

# The Minority Voice

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## The Electoral College And What It Means Grand Opening !

by: Betty Pleasant

Most Americans haven't given a thought to the electoral college since they were required to provide the correct answer about it on a high school civics test. But as we are facing a 1888 redux --- when Benjamin Harrison lost the popular vote, but won the electoral vote and became US president anyway---many people are scratching their heads, trying to recollect that forgotten civics lesson.

Having been hit in the face last Tuesday with the realization that a presidential candidate does not have to amass the most votes to win the White House, the Sentinel has received many requests from readers to explain this unseemly phenomenon.

Here goes:  
The electoral college is a group of electors chosen within each state to elect the president and vice president of the United States.

Each state has as many presidential electors as it has representatives in both houses of Congress. Altogether, there are 538 electors or members of the electoral college. California has the most electors, 54, because we have 54 members in Congress who represent the most people in

any state. (Another reason why an accurate Census count is important, but we digress.)

Others states with a lot of electors include New York with 33, Texas with 32, in infamous Florida 25, Pennsylvania with 23, and Ohio with 21. Washington DC, as well as six states have the least number of electors, three each.

As we all know by now, it takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency. The electors in each state are chosen by the political parties in the state. Some of the are elected officials and some loyal party activists. Basically, the party apparatus selects electors for whatever reason it wants, but loyalty to the party is the highest prerequisite.

All the states, except Maine and Nebraska, hold a winner-take-all popular vote for electors: the candidate who wins the most popular votes in the state, wins that state's complete slate of electors.

For example, Vice President Al Gore beat Gov. George W. Bush by more than 1,200,000 popular votes in California and won all 54 of this state's electoral votes.

On the other hand, Bush may defeat Gore by two popular votes in Florida and he would collect all

25 of that state's electoral votes.

With our winner-take-all system, elected presidents receive a greater percentage of the electoral vote than of the popular vote. Two presidents, Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876 (another instance when the Florida vote was the point of contention) and Benjamin Harrison in 1888, won a majority of the electoral votes even though they received fewer popular votes than their principal opponents.

In the very close election we had last week, it is highly probable that a popular-vote loser will again be elected president.

As originally planned by the framers of the Constitution in 1787, it is the electors who actually choose the president, not the people. Why? Because they didn't trust the people.

The framers preferred the electoral college arrangement over the direct popular election because, at a time when travel was difficult and there were no national party organizations, they feared that many regional candidates would divide the vote. Requiring a candidate to win a majority in the electoral college was a way of obtaining a national consensus, is the way some history books interpret the framers' intentions.



Grand Opening !

Shown above at the Grand opening of R & B Diner is owners ; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Robertson, Mr. & Mrs. Jones Beatly and Mrs. Beverly Gaskin (manager). The "M" Voice newspaper wishes them the best of luck on their new venture

Photo by Steve Johnson

## Coca Cola Pays A Record \$192.5 Million !

Washington (NNPA).....Coca Cola Company recently agreed to pay a record \$192.5 million to settle a racial-discrimination lawsuit brought by Black workers the NNPA has learned. The case represents the largest race discrimination settlement in US history.

The company claim that it will make significant changes in the way it manages, promotes, and treats its minority employees as company officials said they looked forward to increasing the Coca Cola brand across the world through use of a diverse talent base.

"Diversity has always been one of our cornerstones. We are emphasizing making a better company. The emphasis we are placing is on certain values and needs we want to establish as we determine directions that we want to take," said Coca Cola's chairman and chief executive, Douglas N. Daft, in a press conference immediately following the announcement of the

settlement.

The company will pay \$113 million to thousands of African American employees and will spend \$43.5 million to adjust its salaries and another \$36 million for programs to monitor its employment practices. It will also pay \$20 million in attorneys' fees.

The company also agreed to set up a watchdog group to review and measure its diversity efforts in coming years. "There was a lot of energy put into this package," Daft said. "We are changing the company. It happens every few years-to increase value for shareholders and for everyone who works with us. We are part of the creation of the brand and that means getting the best people. Our people are our competitive advantage."

The settlement is the largest ever in a US race discrimination lawsuit, according to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. "Today we are closing a painful chapter in our

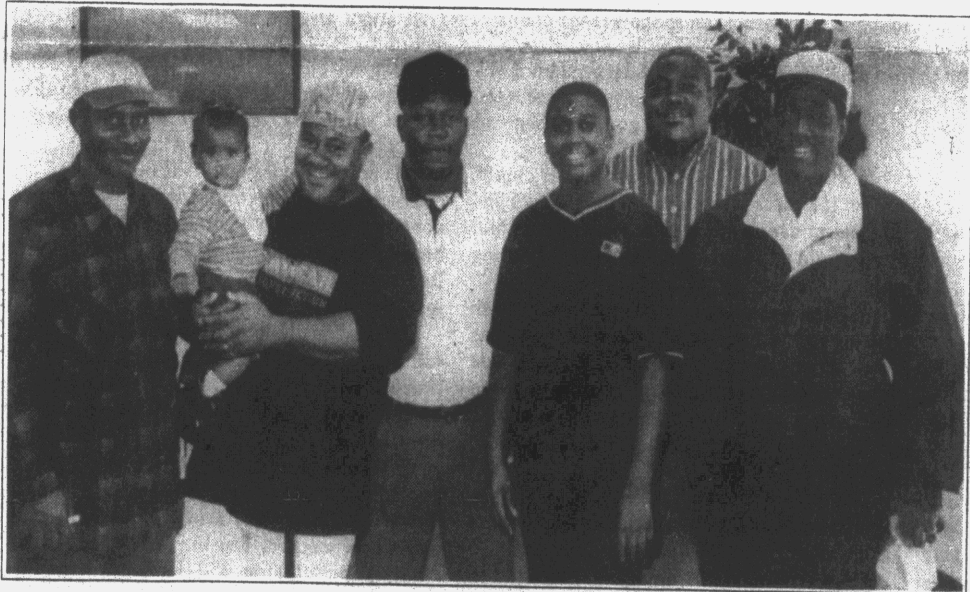
company's history," wrote Daft, in a memo to employees released publicly yesterday.

"This is a watershed event and hopefully will serve as a wake-up call to other companies," said Pamela Coukos of Mehri, Malkin and Ross, the Washington, DC - based firm that represented the employees.

The agreement covers about 2,200 salaried African American employees and former employees who worked for the company in the United States between April 1995 and June 2000. Plaintiffs' lawyers estimated that the employees will get an average of \$40,000 each, depending on the length of their employment.

In the suit the employees accused Coca Cola of discriminating against Black salaried employees in pay, promotions, and evaluations.

Coca-Cola's settlement of a racial bias case was more than \$16 million larger than the previous record settlement.



Inland Sea Food Expanding !

Sown above are the owners and family of Inland Sea food, Thanksgiving Day they served free meals to everyone who stopped by. They encourage everyone to to stop by again and check out their new expansion!

Photo by Jim Rouse

## To Be Or Not To Be African !

By - Mawiyah Kambon, President

This opportunity allows me to introduce to some and refresh the memory of others as to the goals and purpose of the Association of Black Psychologists. The Association was founded in 1968 from a need to address the concerns of both professionals in the field of psychology, and the needs of our people in the communities around the nation and around the world. Among those challenges we sought to promote and advance a greater awareness of psychology from an African perspective. In so doing we have attempted to influence and affect the socialization of African people, especially, and particularly our children and families. We have taken this self-imposed mandate quite seriously.

To actualize these goals the Association of Black Psychologists has been visible in several areas. We present our collective wisdom through various forms of media, conferences, forums, and through our own publications, we develop programs and training models to directly affect change; and we continually review our own foundation and sources of knowledge to ensure that we stay

grounded within the systems that have informed the thinking and well-being of our people for centuries. We believe that African psychologists must be at every table where discussions take place and decisions are made in the planning for, and implementation of programs and policies that affect African people. In fact, we believe that since everything (media, schooling, public policy, advertisement, entertainment, work) affects the psychological well-being of our people, an African psychologist should be at every table, every board meeting, every public forum and every session of congress. Not only within this hemisphere, but throughout the Diaspora, wherever people of African ancestry find ourselves and our future in deliberation. Some of the issues that the Association of Black Psychologists has addressed are consistent with the focus of the National Black Family Empowerment Agenda. On our board of directors, within our regions and local chapters, and within the general Assembly of the Association, in particular, much of the work on these issues is transformed to position papers, protests, projects, or other action. The ABP remains at the

forefront in challenging White supremacy (racism) and all oppressive practices within this country and around the globe. In the area of Education the ABP challenged the use of IQ (Intelligence Quotient) testing as a means to place our children in special education classes or lower learning tracts in schools. We are focused on the restoration and preservation of the Black family as the primary and critical tool in the healthy socialization of Black children. We believe that Black culture socialized by the Black family is the key to moving beyond survival to full development for our people.

We have advanced rites of passage programs for youth and adults because we know the importance of socializing our families to our own traditions. In so doing we recognize that our adults may not be prepared to raise our children with the values deemed essential to our overall development as a result of alien socialization influences. In the arena of Law and Justice ABP became involved on the National level with the Federal Violence Initiative.

David Hammond  
Elected County  
Commissioner  
Chairman



During a meeting Dec. 4, 2000 the Pitt County Board of Commissioners elected Commissioner David Hammond to serve as their new Chairman for the coming year. The board also elected Glenn Bowen to serve as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

Commissioner Randy Royal, Commissioner Tom Coulson and Commissioner Beth B. Ward took their oaths of office that same afternoon.

The Minority Voice Newspaper



From The "M" Voice Archives !

shown, above posing for the "M" Voice camera is mother "Big Mama", Rosa Weaver & her Grand daughter. Mother Weaver who past away last month, was a loyal listener of Joy 1340 am. She loved gospel music and helping the need of other people, because of her effort the Hills Dale community has Community Watch, and stray animals no longer come the neighborhood. Mother we will miss you.





## URBAN PERSPECTIVE

# Economic and Political Forces Affecting State Elections, Public Policy

I thought it might be instructive to examine the findings of a report done less than three weeks before the recent November elections. The report is the tenth of a series of comprehensive statewide surveys on the theme of "Californians and Their Government." The series is presented by the Public

Policy Institute of California and its purpose is to develop an in-depth profile of the social, economic and political forces affecting California elections and public policy preferences.

The surveys are intended to provide the public, the media and policymakers with relevant, non-partisan, advocacy-free information on the following:

What Californians know about government at all levels, how they rate elected officials and public services, and what government actions they prefer; the public's interest in civic affairs and politics, their current and preferred information sources, their attention to state political news, and their ratings of the media; how growing regions and groups—such as the Central Valley, suburban regions, Latinos, and independent voters—affect the state's elections and policy debates; the political attitude and perceptions that are tied to "vote distrust" of government, and the social economic and political factors that explain low voter turnout in state elections; the role of political, social and economic attitudes in public support for citizens' initiatives and government reform proposals.

In the final weeks of the campaign, California voters focused on five key issues—education, foreign policy and national defense, health care, taxes, and Social Security and Medicare. Since the September survey, turmoil in the Middle East has

altered voters' focus somewhat from domestic to intentional concerns.

While education remained the top issue, voters were more eager to hear the candidates discuss foreign policy and defense issues rather than health care and Social Security and Medicare. On the two issues that were much debated in the presidential race, big government and tax cuts, Californians stand apart from the rest of the nation. State residents are more likely than the nation as a whole to want a larger government with more services, although majorities in both cases said they would prefer a smaller government with fewer services. And while slight majorities also say they would prefer to see tax cuts targeted to lower- and middle-income families (Gore's proposal), Californians were more likely than the nation as a whole to support Bush's plan for across-the-board tax cuts (48 percent to 40 percent).

The slight tightening of the race in California towards the end might also have been related to rising concern about the state's economic prospects. While most Californians still believe that the state is headed in the right direction, the number of residents sharing this view has been declining gradually. Specifically, Californians are concerned about the possible economic effects of rising energy costs. Eighty percent believe that higher prices for things such as gasoline, utilities and elec-

tricity will hurt the state's economy in the near future. Half of the state's residents think that rising energy costs will hurt the economy a great deal.

Although education remains a top priority for state voters, this concern did not translate into increased support for Proposition 38, the school vouchers initiative. Similar to September's findings, a majority of voters said they would vote no. And, despite a flurry of television commercials by both sides—only 25 percent of voters feel that they had learned a lot about how a voucher system would work. However, 57 percent believed that passage of the voucher initiative would not help the public school system.

Support for Proposition 39—which would make it possible to approve local school bonds with a 55 percent majority rather than a two-thirds vote—increased in October with 50 percent supporting the measure, 37 percent opposing it and 13 percent undecided. Even though Proposition 39 lowers the threshold for passing local school bond measures, only 38 percent of voters thought its passage would make it easier to approve local school construction bonds in their area, while 15 percent said it would be more difficult and 30 percent thought it would make no difference.

While they may be divided about the content of the specific propositions, Californians are devoted to

the state's initiative process. In fact, they appear to have greater faith in voters than in their elected officials when it comes to making public policy decisions. Nearly 70 percent of state residents think it is a good thing that a majority of voters can make laws and change public policies by passing initiatives.

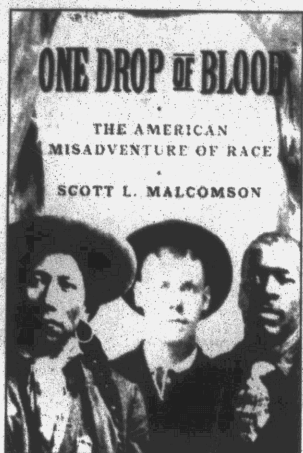
A majority of residents support the right of voters to make permanent change in the state constitution through the initiative process. Fifty-six percent also say that public policy decisions made by state voters are probably better than decisions made by their elected representatives in state government. However, residents are also aware that the process is not perfect. Only 10 percent say they are very satisfied with the way the initiative process is working today, while a majority say they're only somewhat satisfied. Actually, 3 in 4 residents think that the system needs changes and only 1 in 5 says that the system is fine the way it is.

Findings of the current survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,001 California adult residents interviewed from Oct. 11 to Oct. 18—interviews were conducted in either English or Spanish. Dr. Mark Baldassare, senior fellow and program director at PPIC, is founder and director of the PPIC, is founder and director of the PPIC statewide survey.

PPIC is located in San Francisco: phone (415) 291-4400, fax (415) 291-4401.

## One Drop of Blood: The American Misadventure of Race

by Scott L. Malcolmson  
Farrar Straus Giroux



My grandmother's hearing was failing so, as she toiled at her stove, she unknowingly spoke her thoughts aloud, a Joycean monologue in which she dished about every farmer's wife and tavern keeper in the Wisconsin dairy country. I could have compiled the entire oral history of the region from her uncensored musings. A comparable experience awaits readers of Scott Malcolmson's "One Drop of Blood", a work of noble intent and baffling intellectual sprawl. Ruminations of 14th century scholars; obscure literary tracts; the tired old ground of the racial progeny of Shem, Ham and Japheth; associations of whiteness with virtue and blackness with sinister forces; minstrel ditties; Indian trails and Brer Rabbit tales are cobbled together in a dusty archaeology of race that should have been subtitled "The Thousand and One Nights of Color Coding: From the Old Testament to the Internet."

This is an unfortunate fate for a plausible theme that takes us back to a time when the destiny of a new nation was in play among three core peoples: black, white and red. Absent a unifying thesis, the book's sense of the experiential difference between black and Indian is a saving grace. Native Americans were not born into oppression and had the dignity of an armed resistance, but the end was the isolation and despair of reservation life. African Americans, by constant contact with whites, were able to appropriate the owner's manual of white civilization, adapt it to their needs, and acquire the means to flourish within it.

Peculiar errors and omissions recur. An offhand reference describes the Civil War as the most "American" of conflicts in which all three races fought on both sides. While the Confederacy sought to conscript slaves at the end of the war, I know of no evidence of African Americans — unlike the Cherokees — fighting in regular units for the South. Such an explosive suggestion simply cannot be tossed off without explanation or documentation. Also, Malcolmson dwells on a somber late-in-life novel by Mark Twain but inexplicably ignores "Huckleberry Finn", Twain's greatest work, still controversial for its take on race and its use of the "n" word.

Even in retrospect, Malcolmson gloomily sees pre-Civil War America, even the great Lincoln, as adrift in a debilitating swamp of racial chauvinism with few seeds of redemption visible. However, the Civil War at least purged the nation of slavery at a cost of 600,000 black and white lives, precisely what Lincoln called "a new birth of freedom." At Gettysburg, Lincoln

renewed the vow of equality in the Declaration of Independence, adroitly sidestepping a Constitution contaminated by compromises with slavery. His magnificent Second Inaugural implicitly recognized that slavery, and its underlying premise of white supremacy, had become imbedded in the mentality of the North as well as the South, leaving both to pay the blood price of its eradication in accordance with the biblical law of consequences.

The theme of race mixing that pervades the book and its title involves some interesting disparities. The father of American democracy, Thomas Jefferson, believed that Indians and whites could form a single intermarrying population once the Indians abandoned their savage ways.

He entertained no such sentiments regarding African Americans. Jefferson could not bring himself to free his slaves during his lifetime, even Sally Hemings, his first wife's half-sister who now few doubt was Jefferson's mistress.

First families of Virginia proudly claimed descent from Pocahontas' son Thomas by her marriage to English settler John Rolfe. However, the demands by African Americans for recognition as descendants of Jefferson and Hemings still had the power to create uproar even after DNA evidence convinced many that the issue of the famous romance had been put to rest. Malcolmson, curiously, mentions the Pocahontas marriage to Rolfe only in passing, and not her mixed race son. More curiously, he gives no attention whatever to the Hemings saga.

For much of our history these three founding American races had difficulty seeing common humanity in each other's faces. At other times they found themselves partners in love and war. Together they furnished most of the poignancy of the nation's first century. Their intertwined stories continue to shape American mythology and national character.

There is a serious book in this, but it will require more discipline than "One Drop of Blood."

Dennis M. O'Connell

## Knowledge Is Power



## BETWEEN THE LINES

# Did the Bushes (Try to) Steal the Election in Florida?

The outcome of the Florida recount has the whole world (literally) wondering who will be the next president of the United States. Partisan politics threaten to try to (may have already) declare a winner, at the same time the courts try to determine if the will of the voters has been impeded.

Courts challenges on both sides now threaten to produce a constitutional crisis come next Jan. 20, with neither candidate playing gracious gentlemen (translation: potential loser) as both try to position themselves in the court of public opinion as having the country's best interest at heart. Yet, do they? Neither candidates willingness to agree to a quick concession after (what appears to be) the final indicate that self-preservation dictates pursuing all options, including court options. It also offers some insight to what's at stake for both major parties.

Yet, it's Bush's reluctance to accept Gore's offer to concede if the recount is conducted statewide

that seems to make one believe there is something more to hide.

It certainly now appears to be more than coincidental that so much havoc is being created over voter impropriety in Democratic districts with outcomes that favor electing a Bush, in a state run by a Bush, than in electing Gore. With manual hand counts in the most obvious counties pre-occupying the main plot, the sub-plot in Florida is an increasing number of revelations focused on election day discrepancies that may have disenfranchised thousands of voters in other counties.

This suspicion is compounded by the partisan secretary of state trying to accelerate recount deadlines, interrupting recounts in process and lending her own interpretation to the authority she retains to declare the election results in spite of outstanding ballots.

It appears, by some of these allegations (many of which have been corroborated) and appear to be very much real, that the fix in "was" for Florida? While Democrats were trying to "stay out the bushes," the bushes were trying to stay in the

victory, hook or crook. When is it time to ask if the Bushes tried to steal the election in Florida? When the case is in court? Maybe so.

What has become more obvious than the 19,000 "double punched ballots," were the many acts of voter intimidation that came light out of the election night darkness. Much of which would have been covered up with a close victory, a quick concession and an immediate focus on presidential transition.

Claims of voter intimidation, first thought to be figments of democratic imagination, turned out to be more real than imagined. Three days after the election, the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* reported that the NAACP had received "voter tampering" complaints so numerous that the Justice Department was asked to intervene. The activities reminded you of voter intimidation acts of the 1940s, '50s and '60s. "Police roadblocks set outside of voting places in predominantly black communities in Volusia County, where black males were asked to get out of their cars and show I.D." "Voters were being

turned away in Hillsborough County because local sheriffs stated the race on the I.D. card didn't match the person standing in front of them," or that they were convicted felons and couldn't vote (though they had no proof).

Now, we know many of us don't look like our drivers license pictures, but this is extreme behavior for qualifying to vote. Yet it was happening in the South again. In Florida, not in 1955, or 1965, but in the year 2000.

The *Herald-Tribune* reported that a disproportionate number of African American voters were "turned away from the polls" and "boxes full of ballots were left behind in at least four minority Miami area schools turned polling places," where the ballots were discovered the next morning (after the election). Voters were even told that some polling places "ran out of ballots," or that "polls were closed." The Florida NAACP reported that black voters received calls the week before the election saying that the NAACP recommends a vote for Bush.

The Florida NAACP responded that no such calls were placed since they are a non-partisan group. While local law enforcement worked the group, political partisan operatives worked the air. This included the media that held stories of voter disenfranchisement until it was broken in the black press, and not given much credence until Jesse Jackson got in the national spotlight. Jesse then had to face hostile crowds that shouted "Jesse, go home," as if he had created the allegations for some self-serving purpose.

Katherine Harris, the Republican secretary of state, first declared that the hand counting would be halted. Then after the courts stated the hand counting could continue, she stated she would declare a winner on Saturday (Nov. 18) regardless of what happens. Gore, who suddenly began to see his chances fading behind a cloak of partisan maneuvering, went public yet avoided questions as to whether the Florida "politicos" were trying to steal the election.

While Jeb has withdrawn from the election challenge process after election night, where he reportedly spent the night "tracking votes" in the Secretary of State's Office, it is clear he was "command control" the night of election. A Bush running interference for a Bush. He even publicly stated that he felt he had "let his brother down" and told him so on election night.

The closeness of the election caused the election night "Am-Bush" to fall apart. Voter disenfranchisement claims, that were never meant to come to light in a simultaneous approach to block the will of voters, are now the center of the closest election deadlock in our nation's history. This election will push the limits of courtroom interpretation. But one thing is for sure, "ole time" voter intimidation hid in the bushes of plenty of communities on election night. It appears those bushes sought to steal an election, for a Bush, in a state run by a Bush, on Nov. 7. And now we're waiting to see if the "Am-Bush" worked. It may already have.

## KLEAVER'S KLIPPINS

BY JIM KLEAVER

# There is a Way to Save Our Children



Over the past decade, we have seen scores of our children shot down in drive-by shootings. This includes babes in arms, preschoolers and too many others to even attempt to mention.

We have placed the responsibility for the apprehension of these criminals who committed these dastardly acts on the criminal justice system: police, sheriffs, etc.

These may be the proper steps to take after the fact. In the meantime, we need to ask ourselves how we got to this point in our society. Although we a two or three generations about the sanctity of life and today we are seeing the results of that failure.

We sat silently by and allowed prayer to be taken out of schools. The Ten Commandments that once graced the walls of most classrooms had to be removed. As a society, we did little more than bemoan the fact and made no effort to fight back.

What does all this mean in the strictest measure of morality? Well, the reading of the Scripture gave some sense of right and wrong to children beginning with the first grade and it never changed.

Let us take it a step further. Most of our parents of another generation did not hold college degrees but they believed in the Bible and they taught their children to believe in the concepts of right and wrong.

To be sure, there were incidents but they were few and far between. Children had been so well schooled they generally dared not do anything that might be seen as wrong in the eyes of society and most certainly in the eyes of God.

It is interesting to note that within a block of most of our churches, there were confectionery stores, where candies, sodas and chewing gum were sold. Their biggest day of the week would be Sunday, between the hours of about 10:30

a.m. and 11:15 a.m. This was the time that Sunday school was over. The children would spend their nickels and dimes in between services.

We would awaken to the smells of frying chicken and hot biscuits. The radio would be on whatever radio station that carried "Wings Over Jordan" and/or "Pet Milk Sunday Morning." The Pet Milk show, hosted by one of the greatest announcers in the world, Sid McCoy, was the first black syndicated radio show in the country.

Then we would go off to Sunday school. Let us not be misled here. Sunday school was not the total answer. It did however reinforce the subliminal teachings we had gotten throughout the week.

The key here is not Sunday school or church per se. It is the involvement of the parents and the determination of the parents that their child (ren) would not wind up behind bars or running afoul of the law.

Without question, some of the young men and occasionally, women, did have problems but in no way did they approach the magnitude we see now. If your response is that there are so many more people, then approach it from a percentage perspective. The comparison does not even come close.

What happened? Again the answer is simple. In an attempt to keep up with the Joneses, we have all too often abdicated our responsibility to give our children the training they needed in order to preserve the sanctity of life.

Several years ago, in an interview for one of the TV stations, a gang member said life meant nothing to him because he did not expect to live to see 25 years. Somebody failed him.

More than 10 years ago, this reporter, after discussing the matter with two different psychiatrists commented that prospective gang members sought out other gang members because this was the only familial structure that was available to them. Nobody listened and

today, we see the results.

Part of the bottom line is that all may not be lost. We can save this new generation. It will not be an easy task and it clearly will have defined the goals of the parents. Instead of buying the biggest most expensive car in the show room, they have to step down a notch or two and recognize the time spent on the second job to pay for the car could and should be spent on rearing their children and teaching them life is sacred.

It might also be helpful to set the VCR to record the football game and get up on Sunday morning and take the children to Sunday school and church. They need to know that since they cannot create life, they have no right to arbitrarily take it.

We need to understand that our children are products of their environment and when we do not create the proper environment, our children become like the legendary Topsy from Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, who just "grewed."

The responsibility for our children does not fall on the shoulders of the police department probation department and social services. It falls on every parent and by and large, we have truly dropped the ball.

Each time there is a parent-teacher night or conference, the rooms should be filled to capacity. We need to stop taking adversarial roles against the teachers. Despite our protests to the contrary, our children will, have and will continue to lie when it fits their purposes. It is almost a joke when we see mothers angry with teachers or authorities, and declaring, "My son wouldn't lie to me."

Yes, Mother. They have and they will if it meets their needs.

We can save the lives of our children in this new generation. It will, however, take determination, devotion and sacrifice.

Ask yourselves if the lives of your children are worth the effort.

BY A. ASADULLAH SAMAD



# MESSAGE FOR THE DAY

## Scars

Some years ago on a hot summer day in South Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His mother-in the house was looking out the window and saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go.

A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator. Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug into his flesh in her effort to hang on to the son she loved.

The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my mom wouldn't let go."

You and I can identify with that little boy. We

have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, or anything quite so dramatic, but rather, the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But some wounds, my friend, are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you. The Scripture teaches that God loves you. If you have Christ in your life, you have become a child of God. He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way. But sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril — and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins, and if you have the scars of His love on your arms be very, very grateful. He did not — and will not — let you go!

Will you take time to pray? Don't forget to pray for your home church, your pastors & their families, the leadership in the church, our missionaries, and our world leaders.

"Father, I ask you to bless these important people, right now. I am asking You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubting, release a renewed confidence in Your ability to work through them. Where there is tiredness, or exhaustion, I ask You to give them understanding, patience, and strength as they learn submission to Your leading. Where there is spiritual stagnation, I ask You to renew them by revealing Your nearness, and by drawing them into greater intimacy with You. Where there is fear, reveal Your love, and release to them to Your courage. Where there is a sin blocking them, reveal it, and break its hold over their life. Bless their finances, give them greater vision, and raise up leaders, and friends to support, and encourage them. Give each of them discernment to recognize the evil forces around them, and reveal to them the power they have in You to defeat it. I ask You to do these things in Jesus' name, amen." ■

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Are we a "part of the problem, or part of the solution?"

As a firm supporter of the formation of a Pitt County human relations organization, allow me to express my sorrow and disdain for the reckless and totally uncalled for editorial attack by Keith W. Cooper against County Commissioner David Hammond. As an occasional writer in this forum, I try to avoid using words such as "stupid" or "lamebrain." However, Mr. Cooper's comments seen in *The Daily Reflector* on November 26<sup>th</sup> has earned him these titles. Commissioner Hammond conducted himself appropriately concerning the suggestion to start a human relations effort for the County. He helped to ensure that the idea was given full consideration. The decision to avoid having the County take responsibility for finding and forming the project is wise and practical.

I am reminded of some of Keith Cooper's earlier comments wherein he labeled Michael Dixon an "Uncle Tom" for actions that he took as a member of the Board of Education. Thus, Cooper's message is very clear: all black leaders who do not see things his way are automatically "enemies of progressive change" who "fan the flames of bigotry." Mr. Cooper may mean well, but he is obviously too blind to see that his

behavior is shameful, divisive and dangerous. The danger lies in the possibility that some people may be misled by the half-truths and references to heroic martyrs that he loves to include in his misguided and worn-out rhetoric.

I have not read that anyone is prohibited from reaching out to help those who need it. If Keith Cooper or his "many supporters" are sincere about wanting to do good things, he would stop whining on the editorial pages about what others should do and start organizing toward doing whatever needs to be done. Better yet, he might review the history of the Greenville Human Relations Department. It was not started through government involvement but by a few people who took it upon themselves to do so.

It is amazing that while thinking of famous names to include in his ignorant statements, Mr. Cooper would overlook Frederick Douglas who said that each of us was either a "part of the problem or part of the solution." You, Mr. Cooper, are part of the problem. ■

**Michael W. Garrett**  
Greenville, NC

*Editor's note:* This article is in response to Public Forum Comments by Keith W. Cooper which appeared in *The Daily Reflector* November 26, 2000.

**Mandela, Tutu, de Klerk pray for South Africa's battle against AIDS**  
December 08, 2000

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) - South Africans should hug and love AIDS sufferers instead of shunning them, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said in a prayer ceremony Wednesday.

Tutu, former presidents Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk held a joint service Wednesday morning to highlight the country's AIDS crisis. About 4.2 million South Africans - 10 percent of the population - are estimated to be HIV infected.

The stigma surrounding the epidemic means that those who openly admit they are infected often are treated as outcasts by their communities, thrown out of their homes and sometimes fired from their jobs.

"We treat them like pariahs. We wish that we could take all of them away from our societies," Tutu said.

Mandela echoed Tutu's call for better treatment of infected people.

"One of the things we must do is to support AIDS sufferers - to give them love, to shake hands with them, to embrace them," he said. "I sincerely hope that the attitude of our people toward AIDS sufferers is going to change because that way, we will be helping them to fight against this deadly disease."

South Africans should fight AIDS with the same intensity they used in the battle against apartheid, Mandela said.

"We shall work together as a nation, work hard and with dedication to achieve another miracle - this time of winning the battle against AIDS," he said.

De Klerk urged South Africans to talk about the epidemic.

"If we communicate, everyone will know what causes AIDS, what spread it and how we can defeat it," he said. "Children at school should be taught about the disease and they should feel free to talk about it everywhere. Then they will know and understand that AIDS kills."

By Jimi izrael

### Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks, often called "the mother of the " became history's icon quite accidentally on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. She was summarily arrested for her defiance. Her act, 45 years ago today, led to the , which ended in the US Supreme Court's ruling that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional.

Rosa Parks walked into the belly of the bus merely a passenger and left in handcuffs, the maternal figurehead of a movement that would change America. She was just a simple seamstress, tired after a hard day's work. That's how the story goes, anyway. But as Parks herself wrote in her autobiography:

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically....I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then.... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

"The Civil Rights Movement has been simplified in the popular media to a handful of images that are often inaccurate," says Dr. Dorothy Salem, Cleveland State University instructor and a noted author and historian on women's history. "We tend to create icons of these leaders, instead of viewing their effort as a collective effort."

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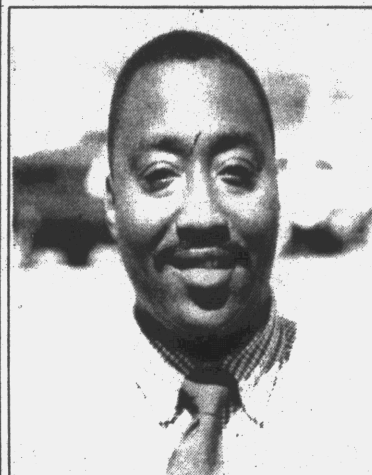


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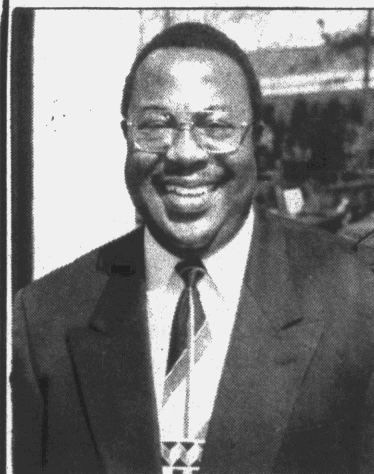


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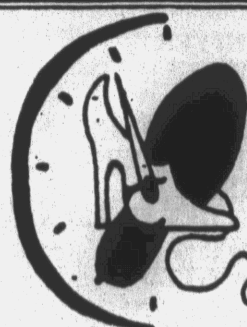
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"Wherever the head goes, the neck is sure to follow."

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### Example:

Remember that you set an example for your children. If you watch a lot of TV, chances are your children will too.

### Need ...

You never get over the need of your mother.

### Families ...

Families are like quilts: Lives pieced together, colored by memories, stitched with tears, and bound together by love.

### Grandmothers ...

Grandmothers and little girls go together like tea and cookies.

### Quote of the Year ...

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.

### Family Mealtimes ...

Family times around the table are perfect opportunities for building stronger relationships and creating unforgettable experiences.

### The Devil ...

The devil is not in hell waiting for you. He is in the earth waiting to take you to hell with him.

### Joy ...

My joy is not with the crowd, but in the Lord.

### Evil ...

Don't let the evil in others run the good out of you.

### Psalms 15

"Lord, who may go and find refuge and shelter in your tabernacle up on Your holy hill?"

### The Answer:

- ♦ Lead a blameless life
- ♦ Be truly sincere
- ♦ Refuse to slander others
- ♦ Does not listen to gossip
- ♦ Never harms his neighbor
- ♦ Speaks out against sin
- ♦ Criticizes those committing sin
- ♦ Commends faithful followers
- ♦ Keeps a promise even if it ruins him
- ♦ Does not rush his debtors with high interest rates
- ♦ Refuses to testify against the innocent despite the bribes offered him

### Sparks from the Anvil

By: Elder Michaux

1. Love will win anybody but the devil.
2. Any time you get careless, Satan has a way of making you care less.
3. God has plenty to satisfy your need, but not your greed.
4. Don't be concerned about your power to govern others, but only to govern yourself.
5. Everybody wants to be the

boss until the Holy Ghost comes, then everybody wants to be the servant.

6. The man who does not fear God will not live right.
7. You can't do anything about the truth but obey it.
8. Love can be satisfied, but not lust.
9. Sin never gets any better.
10. God does not speak idle words.

### Bits & Pieces

#### A Good Reminder

Always keep a pen and pad by your telephone: A time saver as well as an expense reducer.

#### Change

The only time you can change a man is when he's in diapers.

#### Thanks

To those who use good manners: thank you, excuse me, I'm sorry

Just as you don't eat an apple in one bite, you can't expect to finish a major project in one setting.

At the beginning of each year, take the time to note all birthdays, school vacations and medical appointments on your new calendar.

What you don't know about herbs and drugs can hurt you.

Some herbs and drugs don't mix.

Winning isn't everything—it's the only thing.

Your behavior has consequences.

### Maya Angelo

We as women have so much to offer  
But our giving begins with our families  
The center where God resides ...  
If we fail here  
How can we move into the world?  
Women have special responsibilities:  
When our children talk to us—listen  
When our husbands need encouragement—offer a warm embrace ...  
When our sisters and brothers need a kind word—offer it ...  
When our parents need love and patience—provide it.

Be a homemaker, not a housewife.

Don't let me find out from somebody else; tell me the truth.

### Spread Peace this Christmas

Christmas is an important time of the year. It's a time of year when the whole world is hearing the message of the birth of Jesus. It's a time when people are tender-hearted ... the perfect time to plant seeds of love in the lives of those you meet.

Sometimes these seeds may just take the form of a kind word in the middle of rush hour shopping. Other times, you may get the opportunity to pray and minister to someone. But whatever the situation, keep a sharp eye out for even the smallest chance to assist people.

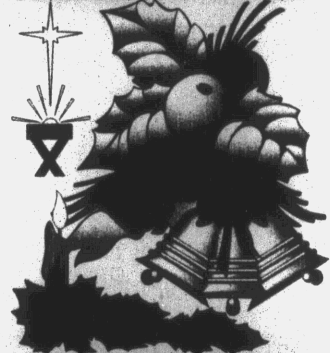


It's amazing how many people are ready to hear what you have to say when you say it in love.

They're starved for someone this Christmas season. Spread the Word about the peace that's available in Jesus, and about His goodwill toward men.

Who knows how many of those small seeds may one day take root and bring one more precious person into the glorious kingdom of God? ■

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20  
Beatrice Maye



Merry  
Christmas

# Full Metal Records Coming Soon!

# Read Your Black History!

### Hosea Williams, A Giant Any Way You Look At It

To Be Equal by Hugh Price

Hosea Williams, one of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s trusted lieutenants and an heroic figure in America's twentieth-century struggle for social justice, died last week of cancer in Atlanta. He was 74.

As sad as it is to lose Williams' blunt honesty, and his unshakable devotion to those in need, I can't help but think at the same time that his death is gloriously fitting for this moment in American history when the closeness and confusion of the presidential balloting in Florida has made the importance of every single vote cast—and not cast—unmistakably clear. Hosea Williams' death is gloriously fitting now because it reminds us that he was part of that band of men and women, boys and girls in the 1950s and 1960s who put their lives on the line time and again to secure the right to vote—the fundamental requirement of citizenship in a democracy—for everyone.

He was one of that "beloved community" of apostles of nonviolence who re-made the United States of America into a real democracy, not just a rhetorical one.

As James Farmer, another Movement hero, who passed away last year, wrote in his autobiography, living then "was tenuous.... but the grasping at liberty, and the reaching toward happiness ennobled life for this nation."

And Hosea Williams, working as the "advanced guard" of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, carried his noble mission into some of the most racially explosive situations in the South.

Congressman John Lewis, Democrat of Georgia, whose

own participation in the Movement stands as a definition of heroism, spoke an essential truth upon hearing of Williams' passing: that he "must be looked upon as one of the founding fathers of the new America. Through his actions, he helped liberate us all."

Now, when the votes of African Americans are as critical a part of the electoral mix as any other groups', it might be difficult for some to realize that just 35 years ago, racist laws and tactics barred the vast majority of black Americans in the South from voting. To attempt to do so could literally cost any black person his or her life.

That profound subversion of democracy changed forever on March 7, 1965, a day that became known as "Bloody Sunday." That was the day when Williams and Lewis assembled a group of civil rights activists in Selma, Alabama for a 50-mile march to Montgomery, the state capital. Their purpose was to present petitions to Governor George C. Wallace, the leading segregationist in America, demanding voting rights for black Alabamians. They had barely gotten across the Edmund Pettus Bridge over the force of more than a hundred Alabama State Troopers and sheriffs' deputies on foot and on horseback. All were equipped with gas masks.

The rampage that followed—of the club-wielding police overrunning the defenseless, choking marchers—shocked White America and the world and, by provoking President Lyndon Johnson to propose a federal voting rights bill, which was passed five months later, brought democracy to the South.

In April 1968, Williams was among the small group of lieutenants talking with King on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, TN, where they had come to aid the strike

of black sanitation workers, moments before King was assassinated.

In later years, Williams had what some might call a "checkered" career. He was a state representative from Atlanta for eleven years, a city councilman for five, and a DeKalb County commissioner for three. And he never ceased his "activism." For the last thirty years he organized a Feed The Hungry and Homeless Thanksgiving Day dinner in Atlanta that fed thousands, and he was continually on the front lines of demonstrations for a variety of causes.

But he also had numerous scrapes with the law over traffic violations, including several drunk-driving charges, and other offenses, and he spent several short stays in jail. Perhaps these tarnished his effectiveness over the last several years. But in broader terms, these blemishes are still far outweighed by the good that he had done—and the good that he continued to do.

This truth was wonderfully expressed by a letter-writer to the Atlanta Journal - Constitution put it.

She wrote that when she had called to offer a donation to his holiday-meal program, he himself came on the line they talked for some time. "By the time we finished talking...I thought this was someone I knew personally."

He was the approachable.... Without conceit, he captivated me with accounts of his many (efforts) to bridge gaps of fairness and equality between all people.... I was honored then; I am saddened now. Hosea Williams was not a human being without failings, but he was a giant any way look at it."

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**Photo By Jim Rouse**



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**Photo by Michael Adams**

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# SPORTS HISTORY: The Life of Paul Robeson

This year, the 101st anniversary of the birth of Paul Robeson is being commemorated.

If Robeson's life could be condensed into one sentence, "Paul Robeson: All-American Superstar and Man of the People" would be that sentence.

He was an All-American athlete as a collegian, a superstar singer and actor on the stage and screen, and he was relentless in his pursuit of equal rights for the masses. Of course, how he lived and what he accomplished in his 77 years of life, could never be condensed into one sentence.

No study of the African American, American or world history would be complete without an in-depth examination of the role Paul Robeson played. He was a man ahead of his time, who made a tremendous contribution to the struggle of oppressed people, and he paid a tremendous price for it.

Robeson was an activist on behalf of oppressed peoples for nearly 50 years. He was born in New Jersey in 1898, the son of a runaway slave. Born in the shadow of slavery, he was always an uncompromising advocate for full equality for African Americans and it gave him the will to prove that all of the stereotypical images assigned to black people were false.

It was well-known at the time that while "Negroes" were good at menial labor, dancing, singing and athletics, they were inferior in academic pursuits, they could not master the process of analytical thought, nor did they have the brain power to master the complexities of foreign language. Robeson destroyed all of those stereotypes.

Robeson was a scholar. In 1915, Paul Robeson won a four-year academic scholarship to Rutgers University. He was a star athlete, a two-time All-American at football and, in spite of violence and racism from teammates, he won 15 varsity letters in baseball, basketball and track. As a scholar, he received the Phi Beta Kappa key in his junior year, belonged to the Cap & Skull Honor Society. He graduated from Rutgers as the valedictorian of his class. He went on to become a professional football player while he worked his way to a law degree at Columbia Law School.

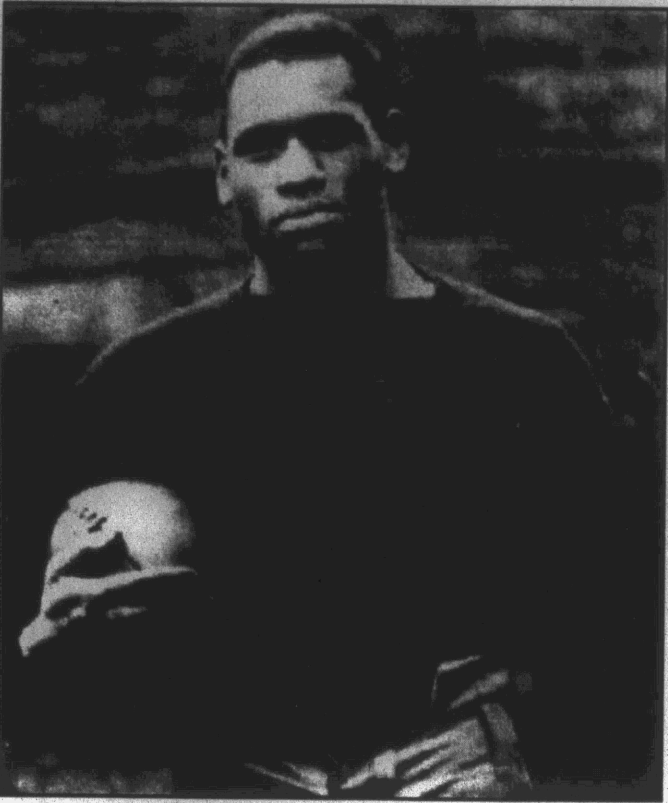
At Columbia (1919-1923), Robeson met and married Eslanda Cordoza Goode, who was to become the first black woman to head a pathology laboratory. He took a job with a law firm, but left when a white secretary refused to take dictation from him. He left the practice of law to use his artistic talents in theater and music to promote African and African American history and culture.

Robeson was a singer, a Shakespearean actor and a movie star. He made 11 films, including "Body and Soul" (1924), "Jericho" (1937), and "Proud Valley" (1939).

Robeson lived and performed in Europe from the late 1920s until 1939. In London, Robeson earned international acclaim for his lead role in "Othello," for which he won the Donaldson Award for Best Acting Performance (1944), and performed in Eugene O'Neill's "Emperor Jones" and "All God's Chillun Got Wings." He is known for changing the lines of the "Showboat" song "Old Man River" from the meek "... I'm tired of livin' and 'feared of dyin' ..." to a declaration of resistance, "... I must keep fightin' until I'm dying ...."

During his time in Europe, Robeson became, among other things, a linguist. He gained a strong appreciation for diverse cultures,

particularly those of Africa. He learned several foreign languages including several African dialects. He used his rich baritone voice to sing for peace and justice in 25 languages throughout Europe, the



PAUL ROBESON—The All-American Athlete

Soviet Union and Africa. At the same time, his hatred of racial prejudice and class difference led him to become active in a variety of political and social issues, including the British labor movement.

Robeson became known as a citizen of the world, equally comfortable with the people of Moscow, Nairobi and Harlem. His friends included future African leader Jomo Kenyatta, India's Nehru, historian Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, and writers James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway. In 1933, Robeson donated the proceeds of "All God's Chillun" to Jewish refugees fleeing Hitler's Germany.

During Hitler's reign in Germany, Robeson became one of the world's most famous anti-fascists. He spoke out against the fascist General Franco in Spain. At a 1934 rally for the anti-fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War, he declared, "The artist must elect to fight for freedom or for Slavery no alternative."

While in Europe, he became acquainted with socialist philosophies and became interested in the Soviet Union. While he disagreed with many principles of communism, he admired the Soviet Union's apparent lack of racial prejudice.

Back in the United States in 1939, he performed in the New York premiere of Earl Robinson's "Ballad for Americans," a cantata celebrating the multi-ethnic, multi-racial face of America. It attracted one of the largest audience responses of that time.

During the 1940s, Robeson continued to perform and to speak out in support of labor and peace and against racism. He spoke and performed at strike rallies, conferences and labor festivals worldwide. He supported the CIO (later part of the AFL-CIO) in its union organizing efforts. In addition, he protested the growing Cold War and worked tirelessly for friendship and respect between the U.S. and the USSR.

In 1945, he headed an organization that challenged President Truman to support an anti-lynching law. In the late '40s, Robeson publicly questioned why African Americans should fight in the army of a government that tolerated racism.

Robeson's admiration for the Soviet culture, coupled with his stated belief that black Americans should not wage war on behalf of their own oppressors—the United States government—ultimately led

The accusation nearly ended his career—80 of his concerts were canceled. Robeson saw it as an attack on the democratic rights of everyone who worked for international friendship and equality.

In 1949, two interracial outdoor concerts in Peekskill, N.Y., were attacked by racist mobs while state police stood and watched. Robeson, however, refused to be intimidated. "I'm going to sing wherever the people want me to sing ... and I won't be frightened by crosses burning in Peekskill or anywhere else," he said.

His passport was revoked from 1950 until 1958 and he was black-listed both by the federal government and the entertainment industry. He was unable to perform until 1957. During those years, Robeson studied Chinese, met with Albert Einstein to discuss the prospects for world peace and published his autobiography, *Here I Stand*, before returning to the stage to sing at Carnegie Hall.

At home, it was difficult to find restaurants that would serve him, theaters in New York would only seat blacks in the upper balconies, and his performances were often surrounded with threats and harassment. In 1960, Robeson made his last concert tour in New Zealand and Australia.

In spite of his ill treatment at the hands of the authorities, he never became embittered and fought for dignity and equality for all humans until illness forced him to retire in 1963. He died on Jan. 23, 1976.

In 1995, 19 years after his death, Paul Robeson was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

to his defamation.

At a time when America was engaged in a pervasive anti-Communist paranoia, he was accused by the House Un-American Activities Committee of being a Communist.

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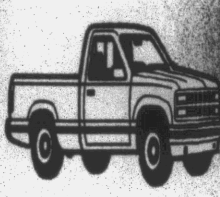
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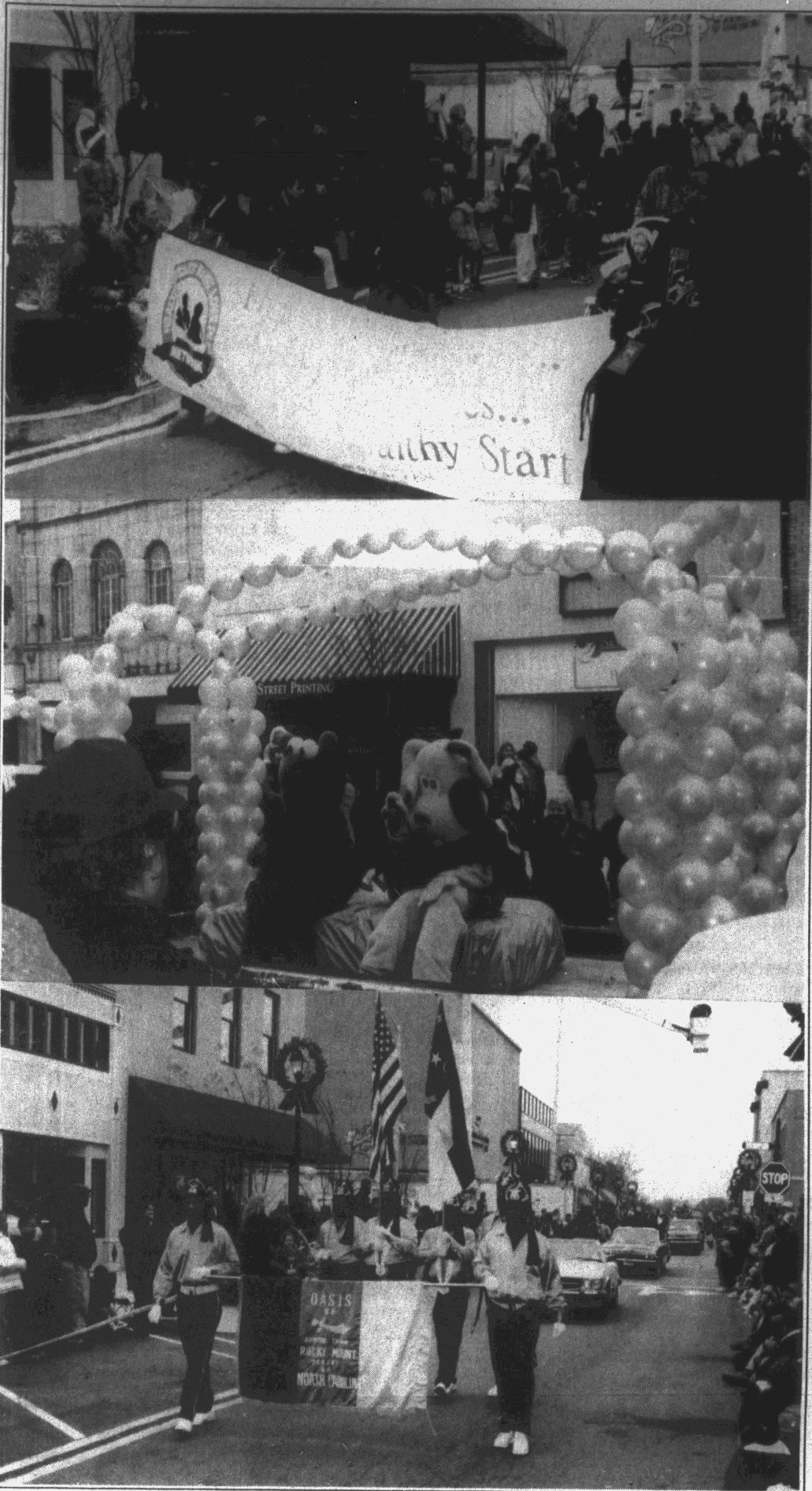
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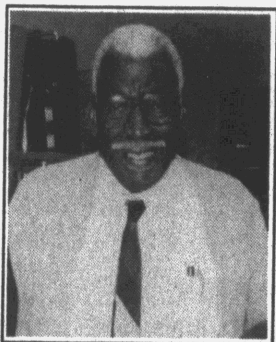






**It's A Parade !**  
Shown above is Greenville's annual Christmas Parade as the march down Evans street in uptown Greenville. Some of the participants included Healthy Start and Oasis of Hope out of Rocky Mount, NC. May everyone have a happy and safe holiday

Photo by Jim Rouse



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**"You can't Get There From Here....."** Vernice Watson pauses for the camera while at the book signing of her newly released book "You can't Get There From Here....."  
Photo by Michael Adams



**Centered.....**  
Recording artist Mel Holder with Taste of Heaven's entrepreneur family, Mr. & Mrs. John Taylor at the recording debut of Mrs. Vanessa Daniels

Photo by Micheal Adams

**SAVIOURS DAY 2001**



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# THE SANKOFA'S DRUM MAJORS OF DESTINY

When ones will has been broken and ones pride has been smashed and trampled upon under the heels of their abusers, the abused will began to view the abuser as something of an undeclared God over his or her life! The abuser, in the mind of the abused, will loom so large and so high and mighty, there is absolutely nothing imaginable that the abused will not do to find recognition, acceptance and approval of the abuser!

Usually the abused will seek marriage with the abuser and want to bear the abuser's offsprings, be their mother or become father of offsprings with the sister or mother or divorced wife of the abuser! However strange, ridiculous or peculiar and insane this might be viewed by anyone else, such abuse, violence, brutal beatings and bludgeoning, the victim tent to find an increased capacity to endure such abuse, because in the twisted mind of the abused, this will be translated and interrupted as an act of supreme love!

With this occurring over an extended period of time, the victim and the victimizer become deeply addicted to this type and kind of relationship and both will look forward to more and more of the same! Brutal pain and all but unendurable agonies will become the source of supreme pleasure in the most bizarre kinds of ways! Neither the can the victim nor the victimizer break free of the ties that bind them!

In many, many ways our brothers and sisters are moving through these types ad kinds of mental and spiritual corridors! And when any of us see this happening and began attempting to do something to extricate our members from this, it will be our own people that rises up and oppose us and accuse us of interfering in their business! They will accuse us of wrongly meddling in their affairs and this will be yet another way and proof to the victimizer their deep devotion and eternal loyalty to the victimizer!

This is manifested more often in those of us who see their God as white; their Savior as white; their leaders as white; their bosses as white and with white and even to bear white babies for whites or become husbands to white females and sire half white offsprings! And anyone pointing this out to them, their first defensive reaction will be to charge you with being jealous and to tell you to mind your own business!

Deep, deep, deep down within the mental and spiritual framework of their deranged, damaged and doomed and damned beings, is harbored some of the deepest levels of self hatred that shield the ability to let out screams that are damned up in the soul! To want no way out of this is to be convinced that one will never get out and thus will never end the way and manner in which he or she is being treated! Adjusting, holding back and smothering ones feelings and blocking ones

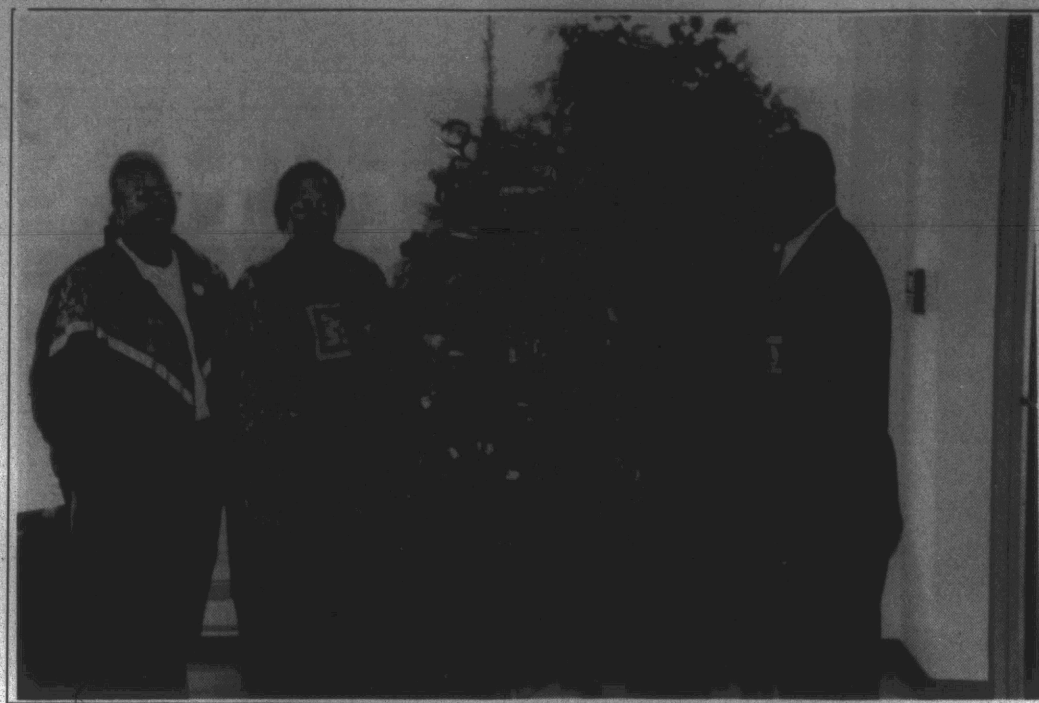
natural aspirations becomes the way victims learn to attempt to be normal beings!

When one has been totally decimated mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically, he and she are most likely to be heroic and heronistic in volunteering to join the military to be trained to kill for their abuser in foreign countries and upon battlefields to prove his and her loyalty to their victimizers!

Certainly this is not unknown to the victimizers. Indeed such behavior is the point at which the victimizer feels most powerful and potent! To see someone who they've abused, demeaned, demonized and for centuries described categorized and classified Naggers and as cions, savages, heathens, idol worshipers, cannibals and monkeys, bring them an highly intoxicating thrill of supreme triumphant over their victims!!

One does not have to study for decades to learn and earn degrees in psychology to be able to see these things manifesting right before their eyes. One need not be a historian or highly political nor be astute in sociology to see these things manifesting themselves in every move the victims make and with every breath they take! There is a behavior so deeply ingrained into the behavior of the victim that it immediately leaps out and arrest your attention! Needless to say it is an incredibly painful and agonizing thing to witness this and be totally unable to do anything about it!

**Reaching the  
African  
American  
Consumers of  
Beaufort  
County  
Pitt County  
Martin County**



Beautification Committee & Festival of Lights Committee  
left to right..Dr. Patricia Love (sec) Mrs Loretta Pruitt (co- chair) Mrs. Barbara Taft ( food cord

## THIRD ANNUAL WEED & SEED CHRISTMAS HOUSE DECORATING FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND CHILDREN'S POSTER COMPETITION DECEMBER 2000

YOU CAN DO IT BETTER  
WE CAN ALL LOOK BETTER !!

I CAN DO IT BETTER

That's right. Let's all have some fun and dress up our neighborhood this Christmas Season. We can gather our family together and create the most uniquely decorated house in the Weed & Seed Target Area. Even better, we can join with our neighbors and make this the best-decorated block. Yes, we can!

Also, we will be giving out awards to children under 18 years of age for drawing Christmas House posters. Poster are required to be on notebook sized paper - 8 1/2 x 11. Posters should be mailed or brought in by Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000 to Rosa Sydney, C.M. Eppes Recreation Center, Weed & Seed Safe Haven, P.O. Box 7207, Greenville, NC 27834.

### Poster Categories are:

1. 4 year olds
2. 5 year olds
3. 6 to 8 year olds
4. 9 to 11 year olds
5. 12 to 14 year olds
6. 15 to 18 year olds

This event is sponsored by the Weed & Seed Beautification Committee and the Christmas Festival of Lights Committee. We are asking everyone in the Weed & Seed Target area to add that little extra something when decorating his or her home for the Christmas Holidays.

Starting on Friday, December 1, 2000 through Thursday, December 14, 2000, a group of judges will ride through the Weed & Seed Target Area and judge decorated homes on their theme, creativity, uniformity, arrangement, concept blend, and for just looking GREAT!

Winners will be announced on Friday night, December 15, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the C.M. Eppes Recreation Center. Trophies, medals & certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners of the best-decorated Christmas House and Poster categories.

Contestants and visitors attending this event will be given free refreshments. Several groups will sing Christmas Carols and perform inspirational dance for the enjoyment of everyone.

### House Categories are:

1. Best Decorated Front Door Award
2. Best Decorated Christmas Tree Award
3. Best Decorated House Front Award
4. Best Decorated House & Yard Award
5. Best Decorated Whole House Award
6. Best Decorated Block Award (2/3 of the block must be decorated)

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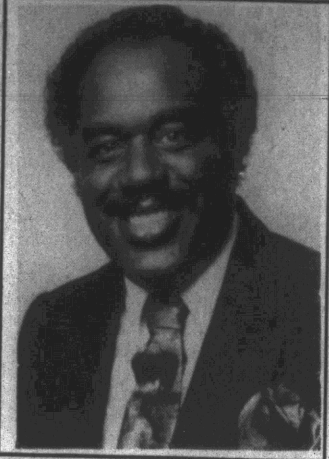
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## Spiritual Thoughts



**Dr. George Hawkins**

**God's Word Cleanses**

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ;

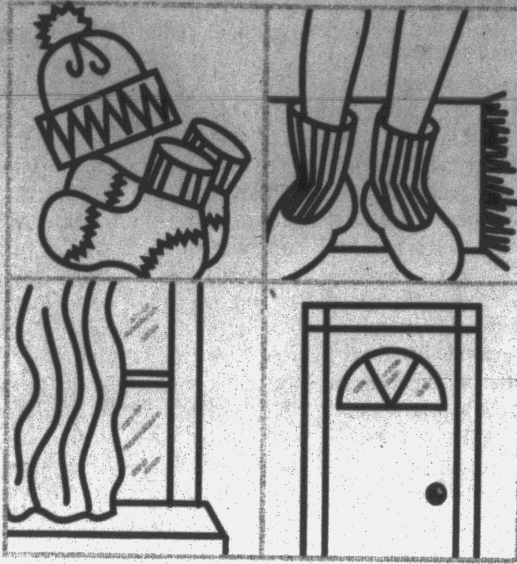
One of the pieces of furniture in the Old Testament tabernacle was called the brass laver (Ex 38:8). It consisted of a huge upright brass bowl filled with water, resting upon a pedestal. The priests would often stop at this laver and wash. The Word of God may be thought of in terms of that laver, for it too has the power to cleanse. The Old Testament laver could only remove the physical dirt from human hands, but the

Scriptures possess the ability to take away our moral filth (1 Peter 1:22).

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). What area of our life can the Bible cleanse? It can cleanse us from wrong thoughts. Sometimes we are tempted to think critically of others; God's Word can prevent this (Psalm 1:2). On other occasions, fearful thoughts may race through our minds; the Scriptures will prevent this also (Joshua 1:8). In fact, the Bible will establish our total thought-life if we but allow it to do so (Phil. 4:8,9; 2 Peter 1:5-10).

It can cleanse us from wrong words. Of all the Bible authors, James seems to be God's expert on the signs of the human tongue. In the first chapter of his book, he deals with this very thing and shows the absolute necessity of dependence upon the Scriptures to keep our words true (James 1:22-26 and Psalm 319:72).

It can cleanse us from wrong actions. Jesus promised us this would be the case: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3). Finally, God's Word will keep us from wrong thoughts, words, and actions; or else wrong thoughts, words, and actions will keep us from God's Word.



## Stay Warm For Less This Winter

During the winter months, many factors can affect whether you feel too warm or too cool in your home. Stay comfortable and save money by trying these energy saving tips from Greenville Utilities:

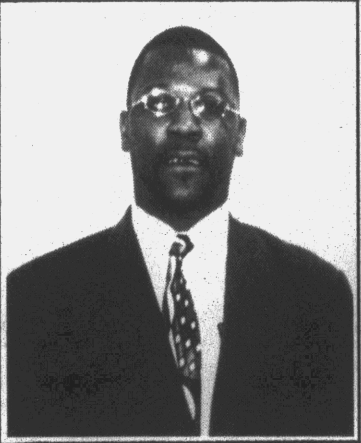
- Except for heat pumps, turn the thermostat down anytime you are leaving for more than two hours.
- Check your ductwork in the attic and under the house to be sure it is intact. Separated ductwork causes tremendous energy losses, comfort problems, and will seriously impair indoor air quality.
- Weather-seal window air conditioners for better efficiency. When possible, remove them in the winter, or at least cover to prevent cold air transfer.
- Check and clean or replace your central heating filters once each month. Keeping clean filters in the system can save as much as 10-15% of the operating costs.
- Use a small space heater for brief periods to warm small areas, such as bathrooms, instead of overheating the entire house.

For more energy saving tips, call Greenville Utilities' Energy Services Office at 551-1525.

**Greenville Utilities**

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# Be Safe This Holiday Season



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### My Holiday Recipe

- Grandma's slammin' cornbread dressing
- Some old-school Christmas LP's
- Kayla and Sharise messing with their toys
- Tavis home from college
- A serious feast with holiday flavor
- The men mad into the game
- Some belt-loosening and kickin' back
- And a lot of thankfulness for another year together

Add Coke. Mix it all together. Chill. And serve.

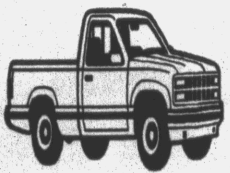


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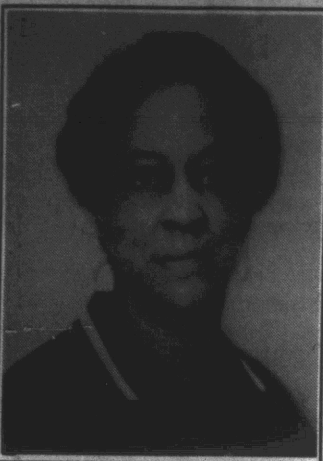
The Gospel Five of Oak Church  
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& Other Local Church Male Chorus Groups

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Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., Pastor



# Reflections Expressions & Reviews



Suejette A. Jones

## What Is "Effective" Ministry?

A ministry is effective when lives are transformed such that people are constantly enabled to become more Christ-like. Effective ministries foster significant and continual changes in how people live. When your church is able to consistently facilitate a personal change process among its people, then it is operating in the realm of effectiveness.

In our culture it is easy to get confused about what "effective ministry" looks like at the grass-roots level. Some interviews with pastors confirm that there is a tremendous degree of confusion about the practical meaning of effective ministry. Many Christians believe that the marks of an effective church are : having a sanctuary filled every

Sunday; raising a large amount of money; adding and constructing new ministry facilities; sending church choirs to sing in churches, community events, and school campuses; broadcasting church worship services on the local radio and television; offering ministry programs and Christian education classes; having a high profile awareness in the community; adding 100 (or more) new members in a year.

Contrary to popular opinion, these scenarios do not necessarily reflect a church that is truly effective. The most important aspect of any ministry is-- the hearts of the people. There are many churches that offer a variety of ministry events and meetings but in which the participants are simply going through the motions. If such churches would reduce the number of programs, services, events, and "social gatherings", its effectiveness as a ministry would facilitate a turnaround and focus on the real purpose of a ministry.

I'm willing to bet that when the Lord examines a church, His criteria have little to do with attendance statistics, budgeting complexities or program breadth. If His critique of the Pharisees and other religious leaders is any indication, His analysis will hinge on the depth of people's commitment to making their faith real and pure. Tiny congregations composed of people completely dedicated to being a blessing to God and others will probably make the grade; churches that have a high profile and earn constant media attention but exhibit limited spiritual growth and depth may be surprised (heartbroken) at how they fare in His judgment.

NOTE: Some information is from Barna Research Group

## SOLDIER

(A Poet's Childhood)

BY: June Jordan

Some months before the black poet, June Jordan was born, she writes, her mother was visited in a dream by angels who told her the child would grow up to help the "colored people". But as Jordan's memoir, "Soldier," makes clear an activist is not

born but made. Jordan learned both to love the written word and to resent in justice in the person of her father, Granville. A West Indian immigrant who taught himself to read, he directed his considerable intelligence and rage into making his daughter fit for white society. This included trips to Manhattan museums and Carnegie Hall, strictly enforced reading assignments and, ultimately enrollment of an unenthusiastic June into an elite all-white boarding school. Then there was a darker curriculum: drills in combat skills, literature lessons that descended into violence and unpredictable

nighttime visits when he would return from his late shift at the post office, pull his "black devil child" from bed and beat her until his fury and frustration were spent. Jordan's mother, helpless against her husband's determination to turn their daughter into the son he never had, retreated into chilly passivity and her prayer book, leaving June to challenge him. By the time she was 7, the girl was keeping a knife under her pillow. Shortly before her eighth birthday she pulled it on him. The random beatings soon ceased. "Soldier" never falls into score-settling, in large part because

the adult Jordan is not merely looking back on her childhood. Rather she attempts to reinhabit it, conjuring the helpless love and awe a towering parent in- spires in every child. Her memoir makes vivid the debt she owes to the father who both nurtured and tormented her.

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