer Steven Meeks rounding out this special evening on January 9, 1999, so plan on spending an Evening With Joe Williams. Major proceeds will go toward a capital campaign to renovate the future home of the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts. An Evening with Joe Williams is graciously sponsored by ProLine Corporation, the Office of Cultural Affairs and American Airlines.

United Negro College Fund's Entertainment Special (left to right) Tom Joyner, Jasmine Guy, Debbie Allen and Lou Rawls will serve as co-hosts of the United Negro College Fund's television special, "An Evening of Stars - A Celebration of Educational Excellence", airing in most markets January 9, 1999 (check your local listings for date and time). The nationally syndicated special will feature top celebrity talent including Celine Dion, Stevie Wonder, Ashford and Simpson, Brian McKnight, Boyz II Men, Freddie Jackson and other celebrity guests. The show will also feature compelling stories of success featuring UNCF students and alumni. Tune in for a great night of entertainment.



Ruby Jay's Corner



New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 Birch Avenue, is the "Church Where The People Really Care." and Rev. Billy R. Moton is the proud pastor. If you are looking for a Church home, come and visit New Hope.

Services began last Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School and Superintendent Virgil Johnson at his post of duty presiding. All members were in their various classrooms and giving instruction for thirty minutes. At 10:15 a.m., all classes and teachers reassembled in the main auditorium marching and singing "Blessed Assurance." Prayer was given, and highpoint of the morning lesson were given by the Adult Department.

Secretary's Report was given by Sister Lucille Jackson. This was her last Sunday serving as secretary. Oh, how we will miss her. Pray about it, Lucille. See what you will come up with.

Youth Department: Senior Class received both banners. Adult Department: Adult Class No. 1 received the Attendance Banner, and Adult Class No. 4 received the Offering Banner.

There was one visitor in Sunday School last Sunday morning.

Brother Clarence Ervin and Sister Octavia Givens were in charge of the morning devotional period.

The Senior Choir marched in the processional singing God's praises. Altar prayer was offered by Rev. Jeff Brown. Another song, "Jesus, What A Wonderful Child", was sung. The morning scripture was Psalms 146 and was read by Sister Annie Taylor. Sister Mattie Beaty gave a fervent prayer. There was another song sung. Responsive reading was done with congregation standing, and led by Sister Joan Y. Ervin. The morning hymn was "Walk With Me."

Pastor Moton gave his pastoral observation. It was very good as usual. Another song, "He Will Do It For You," was sung. The hymn of preparation was "Near The Cross."

Pastor Moton's sermon was entitled "The Power of Praises and Worship." His scripture text was II Chronicles 20:14-25. It was powerful message.

Brother and Sister Harry Stokley were proud to have their grandson, Rev. E. Toines, present.

Sister Nelda Hibbler read the morning announcements while Sister Ida Johnson welcomed all visitors. Brother H.C. Brock spoke words about the opening the South Plains Funeral Home in the 1700 block of East Broadway Avenue. Watch for the opening.

Ethel Blake lost her nephew last week. Let us keep her in our prayers.

Grave side services were held last week for Otis McKnight.

Sister James Emma Jackson has a very sick nephew in Garland, Texas. She desires your prayers.

This writer, Ruby Jay, wants to thank each of you for your love and kindness at Christmas time. You were so sweet. Here is wishing you a wonderful New Year!

We should thank Mr. T. J. Patterson for his concern about those persons who are jail house prisoners. You don't find too many T. J. Pattersons in Lubbock, Texas. Men and women, listen to him. He's trying to help you!

Ten Free Flowering Trees From Arbor Day Foundation

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 1999.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The ten trees are 2 White Flowering Dogwoods, 2 Flowering Crabapples, 2 Golden Rain trees, 2 Washington Hawthorns, and 2 American Redbuds.

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," John Rosenow, the Foundation's president, said. "They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers — and also provide winter berries and nesting sites for song-


birds."

The trees will be shipped post-paid at the right time for planting between February 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 1999.

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South Plains Valley Irrigation Named Valley@ President's Circle of Success Winner



Drug Companies are Testing New Medicines for AIDS

The good news is that innovative medicines helped cut U.S. deaths from AIDS nearly in half last year. The bad news is that more and more people are becoming infected every year. AIDS is still the leading killer of young African American men and the second leading killer of young African American women.

The African American community needs to step up education and prevention efforts, to tell young people how to protect themselves from this disease. It's not rocket science. Through abstinence or safe sex and through refraining from intravenous drug use, people can avoid getting infected.

Meanwhile, it's comforting to know that 54 medicines are currently available to treat AIDS and related conditions and that pharmaceutical companies are developing 113 additional medicines. These medicines in testing include:

- 37 antivirals, including several "second generation" protease inhibitors. Protease inhibitors, used in combination with other medicines, have proven highly effective against the AIDS virus. The new medicines may enable patients to take fewer pills.
- 24 medicines to treat such AIDS-related cancers as lymphoma and Kaposi's sarcoma, which

affects some 12,000 people each year.

- 16 medicines to fight the opportunistic infections that attack the weakened immune systems of AIDS patients.
- 12 vaccines, including one now in human clinical trials.

There's also good news about infected mothers and their babies. Studies have found that treating HIV-positive pregnant women with an anti-viral drug can greatly reduce the chances that the babies will be born with the virus. The finding holds true even when the women have advanced AIDS. Still, it's a pity for even one baby to be born with this handicap, and, worldwide, half a million babies are born each year infected with the AIDS virus.

Through education and prevention, we can help prevent new cases of HIV infection. And the 113 new medicines and vaccines in development offer hope that, one day, we may be able to prevent or cure this terrible disease.

For a copy of "New Medicines in Development for AIDS," see PhRMA's website: <http://www.phrma.org>

Larry Lucas is Associate Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

Valley, N.E., Valmont Valley Clinic Manager. Valmont Irrigation places a great deal of value in our dealer network. Customer survey consistently shows that the excellence of our dealer, has made Valley the leader in all categories of sales and customer service. We're very pleased to congratulate South Plains Valley Irrigation for their superior customer service and leadership" says Eiting.

Valmont Irrigation is the world's leading manufacturer of mechanized irrigation equipment and technology. Valmont introduced the first center pivot, the first corner arm and the first computer control technology to the mechanized irrigation industry. Today Valley products enhance food production while conserving and protecting natural resources in more than 100 countries.

Greg Biram, accepted the award for South Plains Valley Irrigation at Valmont's national sales meeting, held October 14-17 in San Antonio, Texas, where Valley dealers learned about the newest technology and state-of-the-art thinking in mechanized irrigation equipment, including the new Valley Precision Corner™ and the

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Have a Safe and prosperous New Year GOD BLESS!!

Obituary

Meridian News



Lester Jay Mooring

Seaside, California — (Special) Lester Jo Mooring, a 30 year Monterey County resident, died Thursday, December 10, 1998, at her Seaside home. She was 60.

Born July 4, 1938, in Kaufman, Texas, she was a housekeeper who loved to cook, knit and spend time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Mooring is survived by two daughters, Debra Green and Patricia Robinson, both of Seaside, California; three sons: Robert and George Mooring, both of Seaside, California, and Lafayette Lott of Denver, Colorado; four brothers: Lester Ward of Salinas, California, Roy Soder and William Ward, both of Lubbock, Texas, and Tony Ward

of Houston, Texas; three sisters: Charlene Johnson, Aline Ward and Shirley Booker, all of Seaside, California; 14 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Final rites were held Thursday, December 17, 1998, at the Chapel of Seaside Funeral Directors.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to the American Heart Association, 1514 Moffett Street, Salinas, California 93905.

Army Reserve Spec. Eric O. Walker has entered basic military training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Bronze-Bonds To 19th Century African Americans Who Went For Freedom

At the July 15 opening event celebrating the memorial to African Americans who served with the Union forces during the Civil War, William H. Still of New York State was wearing a T-shirt bearing the names of several Still men who enlisted on the side of Uncle Sam and freedom.

A great grandson of Black aboli-

tionist and underground railroad agent William Still, he is a member of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society and corresponding secretary of Philadelphia's General Vigilance Committee.

Through Still's pre-Civil War Philadelphia passed individual and group voyagers: women, children, and men, including runaway slave Henry Box Brown, who had himself placed in a box for an overland trip from Richmond, Va., to the city of brotherly love. When Brown, wet and weary, was delivered to the Anti-Slavery Office, Still was one of the four gentlemen who greeted him.

Fugitives like Brown came from Virginia; Maryland; Delaware; Washington, D.C.; North Carolina; South Carolina; Georgia and beyond. Travel guidance, cash gratuities, complimentary bed, bath, and meals were most often a part of the package offered by William Still and his fellow abolitionists.

In 1872, after the bloody U.S. Civil War, which many free and self-emancipated men of color helped to win, author William Still had the following work published: *The Underground Railroad: A Record of Facts, Authentic Narratives, Letters, &c., Narrating the Hardships, Hair-breadth Escapes and Death Struggles of the Slaves in their efforts for Freedom, as Related by Themselves and Others, or Witnessed by the Author; together with Sketches of some of the Largest Stockholders, and Most Liberal Aiders and Advisers of the Road.*

The book had a lengthy title and a lofty aim. William Still hoped his book, naming escaped slaves, would help reunite families, geographically challenged by a sinister system. Still dedicated his book to the "friends of freedom, to heroic fugitives and their posterity in the United States...."

In 1991, Frank Smith, Jr., councilman for the District of Columbia's Ward 1, suggested a more tangible honor: a Civil War Memorial commemorating African Americans (and their White officers) who served in the United States Colored Troops (USCCT). This idea was later broadened to include African Americans who served in the Union forces, which included the U.S. Navy.

During the eight weeks of training, the soldier will study the Army mission and will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, Army history and traditions, and special training in human relations.

Walker is the son of Earnest C. and Johnnie L. Walker of 237 Birch Ave., Lubbock, Texas.

He graduated in 1993 from Dunbar High School, Lubbock, and received a bachelor's degree in 1997

from Talladega College, Ala.

Army Pvt. Joseph W. Wallace has entered basic military training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the training, the soldier will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, map reading, tactics, military customs and courtesies, physical fitness, and first aid.

Wallace is the son of Barbara I. Wallace of 9306 Elgin, and Don W. Wallace of 2518 Marshall, both of Lubbock, Texas.

In 1998, he graduated from Lubbock High School.



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END OF GAME NOTICE



Three of the Texas Lottery's instant games are coming to a close: Double Roll, Lucky Frog and Lone Star Millionaire. Lone Star Millionaire closes on January 1, 1999, and you can redeem any winning tickets until June 30, 1999. Double Roll and Lucky Frog close on January 30, 1999, and you can redeem any winning tickets until July 29, 1999. You can win up to \$5,000

playing Double Roll, up to \$1,000 playing Lucky Frog and up to \$5,000 playing Lone Star Millionaire. You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Just call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).



A small odds of winning Double Roll, 1 in 1.00
Overall odds of winning Lucky Frog, 1 in 4.00
Overall odds of winning Lone Star Millionaire, 1 in 1.00

Must be 18 years or older to play. ©1998 Texas Lottery



Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS N THAT

SCHOOL BOARD PREXY SAYS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT! THIS N THAT ... was present last Sunday afternoon at the monthly meeting of the ... FEDERATION OF CHOIRS ... when the Lubbock School Board president ... MARK GRIFFIN ... addressed the large group ... He said "DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE SCHOOLS IN THE AREA ... i.e. ... ELIA ILES ELEMENTARY ... DUNBAR JUNIOR HIGH ... and ... ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOLS ... as they can only ... BECOME STRONGER" ... He told the group ... NONE OF THE SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSING ... THIS N THAT ... is happy he came by to advise this body of ... CONCERNED CITIZENS ... Anyway ... he did admit he had received many calls and letters ... when a school board member made an unpopular comment about ... ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL ... THIS N THAT ... would advise all concern to be aware of our schools ... and don't just sit back and look ... but rather ... GET INVOLVED ... MR. GRIFFIN ... says he has the ... GAVEL ... so let's keep our eyes open as well as our ears ... You know ... it would be very positive ... if some of us would start frequenting ... LUBBOCK SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS ... this coming year ...

WILL BE MISSED! THIS N THAT ... as well as others will miss a local ... radio personality ... BIG ED WILKES ... He was funeralized last week here ... He had made one of our ... MARCHES AGAINST DRUGS AND GANGS ... and we appreciated his concern ... He will be missed! ...

SHIRLEY CANADY THE BARBER SAID: "A THOUSAND FRIENDS ... are too few ... ONE ENEMY ... is one too many" ...

BROTHER CURTIS NEEDS YOUR HELP! THIS N THAT ... heard a very dedicated man ... speak from his heart last Sunday afternoon also at Federation of Choirs ... Teared eyes ... BROTHER CURTIS ... asked for help from the congregation of singers and directors ... to join him in making sure there will be a ... LARGE MASS CHOIR ... for this year's ... MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION ... "PEOPLE, HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING, I NEED YOUR HELP!" ... If you want to help ... BROTHER SAMUEL CURTIS ... you can do so by being present for the next practice ... which will be held the second Friday ... in January, 1999 ... actually ... JANUARY 8, 1999 ... beginning at 7:00 p. m. at the Lyons Chapel Baptist Church ... You don't have to be able to sing ... if you can talk ... then you can sing ... that is ... according to ... BROTHER SAMUEL CURTIS ... WILL YOU BE THERE!! ...

DID I KNOW? EMPTY WORDS ... WILL NOT FILL AN ... EMPTY STOMACH!" ...

"I BELIEVE I CAN FLY!" THIS N THAT ... advises that the theme for the upcoming ... BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ... for the late ... DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ... is ... "I BELIEVE I CAN FLY..." ... BISHOP ALFRED LLOYD NORRIS ... will be the guest speaker for ... SUNDAY AFTERNOON ... January 17, 1998 ... at 5:00 p.m. ... More on this in the near future ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR! THIS N THAT ... would like to take this opportunity ... and wish each of you a very ... HAPPY NEW YEAR! MAY YOU HAVE A VERY EXCITING .. 1999!!

Racism Is Alive and Well ...

By Bernice Powell Jackson

Every so often I write about racism and how it is incarnated in these last days of the 20th century because too often I hear people say that racism is dead, a thing of the past. The following stories recently were reported in various newspapers and magazines. They tell a different story.

First, the story of racism in the civic and public world. On Labor Day, while others in the nation celebrated workers, two New York City firemen from Staten Island chose to wear blackface on their parade float. They also depicted the dragging death of James Byrd, Jr. last spring in Jasper, TX as a part of their float. How could a brutal murder ever be funny? While some people in the community did believe that the float was in poor taste, the fact that these firemen thought it was acceptable humor and that former floats were similar, shows that the community had not found it unacceptable in the past. The two firemen were eventually dismissed from their jobs.

Then there is the story of racism in the marketplace. It's the story of the court case against Nationwide Insurance Company, which was ordered to pay \$100.5 million in damages to a Richmond housing group which accused Nationwide of refusing to sell homeowner insurance to black residents. Over the summer Nationwide had refused a \$20 million out-of-court settlement proposed by the group, offering to pay \$265,000 instead. It seems that nationwide made the

wrong decision — again. The housing group had telephoned Nationwide agents in Richmond, a city which is 55% African American, requesting coverage for a new house, saying alternately that the house was in a white neighborhood or a black one. Getting coverage was never a problem in the white communities and often a problem in the black ones. If they did succeed in getting a Nationwide policy for a house in an African American neighborhood, they had to pay more for it. In addition, the lawyers for the housing group were able to quote from Nationwide's own documents, advising its agents to "avoid black urbanite households with many children."

This was the first of many complaints by housing groups against insurers to go to court. Similar cases have already been settled out of court with the American Family Mutual Insurance Company in Milwaukee for \$14.5 million and with Nationwide in Toledo, OH for \$5.3 million.

And then there's racism in the workplace. African American employees of Ford Motor Credit Company's Maryland service center are suing for \$660 million, claiming discrimination in hiring, evaluation and promotion of workers. Black workers said that they were asked to train new white employees, only to have them pass them in pay and position. African American workers also said in their complaint that they were more harshly treated for minor infractions. When workers tried to address their problems, including the lack of African American man-



agers, they allegedly were told by a supervisor that they could leave if they didn't like the way the place was run. This case hasn't been decided yet, we'll see what happens. Racism in public places. Racism in the marketplace. Racism in the workplace. Yes, racism is yet alive and well.

Novelist George Lamming Receives Langston Hughes Award

Washington, D.C. — Barbadian novelist George Lamming, currently lecturing in literature as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at the City University of New York (CUNY), received the 1998 Langston Hughes Festival Award recently for his distinguished contributions to arts and letters. The Langston Hughes Medal and a check for \$1,000 were awarded to Lamming at CUNY's City College by its president, Yolanda Moses.

Lamming said of the award and his program in the United States: "To be a Fulbright scholar as well as an honoree of the Langston Hughes Award is a remarkable marriage of distinctions, and I appreciate the honor which such an occasion bestows. The assignment to City College and the Institute for Research on the

All We Need To Contribute To A Happy, Healthy Prosperous 1999



Hope you and yours had a happy, prosperous and Merry Christmas, and hoping all of you will have a Happy New Year!

We saw Ken Starr over play a winning hand by letting partisanship, hatred, and out to get the President by prolonging, over spending, and making a fool of himself by showing hatred and out to get him. He started with a winning hand, but over played it.

Partism and hatred surfaced in the House of Representatives when they got so carried away and went on a full fledged witch hunt at any cost. They over played their hands by relaxing on Ken Starr's porno novel diary. Then Lady Chatterly's Lovers which were way over blown for legal documents.

We hope and pray the Washington elected persons will turn their agenda to America and the American people which includes health care, homeless, child care, jobs and best interest of America and the American people.

The later part of 1998 was riddled with negative partisanship politics on the national level. Thank God we live in Texas where this is not the norm. Texas politicians basically work together on a non-partism level, but for the

people and interest of the people of Texas especially the West Texas elected officials.

But as far as the national dog and pony show, it's a big difference on the national level beginning with the Clinton situation. When it was Clinton, it was adultery, but when "Hustler" publisher Larry Flynt offered the million dollar bounty, a lot of people begin to run scared. So far, at last report, he had 12 under his eye and they were mostly Republicans, that is, 11 and only one Democrat. It is believed this number is growing. There are a lot of people running scared. Some are being identified as many pushers of impeachment. This goes back to the old saying: "He who is Without sin, let him cast the first stone, and he who lives in a glass watch how he cast stones, because what goes up will come back down." Four of the Republican Congressmen who voted for impeachment are now pushing for censure.

A funny thing has happened. When it was Clinton, adultery was the buzz word. But now with the shoe on the other foot, it youthful indeterminate. So they are saying, "let's not use or bring family into this matter. It's just funny how things change when the shoe is on the other foot."

Happy New Year and may God bless each and everyone of you in 1999!

THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

I recently appeared on the Barry Fauntleroy Show on WLIB radio, New York's Black talk station, where we discussed the Independence Party - which is becoming a major force in New York politics at the same time that the Black community is becoming a major force in Independence.

Independence became a ballot-qualified party - meaning it achieved a legal status putting it on a par with the Democrats and Republicans - in 1994. Since that time I have been registering thousands of Black voters into Independence. We are presently over 10% of the party's statewide membership, and close to 35% of its membership in New York City. Partnering with other groups inside the party, who share a vision of rank and file democracy for the party and the country, a coalition was created which took control at a State Convention held in September.

Why is this important to us as Black people? A look at three characteristics, that we as a people have, provides some answers. What are those characteristics? We are practical; We are America's conscience. And we are conflicted about whether and how much to participate in mainstream institutions that are not - strictly speaking "Black."

First, our practicality. It's no accident that it was Cuba Gooding, Jr. - playing the Black star athlete in Jerry McGuire - who said, "Show me the money." Black people are poor, discouraged and have been misled many times. We want to see the practical side of things. This is true for us in politics as it often is in life. I have been advocating for a Black split from the Democratic Party since the early 1980's, the same point at which I believe the Democrats began to take our votes for granted and abuse our loyalty. I ran for President twice - as an independent - specifical-



ly for the purpose of stimulating interest in creating an independent option, an independent party, among Black voters. Though the practical thing to do was to leave the Democratic Party, many saw it as impractical until a new party - a new place to go - had been created. Now it has. In New York, it's the Independence Party.

Secondly, we are the conscience of America. Sometimes, we'd prefer not to be. From the bitter and violent struggle to end slavery to the bitter (and still violent, in spite of our non-violence) struggle to end segregation and racial discrimination, we have been the independent movement for greater democracy and inclusion. The Republicans, a third party at the time it elected Abraham Lincoln, and then the Democrats incorporated our movements against slavery and for civil rights. We mobilize America's greatest impulses - for social justice, economic fairness and political democracy - and are often the victims of America's worst impulses - hatred, violence, and myth. We have repeatedly been the engine for social transformation and the development of political parties. I hope we will be so again. Right now polls show that 44% of African Americans between the ages of 18 and 35 consider themselves political independents. I have built the Independence Party - and the Reform Party at a national level in order for them to have a place to go, to be independent.

African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean has allowed me to share in a great diversity of cultural discourse among people of the same ancestral roots and this is a most invaluable experience." Born near Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados, Lamming uses literature to highlight the history of colonialism in the Caribbean region. His novels include "In the Castle of My Skin" (1953), "The Emigrants" (1954), "Of Age and Innocence" (1958), and "Season of Adventure" (1960). His collection of essays, "The Pleasures of Exile" (1963), explores the writer's alienation and migration, as well as the psychological and cultural impact of colonialism.

Each year, since 1973, the Langston Hughes Festival at City College has paid tribute to a writer who has made a distin-

guished contribution to the arts and letters in the tradition of Langston Hughes. Past honorees include James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Toni Morrison, Ralph Ellison, Alice Walker, August Wilson, Ishmael Reed, and Nikki Giovanni.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency, was established in 1946 "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries." Named for its sponsor, the late Sen. J. William Fulbright, the program is the U.S. government's premier international educational exchange program. Grants are awarded on the basis of academic merit to U.S. students, teachers, and scholars and to foreign citizens to study, teach, lecture, and conduct research.

Pianist's New Album Is Released

Pianist Marcus Roberts rediscovered the ragtime style of American composer Scott Joplin in his new Sony Classical recording *The Joy of Joplin* (SK 60554). This new collection features Roberts' unique interpretations of eight classic Joplin pieces as well as eight original compositions that were inspired by primarily by Joplin's. *The Joy of Joplin* was released November 3.

Roberts' *The Joy of Joplin* brings a new dimension to the music of Scott Joplin (1868-1917), the definitive and hugely popular composer of ragtime music and the first African-American composer to have his work published. Using improvisation to explore the music, Roberts has created imaginative new treatments of Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag," "The Entertainer," "Bethena's Waltz," "Easy Winners," "Gladiolus Rag," "Magnetic Rag," "Elite Syncopations" and a unique version of "A Real Slow Drag," the final ensemble number in Joplin's opera *Treemonisha*, which the Roberts devised by ear from listening to a recording of the opera.

To celebrate the impact of this music, Roberts created eight new pieces of his own that blend Joplin's ragtime style with European classical music and the sounds of 20th-

century blues and swing. His influences range from ragtime to Ravel and Debussy, Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk.

Two selections from *The Joy of Joplin* will be heard on the soundtrack of the PBS documentary series *I'll Make Me a World - A Century of African-American Arts*, for which Roberts is also composing original music. The series is scheduled for broadcast February 1, 2 and 3, from 9-11 P.M. (EST) (check local listings).

The popularity of Scott Joplin's music in his lifetime can be measured by the fact that his "Maple Leaf Rag" was the first piece of sheet music ever to sell over a million copies. Though Joplin's music has always been played, a serious revival of interest in ragtime began in the late 1960s, bringing new attention to Joplin's work and enhancing his reputation as a composer. The Oscar-winning film *The Sting*, scored entirely with Joplin rags and waltzes, created a new generation of Joplin fans just as he was belatedly winning recognition as one of the most influential composers in American music.



Three years later the Joplin was awarded a special posthumous Pulitzer Prize for his contributions to American music.

Marcus Roberts' previous Sony Classical release was *Portraits in Blue* (SK/ST/SM 68488), in which Roberts presented new interpretations of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Variations of "I Got Rhythm", as well as James P. Johnson's *Yankee Doodle*.

The Sony Classical Listening Station at www.sonyclassical.com is a resource for exploring the label's entire catalogue of recordings. The site features a listening station with sound clips from new releases, an online radio show, album Superites, multimedia, artist biographies, tour schedules and discographies, special promotions, and much more.

"State of the Arts" License Plate Becomes Texas's Top-Selling Speciality Plate

AUSTIN, Texas - Texans love this state. And, they show their pride every chance they get. According to figures from the Texas Department of Transportation, the "State of the Arts" license plate has surpassed the standard personalized license plate as Texas' fastest selling speciality plate.

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA), which developed the State of the Arts plate as a means of raising money to promote the Texas Cultural Endowment Fund, sold on average 456 plates per month from December 1997 through October 1998. Texans purchased on average 299 personalized plates over the same period. TCA has sold more than 13,800 plates since the State of the Arts plate was introduced in 1995.

You have probably seen the plate. It resembles the Texas state flag with a white star embedded in a blue background, the word "Texas" and the five-character license plate number in the white stripe, and "State of the Arts" written across the bottom in the red stripe.

"Although the plate was developed to help support the arts and culture of Texas, we realize that many of the purchases are made because of the plate design itself," said Gaye Grever McElwain, TCA's administrator of marketing. "Texas is a state filled with extremely proud citizens, and anything that symbolizes our pride - in this case, a license plate that resembles the Texas flag - is highly popular."

To help offset public contributions to the arts, the Texas Cultural Endowment Fund was established in 1993 under house bill 2223 as a public/private initiative to provide TCA with a stable funding source for the enhancement of the performing, visual and literary arts, as well as art education.

TCA hopes to raise \$200 million for the Fund by 2005 from a variety of sources, including the license plate program. If TCA can achieve this goal, it will allow the Commission to be financially independent, ending the need for taxpayer dollars. The \$200-million Fund also would boost Texas' per capita spending from the current \$18 to \$52. Texas ranks 55th among the 50 states and six U.S. territories in per capita spending on the arts.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the number of Texans interested

in the plate," said John Paul Earle, TCA's executive director. "Our job is to encourage all Texans and visitors to experience what our state has to offer in terms of art and culture, and our license plate program has provided a highly successful financial mechanism to continue our efforts."

The State of the Arts speciality plates are available for \$25 each (\$20 goes to promote the Texas Cultural Endowment Fund and \$5 reimburses the Texas Department of Transportation's cost to produce the plate). For an additional \$40, Texans may personalize the speciality plates, using up to five characters.

For more information or to order the State of the Arts license plate,



Texans can call 1-800-252-9415 or log on to TCA's Web site at www.arts.state.tx.us.

TCA was organized in 1965 by the Texas Legislature to develop a receptive climate for the arts in Texas. TCA provides funding and other supportive measures, such as arts education and cultural tourism programs, for a variety of arts-related activities, including visual and literary arts, film and multi-media, music, dance and theater.

The IRS's Best-Kept Secret

A little known IRS tax code provision offers 100 percent health insurance and medical expense deduction. The United States Congress has moved forward in leveling the playing field between large corporations and self-employed Americans by raising the tax deduction for health insurance premiums to 100 percent for the self-employed by the year 2007. But what many self-employed - including the American Farmer and Rancher - don't realize is that they are missing out on a little known tax code provision that could already be saving them thousands of dollars.

In 1954 the Internal Revenue Service put into place section 105 of the IRS Code which offers a 100 percent tax deduction of family medical expenses to qualified self-employed small business owners. The Code has remained a well-kept secret, but Americans facing the increased cost of quality health care are looking into tax savings offered by a section 105 plan.

These section 105 plans are best suited for the solo proprietor, who has a spouse that is or could be active in the business, and has less than three full time employees. Other business types including some small corporations may qualify.

Section 105 plan users receive the deduction by reimbursing the spouse-employee for family medical expenses and deducting the full amount as a business expense. Plan users may realize tax savings of \$1500 to \$3000 and sometimes even more when the program is followed correctly.

"Section 105 programs offer some of the best tax planning and tax savings available to sole-proprietors employing their spouse," says Michelle Burton, president of The Verde Group, A small business solutions company that offers a section 105 plan to its clients.

As with all tax laws, there are IRS, Dept. of Labor and ERISA compliance issues to be considered. For this reason, tax professionals and small business consulting companies are employing the service of a third party administrator to efficiently enroll their clients in this tax savings program.

For more information about the Section 105 plan write to the VERDE GROUP at P.O. Box 11190, Fort Worth, TX 76110 or call 888-323-8351

JUNETEENTH INFORMATION

Texas has once again made history in being the first and only state to establish a Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission. During the 75th Legislative Session, House Bill 1216, sponsored by Rep. Al Edwards of Houston, was signed into law by Gov. George W. Bush. Thereby creating the Texas Emancipation Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission. The Commission consists of six commissioners appointed by Gov. Bush of which one being Eddie P. Richardson of Lubbock, Texas; two state senators appointed by Lt. Governor Bob Bullock; two house of representatives appointed by Speaker Pete Laney, and the executive director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The purpose of the Texas Emancipation Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission is to erect monuments and markers, raise funds, establish a national Emancipation Cultural and Historical Museum, and establish a headquarters. In addition, the Commission was also established to develop effective historical and cultural programs, educate citizens on the effects and significance of emancipation, and develop leaders and role models for the citizens of Texas.

Anyone interested can be a part of the local activities. Here are the meeting dates you may look forward to: November 9, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7 and 14.

All meetings will be held at Mac Simmons Senior Citizens Center, beginning at 7:00 p. m. Everyone interested in making a positive contribution to this program is invited to attend and bring their ideas and input.

All area and South Plains Juneteenth Programs are urged to contact Commissioner Richardson at 902 E. 28th St., Lubbock, Texas or 806-762-3612 to become part of the statewide and national effort. For information or to participate, call Eddie Richardson 762-3612.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Holidays light up winter season

The dark nights of winter are brightened by numerous celebrations throughout Texas. The holidays are times of joy, gift giving, and eating, drinking and celebrating meals.

<p>Christmas December 25 Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, and January 6, the Epiphany, or revelation of Christ to the Magi.</p> <p>Symbols include Star of Bethlehem and manger, Santa Claus and Christmas trees. Gifts and toys are given to all. Holiday foods: turkey and dressing, as well as tamales, and German coffee cake, or stollen.</p>	<p>Kwanzaa December 26 - January 1 Celebrates African-American unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Symbols include seven candles, ear of corn and unity cup. Gifts are simple and handmade. Karamu feast: traditional foods such as ponidge, beans and corn, as well as other dishes.</p>
<p>Hanukkah December 14-21 Marks the return to the Temple of Jerusalem in 165 BC. Eight candles symbolize the number of days oil lamps were lit in the temple, with a ninth candle to light the others. Traditional gifts for children include a dreidel, or four-sided top, and coins. Special food: latkes, or potato pancakes fried in oil.</p>	<p>New Years January 1 and February 16 Celebrates the new year. In the Chinese lunar year, the New Year begins February 16, 1999 - the Year of the Rabbit. Preparations involve cleaning house and paying debts. Sweet rice is part of the festivity, along with fireworks. Gifts include "red envelopes" containing lucky money.</p>

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Birthday Celebration Activities & Events

Theme: "I Believe I Can Fly" Isa. 40:31

OPENING SERVICE

Thursday, January 14, 1999

7:00 P.M.

Pilgrim Baptist Church

6119 - 19th Street

Rev. Wilbur Tanner

Host Pastor

YOUTH NIGHT

Friday, January 15, 1999

7:30 P.M.

Lakeridge United Methodist Church

4701 - 82nd Street

Rev. Bill Couch

Host Pastor

GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, January 16, 1999

7:00 P.M.

New Hope Baptist Church

2002 Birch Avenue

Rev. B.R. Moton

Host Pastor

MASS CITY-WIDE CELEBRATION

Sunday, January 17, 1999

5:00 P.M.

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theatre

1501 - 6th Street

CLOSING SERVICES

Monday, January 18, 1999

6:30 P.M.

Estacado High School Auditorium

E. Itasca and M.L.K. Blvd.

Mr. Kenneth Wallace Host Principal

CHURCH DIRECTORY



WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS

COLD HEARTED AMERICA!!!
1 JOHN 5:2, BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE LOVE THE CHILDREN OF GOD, WHEN WE LOVE GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

SEVEN PEOPLE WAS TRAPPED IN A MOUNTAIN CABIN, IN THE BITTER COLD; EACH ONE HAD A LOG OF WOOD; THIS IS THE WHAT I M TOLD!!!

LEVITICUS 19:18, THOU SHALT NOT AVENGE, NOR BEAR ANY GRUDGE AGAINST THE CHILDREN OF THY PEOPLE, BUT THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF: I AM THE LORD.

THEIR FIRE WAS DYING: FOR THE NEED OF ONE'S PRECIOUS WOOD; EACH HAD WHAT IT TOOK TO STAY ALIVE; ONLY IF HE OR SHE WOULD!!!

ACTS 20:35b, REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, HOW HE SAID; IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.

THERE WAS THIS PREACHER: HE HELD ON TO HIS WOOD OF BIRCH; HE SAID WHY SHOULD I? THEY ARE NOT MEMBERS OF MY CHURCH!!!

MATTHEW 5:16, JESUS SAID, LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

THEN THERE WAS THIS BLACK MAN; HIS JAWS-CLENCHED VERY TIGHT; SAYING WITHIN HIMSELF; ITS A GOOD TIME TO GET EVEN WITH THE WHITES!!!

LUKE 6:27,28, JESUS SAID, BUT I SAY UNTO YOU WHICH HEAR, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THEM WHICH HATE YOU. BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM, WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU.

AND THERE WAS THIS RICH MAN; HIS LOG LIKE HIS RICHES; HE DID ADORE; SAYING WITHIN HIS SELF: WHY SHOULD I WARM THE GOOD FOR NOTHING POOR???

1 JOHN 2:15, LOVE NOT THE WORLD, NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORD. IF ANY MAN LOVE THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.

AND THE POOR MAN SITTING THERE; OWNING NOTHING; BUT, THE HICKORY STICK; HIS HEART HARDEN; SAYING: WHY SHOULD I WARM THE MIGHTY RICH???

JOHN 15:13, JESUS SAID, GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.

THEN THERE WAS THIS WHITE WOMAN; SHE HELD HER PRECIOUS LOG BACK; BECAUSE SHE LOOKED INTO THE FACIES AT THE FIRE; AND ONE WAS BLACK!!!

1 JOHN 4:20a, IF ANY MAN (OR WOMAN) SAY, I LOVE GOD, AND HATEH HIS (OR HER) BROTHER, HE (OR SHE) IS A LIAR.

AND THERE WAS A SPANISH MAN, THINKING OF HIMSELF; HIS LOG HE CLANGED; I GIVE ONLY TO MY PEOPLE; THIS IS HOW HE PLAYED THE GAME!!!

GALATIANS 6:10a, AS WE HAVE THEREFORE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD UNTO ALL MEN.

AND THE ORIENTAL MAN SAID: I'LL NOT GIVE MINE FOR THE MAJORITY; I'LL HOLD BACK; AND THEY'LL GIVE TO ME, BECAUSE I'M THE MINORITY!!!

AND WHEN THE MORNING CAME; EACH HAD DIED: OF THEIR HATEFUL SIN; THEY DIDN'T DIE FROM THE OUTSIDE COLD; BUT THE COLD HEART WITHIN!!!

COLD HEARTED AMERICA HOW BLESSED; WE ALL COULD BE; IF WE WOULD SAY: HERE TAKE MY LOG; NO CHARGE; ITS FREE!!!

GIVE OUT THAT HANDSHAKE; GIVE OUT THAT SMILE; ITS FREE; PUT IT OUT THAT BOOMERANG OF LOVE; IT WILL RETURN TO YOU AND ME!!!

JOHN 13:35, JESUS SAID, BY THIS SHALL ALL MEN KNOW THAT YE ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH US YET. SO LETS PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER ALWAYS. WRITTEN BY EVANGELIST BILLY B.J. MORRISON, III YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST JESUS, ALWAYS

from the Desk of Parson D.A. Spittell

"He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many thing."—Mark 8:21

There was a common belief among the Jews that when the Messiah came, He would reign as a King who would throw off the Roman rule, which oppressed them. When Peter made the great confession that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, he had dreams of great things ahead. A throne and kingdom for Jesus, and power and prestige for His followers.

Later when Jesus talks about His death and suffering, Peter could not accept it. "Not so, Lord," he said. Then Jesus rebuked Peter and Satan who spoke through him, for He knew Satan's tactics. This was not the first time Satan had tried turn Jesus away from His death on the cross.

Jesus knew what bearing the cross really meant. When He was a boy, one Judas the Galilean, had led a rebellion against Rome. Judas had led his followers to Sepphoris, four miles from Nazareth where Jesus lived, and had raided the Roman armory there. The Romans wreaked a terrible vengeance on the town of Sepphoris—burning it to the ground, selling its inhabitants into slavery, and crucifying two

thousand of the Jewish rebels on crosses. They set these crosses with the dying victims along the side of the road as a warning to all who might consider further rebellion. Jesus as a boy probably saw it all, and knew full well what it meant to take up a cross.

The way of the Cross is not an easy road. It is the way of self-sacrifice, suffering, and for some—even death. The apostles realized this in the years that followed.

When we choose to follow Jesus and take up our cross, we commit ourselves to a life of disciple and self-denial. For example, when Peter shamefully denied Jesus, he said, "I do not know Him." When we deny ourselves, it means we treat our self-life as if it does not exist. It is natural to treat ourselves as if we were the most important things in the world. However, if we are to follow Jesus, we must forget our self and surrender our all to the Will of God. We must always be true to Christ at any cost.

We who would follow Jesus today must voluntarily take up our cross. True, there will be suffering; but Jesus never promised us a bed of roses or a life of pleasure. He offered us a life of sacrifice which would lead to a life of eternal glory. If we would be faithful disciples of Jesus, we must turn our backs on the world and follow on in Jesus' steps, no matter where He led.



THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!

December 27, 1998

We praise God for ALL the many, many blessings that He bestowed upon us during last year and we thank Him in advance for what He is going to do in 1999. We would like to pause and say, "Thank You" to our all the Pastors, churches, sister, brothers and friends who help support us during the building of our New Church Sanctuary. Your contributions in money, prayers, furniture, ideas, labor, information, fellowship and acts of kindness let us know there is no limit when there is a need and each of you help supply that need. We would like to say a special "Thanks" to Mr. Patterson and The Digest for your support and publicity.

We are now worshipping in our new sanctuary which is located at the same address and we extend a most hearty invitation to each of you to come and enjoy the Spirit of the Lord with us any time. We are the church large enough for you to serve - yet small enough to recognize everybody!

We pray God will continue to Bless you richly and wish each of you a Prosperous New Year!

Reverend and Mrs. Clifton C. Peoples

The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members and friends of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast have prayed each of you — our readers and non-readers — had a blessed holiday and are looking forward to a New Year of Jubilee.

We are looking forward to operating in a higher level in Jesus Christ by taking it to the streets you drive by prayers and walk through prayers in grocery stores, in the cleaners, paying your bills. Let us pray for the police officers, attorneys, jail officials, prison inmates, bail bondsmen as well as the lawyers. Don't forget our schools, teachers, janitors, workers, and our boys and girls who are into dealing in things which are evil and against the will of God. Our churches, all ministers and leaders, our President of the United States of America, Congressmen — both Republicans and Democrats — alike and hope all will do the right thing. Let us come into unity and realize color is only skin deep. Beyond that, we're all of the same, and our God only looks on the inside.

Let us pray for those who judge by what you see, might be surprised when you find yourself weighed in the balance and found wanting to how now before you're forced to do so. I'm sure we all think we're pretty good at judging others, but not good enough. Those who are without sin are able to judge. So go for it. Only God knows.

If you have been a tailbearer or a gossip, or carrying the wrong report, or spreading something that's untrue. Do you belong to the wrecking crew or cleanup committee? Only God and you know.

If you did not accomplish by engaging in this stuff in the past year. Change today! REPENT - REPENT - REPENT! Let's have this kind of love for each other that's demonstrated in Paul's letter to the church at Corinth — called the Love Chapter.

This love is kind, patient, never jealous, never envious, not boastful, proud, haughty, selfish or rude. This love does not hold grudges, not even notice when others does it wrong. Never glad when others suffer injustice, but rejoice whenever truth wins out.

Thanks to Brother T. J. Patterson and Brother Eddie Richardson and staff. You have been a blessing to us. God bless you.

Keep smiling and loving people red, yellow, white, black or polka-dot and green. It doesn't matter. We want to see God's face, and this is the only way we will think about it!

Write us: Outreach Prayer Breakfast, P. O. Box 1223, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

We will meet Saturday, January 2, 1999, at 2132 East 30th Street. We will see you there!

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Rev. Sister Christine Brantson, vice president; and Sister Ernestine Fraizer, secretary.

Kirk Franklin's Book Charts Poverty to Applause

Life was tough for Kirk Franklin, the wisp of a kid who grew up in the rough Riverside neighborhood of Fort Worth, Texas. He had no family except the great aunt, who adopted him when he was three, no friends, nothing. But, his great aunt (who he called "Mama"), Gertrude Franklin, wanted him to be rich in the spirit of the Lord. She took him to church several times a week and got him involved in the choir.

Franklin quickly grew into a natural musician who was leading the choir by the time he was 11. To pay for piano lessons, his mama would collect aluminum cans. She was so proud of Kirk, but he lost his way on the journey to manhood.

When she died, Franklin had just started making tracks in the right direction. In the years that followed, the skinny kid everyone called "church boy," became a popular musician with his own style of hip-hop gospel music that crossed into the secular market.

In "Church Boy," the Franklin autobiography that arrived in stores earlier this month, the Grammy Award-win-

ning artist recalls his early years and the woman who helped shape his life. In it, he details his climb to the top of the charts and praises his Lord and Savior, who he says was with him always, even when he didn't realize it.

"I don't want this to just be a book about gold records or Stellar Awards or Grammys," Franklin writes in the book, published by Word. "It's not about doing things the world's way. Instead, I hope the story of my life and music will demonstrate how God can take a kid from the inner-city, give him a message, and then put his name on the record charts — because it's the message in the music that really counts."

Franklin, 28, said that more than anything else, he wants to reach out to the kids who are growing up as he did — "right on the edge of poverty most of the time." He wrote the book for kids who know their real mothers don't want anything to do with them, for kids who never seem to fit in.

When he was in the fourth grade, he put his own isolation into words in a rhyme: "There

once was a kid named Kirk; the kids called him a jerk. When he went out to play, it turned into a rainy day. That gooty little kid named Kirk."

He hopes the book, as his new CD, "The Nu Nation Project," will let kids know there is a light in their lives. He wants them to know that if he was able to do something with his life, they can too.

Franklin is the king of crossover. His first album shook up the music industry when it logged 100 weeks as the No. 1 gospel album, and his singles and CDs have topped the R&B and Christian charts as well.

Industry experts are predicting that the new album will be the first gospel or Christian album to ship platinum — one million copies — before it goes on sale.

With the book, he's crossing over into a new medium, one that's becoming increasingly popular with Christian music artists. Still, he said, it blows him away to see a book with his name on it.

"You have to understand, I didn't even graduate from high school," he said. "I don't even

have a GED, and I have a book." Franklin said Word Publishing approached him last year and talked him into writing the book. "I kind of thought it was a little premature because I was 27, and I'm thinking autobiography? Auto what?" he said with a questioning look on his face. "It's hard for me to even spell the word, you know?"

He said that working on the book with Jim Nelson Black was challenging because he had to remember so much.

"There's so many things I've just put in the back of mind because there's been so many tragic points that, that's what you try to do, put all that in the back," he said.

But his rags to riches story is expected to grab readers' attention, book industry experts say. "I think one of the most important parts of the message of the book is the inspirational aspect, that he overcame a lot of things in his life to become successful," said Craig Stoll, senior book buyer for Mardel, a chain of Christian book stores based in Oklahoma City. "I think it will translate into interest in his life."

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