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People In The News



The Dallas Symphony Orchestra presents An Evening with Branford Marsalis in a one-night only concert. The legendary saxophonist and Grammy Award-winning artist brings his soulful sounds to the Meyerson Symphony Center on April 25, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

Marsalis, a performer, composer and now, as the head of his Marsalis Music label, produces for both his own projects and those of the jazz world's most promising new artists. As one of jazz's greatest names today, Marsalis has worked with such legends as Harry Connick, Jr., Wynton Marsalis and Doug Wamble, to name a few. Marsalis also continues to explore classical music, having performed with symphonies throughout Europe and America.

Marsalis took the bold step of founding his own label in 2002 as a means to ensure the uncompromising presentation of recorded creative music in a variety of genres. "My brother Ellis III once pointed out the difference between those who want to provide a service to the community and make a profit, and those who just want to make a profit at the expense of the community," Branford explains.

For ticket info call 214-692-0203, or visit www.DallasSymphony.com.

Wells Fargo has named Genena Woodson vice president of Diversity & Inclusion for the Texas Region. Based in Fort Worth, Woodson will focus on attracting and retaining diverse talent throughout Texas.

"As a human resources veteran, Genena's expertise will be valuable to attracting and retaining new diverse talent, and maintaining Wells Fargo's current Diversity & Inclusion programs," said Marriot.

Woodson has more than 10 years experience in human resources with a focus on recruiting, staffing, employee relations, diversity, compensation and benefits. She joined Wells Fargo in 2004 as a team lead for the Internal Recruiting team in Minneapolis.

She has a bachelor's degree in business management and human resources from Illinois State University and is a University of Minnesota master's of science candidate. She is also certified as a Senior Professional of Human Resources through Society of Human Resources Management.

Woodson serves on the advisory boards of the Texas Diversity Council, Texas Southern University and the Texas advisory board for the NAACP. She is also a member of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce - Executive Women's Committee and the Society of Human Resources Management.



Mark Lawrence McPhail has been appointed chair of the Division of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs (CCPA) at the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, effective July 1, 2007. He comes to SMU from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he is Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Coordinator of Creativity and Culture, and Director of the Ida Mottimer Windate Writing Center.

"Throughout the interview process I was greatly impressed by the sincerity, passion and energy of everyone I met at Southern Methodist University, and I very much look forward to becoming a part of the SMU community," McPhail said. "I'm honored to be given the opportunity to be a part of an outstanding division, an exceptional school and a remarkable university, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, the Meadows School of the Arts and Southern Methodist University."

McPhail received a Ph.D. in rhetoric and public address from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, an M.A. in performance studies from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. and a B.A. in secondary education from Emerson College in Boston.

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Don Imus Debate Turns Toward Rap Lyrics



AP Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has questioned the way some rappers talk about women in songs, saying the lyrics were similar to the derogatory language used by fired radio host Don Imus.

They are "degrading their sisters. That doesn't inspire me," Obama said April 13 of some hip-hop artists when a man in a campaign-event crowd in Florence, S.C., questioned him.

Earlier last week, Obama criticized Imus, who was fired April 12 for labeling the Rutgers

women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos."

"I do think we've seen a coarsening of the culture," Obama said in an interview with the Associated Press. As a constitutional lawyer, Obama said, he was a free-speech advocate.

"But just because you can say something doesn't mean you should say something," he said. "And I think that we have not talked enough about the harmful images and messages that are sent." He said as a parent it was a constant struggle to reinforce his two daughters' sense of self-esteem.

"I think that all of us have become a little complicit in this kind of relaxed attitude toward some pretty offensive things,"

Don Imus Debate Page 6

Urban League Of Greater Dallas Sponsors Mayoral Candidates Forum



Dallas Mayor Pro Tem and Mayoral Candidate Don Hill

Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Dallas will facilitate a Community Forum for candi-

dates running the Mayor of the City of Dallas.

The Forum will be held on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Townview Center, 1201 E. Eighth Street. The mayoral candidates are John Cappello, David Coats, Jennifer Gale, Gary Griffith, Roger Herrera, Tom Leppert, Edward Oakley, Ejike Okpa and Max Wells.

The candidates will discuss issues and take questions from the audience.

Communities throughout the United States saw changes during the turbulent 1960s that were a direct result of the civil rights movement. In Dallas, communities began a Community Forum for candi-

Mayoral Candidate Forum Page 4

Third Coast Arts Center Of Dallas, Inc. To Host Annual Awards Ceremony

The Third Coast Arts Center, Inc. of Dallas (TCAC) will host its first annual awards ceremony and banquet 7:00 p.m., Saturday, April 21 at Paul Quinn College.

The event will highlight and honor the achievements of local artists who have excelled in the areas of dance, music, art education and gallery exhibitions. Among this year's prestigious list of honorees are artist James E. Kemp; musician Robert A. Simpson, Sr.; award-winning singer Erykah Badu; playwright Willie Holmes; artistic Director Ann Williams; and community relations manager Kathy Jones

James E. Kemp - is Resident Artist and Director of the Art Program at Paul Quinn College. Kemp paints in mixed media - watercolor, tempera and acrylics. He is an accomplished sculptor who works with clay and wax casting in bronze. His unique sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (a larger than life-sized bust displayed at



Third Coast Arts Center Page 6

African American Postal League United For Success Holds 20th Annual Convention In Dallas



James Mitchell, A-PLUS National President

The African American Postal League United for Success (APLUS) will celebrate 20 years of mentoring and developing future leaders in the U.S. Postal Service during its annual convention.

The Dallas Chapter will serve as your host for the 20th Annual

National Convention April 19-22, 2007 at the Adam's Mark hotel, Dallas TX. The theme for the convention is "Achieving our Purpose Through a Legacy of Unity and Strength." This momentous event is a milestone for the organization—20 years of mentoring and developing future leaders.

Muhammad Ali once said "He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." The founders of A-PLUS risked their careers to ensure African Americans were given the same opportunities for upward mobility and promotions as their counterparts. The organization has survived and has many accomplishments of which to be proud. A-PLUS will honor those brave men and women during this 20th anniversary.

A-Plus Annual Convention Page 4

Interracial Marriage Flourishes In U.S.



AP More than 7 percent of 59 million unions are between races

The king of the 2008 presidential field. The world's best golfer. The captain of the New York Yankees. Besides superstardom, Barack Obama, Tiger Woods and Derek Jeter have another common bond: Each is the child of an interracial marriage.

For most of U.S. history, in most communities, such unions were taboo.

It was only 40 years ago — on June 12, 1967 — that the U.S. Supreme Court knocked down a Virginia statute barring whites from marrying nonwhites. The decision also overturned similar bans in 15 other states.

Since that landmark Loving v. Virginia ruling, the number of interracial marriages has soared; for example, black-white marriages increased from 65,000 in 1970 to 422,000 in 2005,

according to Census Bureau figures. Factoring in all racial combinations, Stanford University sociologist Michael Rosenfeld calculates that more than 7 percent of America's 59 million married couples in 2005 were interracial, compared to less than 2 percent in 1970.

Coupled with a steady flow of immigrants from all parts of the world, the surge of interracial marriages and multiracial children is producing a 21st century America more diverse than ever, with the potential to become less stratified by race.

"The racial divide in the U.S. is a fundamental divide... but when you have the 'other' in your own family, it's hard to think of them as 'other' anymore," Rosenfeld said. "We see a blurring of the old lines, and that has to be a good thing, because the lines were artificial in the first place."

The boundaries were still distinct in 1967, a year when the Sidney Poitier film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" — a

Interracial Marriage Page 6

Business Profile: "The Salt Of The Earthbound"

By: Sean C. Wright

Chances are you've seen the Earthbound Trading Company stores in an area mall and wondered what exactly they offered. If you haven't entered one of their stores, you can't imagine the type experience that awaits you inside.

Burning scented oil yields soothing aromas and the music gives one the "world traveler" feeling as patrons get an eyeful of unique jewelry, home décor and other hand-crafted gifts at the Earthbound Trading Company. Shoppers can find diverse arrays of exotic merchandise from Indonesia, Africa, Brazil, Australia, Chile and China and other faraway places that are reasonably priced.



Tina Walters-Johnson, Director of Imports for Earthbound Trading Company

Earthbound Trading Company's interest is not only in the customer shopping experience, but in promoting humanitarian concerns as well. Their establishment produces

Business Profile Page 4

Boys & Girls Club Billiards Ball Honors Leaders And Raised Over \$325,000



Painting entitled "Happy Dallas Daze," painted by Christopher Martin with the help of Boys & Girls Clubs students at his studio.

The fourth annual Billiard Ball, which benefited the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas, was held on Friday, March 2, 2007 at the Tower Club and raised more than \$325,000. Presented by Bank of America and Honorary Chairmen The Honorable Kay Bailey and Ray Hutchison, the Billiard

Ball was chaired by Katherine and Key Coker and Cecilie and Ronnie Holman.

For the fourth year, Bank of America was the Presenting Sponsor. The Boys & Girls Clubs continued its tradition of honoring the community's top philanthropic and business leaders who are positively impacting

Dallas. Caren Prothro received the prestigious Robert H. Dedman Lifetime Achievement Award for Philanthropy for her contributions to the community. Roger Staubach received The Natural Leader Award, Robert J. (Bob) Wright received The Innovator Award, Ronald J. Gafford received The Motivator Award,

and John P. Tatum, II received The Rising Star Award. Funds raised from the Billiard Ball are used to help more than 10,000 youths at 11



Charles English, Boys & Girls Clubs president and chief professional officer, and his wife, Cheryl English; Marianne and Roger Staubach (honoree).

clubs and in 11 DISD schools, with a focus on character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the

arts, sports and fitness and recreation. These programs provide activities to help club members stay off the street and skills to succeed in school and life.



Alein Jordan, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas Youth of the Year and Greenhill senior, with his mentor, Tim Tolliver of the West Dallas Club.



Ariel Rolfe, Boy & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas Youth of the Year Runner-Up, with John Rodgers, board chairman of the Boy & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas.

\$100,000 Renovation of the South Dallas Center

Building Ribbon Cutting and Dedication on May 16

On March 31, The Real Estate Council's Associate Leadership Council (TREC, ALC) and girls from Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas (Girls Inc.) finished rebuilding the South Dallas Center of Girls Inc. TREC ALC has donated thousands of volunteer hours—including the majority of physical labor—to refurbish the interior and exterior of the South Dallas Center of Girls Inc.

As part of learning leadership, philanthropy and fundraising, each TREC ALC class selects and implements a real estate related community service project, and this year's class selected Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas.

In the last two months, the class gutted and remodeled the kitchen and remodeled the kitchen; built 50 new cubbies; replaced exteriors and painted

interiors and exteriors; built a new fence; poured a concrete pad; trimmed the trees; installed all new floors and more. They are working on landscaping the exterior, replacing the roof and installing all new signage.

To fund the \$100,000 renovation, TREC ALC members are selling raffle tickets. In addition, they have solicited in-kind donations and a \$40,000 grant from The Real Estate Council Foundation.

On Wednesday, May 16 at 4:00 p.m., TREC ALC and

Girls Inc. will hold a ribbon cutting and building dedication at the center located at 4411 Meadow St., Dallas, Texas 75215. The press and public are invited to attend.

About TREC and TREC ALC:

Founded in 1990, The Real Estate Council has more than 1,500 commercial real estate professionals representing more than 500 companies in the Dallas area and 10,000 employees. Through The Real Estate Council Foundation, grants and

professional assistance are provided to local organizations focused on community revitalization and affordable housing. Since its inception, TREC Foundation has given \$5.7 million in cash leveraged by more

than \$20 million in pro-bono professional services. The Associate Leadership Council is a nine-month leadership development program for commercial real estate professionals.

South Dallas Center Page 7



(Back Row L to R) Kandra Beasley, DeAngela Gibson, DeKeanna Black, Sheila Waters and Latoya Blanch. (Front Row L to R) Consuela Jackson of Girls Inc. (standing); Stephanie and Rusty Nana (seated); and Nina Rodgers of Girls Inc. (standing).



Ashlynn Suttie (in front, in pink jacket); (L to R) Kandra Beasley, Sheila Waters, DeAngela Gibson, Latoya Blanch.

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Around The Town

Ongoing
The Collin County Chapter of the American Business Women's Association meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in McKinney

Free Tenant Legal Workshops are at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Douglas Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174.

Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi a social service-cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

Assistance League of Greater Collin County meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit www.assistance-league-gcc.org.

"EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

A free legal clinic is offered for residents who meet low-income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

Free HIV Testing offered by the LaSigma Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.

The Frisco Housing Authority is offering tenant-

based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

Dance Classes from 1:00 pm. to 3:00 pm. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. For more info call S-Ankh Kasa at 214-298-5858.

Late Night at the Dallas Museum of Art. Join us on the third Friday of each month at 1717 N. Harwood. \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for students with current school I.D. 2 1 4 4 - 9 2 2 - 1 2 0 0 , publicprograms@DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Dallas Baptist University-North Leadership Empowerment Luncheon Series is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Dallas Baptist University-North, 3211 Internet Blvd., Suite 100. For more info, call 214-333-5777 or e-mail dbunorth@dbu.edu.

The Yundras Show taped live every Tuesday at The Historical Rose Marine Theater, 1440 N. Main St. Fort Worth. Doors open at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 pre-sale online www.TheYundrasShow.com, \$77-840-0497. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

Beyond Borders - International Seminar & Trade Fair
 Practical "how-to" advice and numerous resources on how to generate sales in international markets. Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive in Farmers Branch American Marketing Association 7:30 am - 4:30 pm, kim@scottandscottllp.com 214-999-0080

April 19
The Frisco Arts Festival, four days of music, food, fun, and fine arts and crafts by 200 artists from around

the country. The festival takes place on the nine blocks between the convention center and the courthouse in downtown Fort Worth. In downtown Fort Worth. www.mainstreetartsfest.org

Diana Ross, Nokia Live Theater, 1001 Next Stage Dr. in Grand Prairie 8 pm 214-373-8000
Comedian John Witherspoon, Addison Improv, 4980 Belcline Road, Addison, thru Sunday, call 972-404-8501.

April 20
Dallas Black Dance Theater's Spring Fiesta, Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak, Dallas, \$15. Call 214-871-2390.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, Herbie Johnson Jazz Ensemble in concert, 7:00 pm, 1816 Routh St., Dallas, TX 75201. For more info call 214-922-0000.

Dallas North Tollway Extension Groundbreaking, 10:00 am; 770 Dallas Parkway, Prosper, TX 75078; major step in expanding transportation access to the growing northwest section of Collin County.

Black Cinematheque Dallas film: *Spirit*, Celebrate National Poetry Month with us with SPIT! More than just a film about poetry slams, SPIT! explores the lives of the poets outside of the poetry houses. Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park. \$5.00 per night. marilyn.clark@sbcglobal.net 214-670-0315

April 21
Aretha Franklin, Nokia Live Theater, 1001 Next Stage Dr. in Grand Prairie. 8 pm 214-373-8000

Community Rhythm Circle and Drum Making, Central Library, Children's Programming Room in Irving. Irving Public Library, 2pm, FREE. 972-721-2458

Dallas Local Organizing Committee, Inc. and Dallas

Independent School District 9 Trustee Ron Price will host the sixth annual Youth Empowerment Festival at Lincoln High School, 2826 Hatcher St. The festival will foster community unity and raise funds to support DISD priority schools. For more information, call 972-613-9357.

Chains of Slavery: The Dark Secrets of Human Trade, Lifetime's mini-series Human Trafficking screening, followed by a panel discussion with victims of trafficking and members of the Child Exploitation Squad. UNT, Eagle Student Services Center room 255, 1147 Union Circle in Denton, 11 am - 4:30 pm, FREE 972-480-5236

Mo'Niques FAT Chance will host a casting call for women over the age 21 and wear a size 14 or larger at the Wyndham Arlington Dallas/Fort Worth Airport South, 1500 Convention Center Drive. For more information call 972-261-8200.

HBCU Fair will be held at Skyline High School, 7777 Forney Road. For more information, call 972-220-0477 or e-mail dmcbaas@yahoo.com

The Plano Civic Chorus Presents: Mendelssohn's "Elijah", featuring Donnie Ray Albert, Saturday, at 8:00 p.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Plano and Sunday, April 22, 2007 at 3:00 p.m., Temple Emanuel, El.Dallas. For Saturday Tickets, call Plano Civic Chorus at 972-606-5220. For Sunday Tickets, call Temple Emanuel-El at 214-706-0000

The Mad Hatters' Spring Into Summer with PACIE's 11:30 A.M. Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive, Dallas, Wear your favorite hat and join the fun. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund. Tickets \$35.00. Call Patricia Hempstead, 972-236-1337

Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc. (KMB) will host the Bi-Annual Mesquite Trash-Bash on from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Lake Park.

April 22
Elijah, The Plano Civic Chorus and the choir of Temple Emanuel-El join together for Mendelssohn's masterpiece. Temple Emanuel-El, 8500 Hillcrest Road
 Plano Civic Chorus 3 pm \$20

April 23
LR Training & Consulting will be offering "Free" Job Readiness training to job seekers. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. For those that qualify, the registration fee will be waived/sponsored by our nonprofit organization, LRTC Early Learning & Training Ctr. Classes consist of: Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Cover Letters, etc. If interested, please contact LaShawn @ 214/263-4894 for more information.

NAACP Garland Branch, general membership meeting, 713 Austin St. For more info, call 972-381-5014

DFW Minority Business Council ACCESS 2007 Business Expo Arlington Convention Center. 1200 Ballpark Way in Arlington, 76011
 For more info, call 972-450-0747

Garland NAACP Annual EXCEL Awards Recognition Program, Recognizing African-American students for academic excellence and progress, and good citizenship. GISD Special Events Center, 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland, 7:00 p.m. Elementary students 4/23, Middle school students 4/24.

April 24
The Black Eyed Peas will be featured at the Blinnoff Music Centre, 1818 First Avenue. For more information, call 214-421-1111.

April 25
Branford Marsalis, Grammy award-winning saxophonist, Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St, Dallas, 8:00 PM. 214-692-0203, DallasSymphony.com

Spring SPA Spiritual Pampering and Anointing: Concord Missionary Baptist Church, 6800 Pastor Bailey Drive at 6:30 pm. 214-331-8522, ext. 232 Thru April 27

April 26
DISD-Council of PTA 5th Annual Life Membership & Scholarship Luncheon, Honoring life members, past presidents and benefiting the Council of PTA Scholarship Fund, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. For ticket info call Ruby J. Scott-214-943-5998 or Patricia Caddock-214-372-6061

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce Monthly Evening Mixer, Stephanie Ward Gallery, 920 E. 18th St. Plano, TX 75074, 214-473-4234, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Free. RSVP by April 24, 2007. cbccsecretary@yahoo.com, sponsorship opportunities available at blackwax214-289-7840

Urban Ministries Prayer Breakfast, Hilton Anatole Hotel (Chantilly Ballroom). 2201 Stemmons Fwy, 6:30 am \$200 (tables) - \$50 (individual) <http://dwbnet1.blackbaud.com>

April 27
Denton Arts & Jazz Festival Great music, good food, beautiful art and many activities are planned for the whole family in Denton, Texas, where FUN IS THE THING and JAZZ IS KING. Civic Center Park, 321 E McKinney St. in Denton, 5 pm - 11 pm FREE
 940-565-0931

Janie Foss Concert, Nokia Live Theater, 1001 Next Stage Dr. in Grand Prairie, 8 pm, 214-373-8000.

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Paul Hailey

What You Can Learn From Asian Parents

were born and everything to do with how they are raised.

I'll start with the last fallacy first. Asian students consistently outperform students in every ethnic group at every academic level. While Asian Americans make up approximately 4% of the U.S. population, Asian-American students account for mind-boggling percentages of the student bodies at the top universities in America. Asian Americans are 24% of the students at Stanford, 18% of the students at Harvard, and 25% of the students at Columbia and Cornell. More Asian Americans over the age of 25 have bachelor's degrees and advanced degrees than another race. Again, the immediate question is why?

A new book, *Top of The Class: How Asian Parents Raise High Achievers—and How You can Too*, looks at the 17 practices in Asian households that explains why Asian students excel. And according to authors Dr. Soo Kim and Attorney Jane Kim, the short answer is that the difference is in what happens in the home before and after the school day of Asian students. Asian students do better because the role of the parent and the role of the parent in Asian homes are starkly different than the same roles in non-Asian homes.

The authors found that the role of Asian students is clearly defined. Asian children repeatedly are told that their role is to respect their elders and obey their parents, while being expected to study hard and do well in school to secure a prosperous future. How many black families define the role of their children as students? Generally speaking, Asian kids don't participate in the same myriad of distractions and extracurricular activities as their non-Asian counterparts. Football, basketball, soccer, drills team and dance-not activities dominated by Asian kids. Less distractions, higher grades.

Asian students also tend to continue their role as students after they come home. The education process extends into the home and includes review of subjects covered during the school day. In non-Asian homes, the learning process stops once the student answers 'yes' to the question: are you done with your homework?

The main reason that Asian students outperform their peers is... (surprise)-Asian parents. The authors noted that Asian parents generally: manage their children's time outside of school, assume the role of educator after school hours, teach their children that being a student is both fun and rewarding, and have a genuine respect for educators. Do you get the picture?

In my opinion, this is where most American households, (and black folks in particular) miss the boat when it comes to education. For kids and adults, learning is a continual process. World-class athletes, scientists musicians, etc. don't become world-class by just achieving the bare minimum; and we shouldn't expect are children to either. To improve learning, we must improve the environment for learning. The home environment has to become a place where learning is expected and viewed as fun and exciting. Set aside an hour each night to focus on homework and review the subjects your children are struggling with.

I'm not trying to bash anyone as a parent, I could never tell anyone how to raise or educate his or her child. But I do know from personal experience that educational excellence is mainly a function of time invested; time invested by the student and the parent. For black students, the problem isn't whether the test is culturally biased or not, the problem is whether the student is adequately prepared for the test.

Paul Hailey can be reached at phailey@MonTheGazette.com

Our Veterans Deserve Better

By: State Senator District 23 Royce West

As a state senator, I have had the opportunity over the years to meet with many of our Texas veterans. What strikes me most about these individuals is the courage and selfless sense of duty they possess, far beyond that of the average person. Our veterans have sacrificed everything so that we may live in the free society that we have become accustomed to. They are truly modern day heroes and should be shown the respect and appreciation they deserve when returning home to the State of Texas.

Two often overlooked issues have come to my attention this legislative session. The first is the lack of re-integration services available to our Texas veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. I, along with many of my fellow senators have proposed legislation (SB 1058),

which creates a statewide re-integration counseling program for service members returning to Texas from combat duties by providing a safety-net counseling system for veterans and their immediate family members.

Many of the services will be geared towards the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a treatable anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of a traumatic event. Most survivors of trauma return to normal given a little time and proper treatment. However, a recent Army study has found that approximately 17 percent of combat veterans returning from Iraq have tested positive for the disorder.

The second issue is the shocking reality that veterans make up at least one-third of the homeless population, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. How and why I ask are we allowing our outstanding ser-

vicemen and women to end up on the streets of America? Adding to that is the fact that we have witnessed the incidence of violence against homeless persons rise dramatically across this nation. Estimates show that attacks on the homeless have risen by 50 percent from 2005 to 2006. This is simply unacceptable. I have proposed legislation to add homelessness to the Texas hate crimes statute. SB 536 is needed protection for this vulnerable population, given that these attacks are increasing almost exponentially (614 across the U.S. and 42 violent attacks in Texas since 1999).

Our veterans deserve better! We have an obligation to put forth the resources to assist our veterans with their re-integration into society and to protect them on the streets of America as they have protected us on the streets of Baghdad.

State Of Black America 2007: Bringing The Invisible Man To Light

By: Marc H. Morial - President and CEO, National Urban League

Prominent African-American scholar and author Ralph Ellison once depicted the black man as socially invisible in his watershed novel *Invisible Man*. His hard-hitting portrayal of life in 1940s black America suggested that it'll take more than a major Civil Rights movement to bring the nation out of its racist past. That was in 1953.

Since then, much progress has been made in terms of black men gaining greater visibility in the United States. At the anecdotal level, African-American men have broken down color barriers in a wide array of arenas - from sports to medicine to the arts to law to higher education to finance - and have risen to great prominence, giving their white brethren a run for their money.

From Barack Obama to Tony Dungy to Thurgood Marshall to Colin Powell to Tiger Woods to Russell Simons to Spike Lee, there are a multitude of male African-American role models who have proven that they can compete and excel on the same level as whites to choose from. But for all the outstanding examples of black men defying a culture of low expectations dating back to the slavery era that was created and placed upon them by mainstream America via the media and other outlets, there are many more who are light years away from fulfilling their true potential. They represent the greatest source of untapped potential in the United States.

In many ways, two different worlds exist for African-American men. In one world, the number of black males who have earned college degrees has quadrupled since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In the other, more black men are earning GEDs in prison than graduating from institutions of higher learning.

In one world, young black males grow up in two-parent households with annual median incomes rivaling those of white families. In the other world, more than half the nation's 5.6 million black boys grow up in fatherless families, 40 percent of them impoverished.

There is definitely a crisis afoot among black African-American men that we must stop complaining about and taking action to resolve. If not for them, their families and our society as a whole.

It also showed that African-American males lag behind their white counterparts on many major levels. They are more than twice as likely to be unemployed. Seven times as likely to be incarcerated, with jail sentences that are on average 10 months longer. Nearly eight times as likely to suffer from AIDS and for those between the ages of 15 and 34 years, nine times more likely to

be killed by firearms.

But instead of concentrating on the downside, let us look at the upside. There is some promise for blacks, especially young males ones, in what the report found. A higher percentage of young black children are enrolled in early childhood education programs such as Head Start than young white children - 66 percent compared to 64 percent. And the youngest blacks have made strong improvements in school readiness - scoring at 94 percent that of whites, up from 81 percent in 2006.

They have even surpassed or nearly matched young white children in terms of some home-literacy activities: 81 percent were taught words or numbers three times a week, compared to 76 percent of whites, and 54 percent were read a story once a week, compared to 56 percent of whites.

A major disconnect, however, occurs after elementary school as blacks begin to fall behind whites. Disparities in writing proficiency scores widen as black student grow older. At 4th grade, they perform at a level of 87 percent of whites. By the time they reach 12th grade, their scores are at 74 percent of whites. By the time they reached adulthood, they're the most likely to have dropped out - 15 percent compared to 12 percent of whites.

For black males, that percentage rises to 18 percent compared to 14 percent of white males.

A reason behind the widening achievement between black and white students as they get to high school is likely explained by differences in teacher quality and educational spending. According to this year's Equality Index, 21 percent of teachers in majority black districts had less than three-years experience, compared 10 percent in majority white districts. Also, 49 percent in the middle grades taught in subjects outside their college major or minor, compared to 41 percent of middle grade teachers in white districts. On top of that, dollars spent per black student was only 82 percent of what was spent per white student.

On the economic front, the unemployment numbers overall aren't great: blacks are twice as likely to be unemployed. However, as their education levels rise, so does their employment - enough to surpass whites in some cases.

For example, for blacks over 25 who have less than a high school education, only 40 percent are part of the workforce, compared to 47 percent of whites. That rate rises to 82.1 percent when they have college degrees, which is five percentage points above the 77.5 percent participation rate of their white counterparts.

But instead of dwelling on the statistics, let me propose some

recommendations to not only help black males but all Americans:

1. Universal Early Childhood Education

All children in this nation should have a right to comprehensive early childhood education, which, as Head Start proves, is very effective in giving them a leg-up when they start school.

2. Greater Experimentation with All-Male Schools, Longer School Days and Mentoring

All-male schools such as the Eagle Academy and Enterprise School in the New York City area combined with mentoring and longer days help keep young boys focused on education and away from the distractions that could lead them down the wrong paths.

3. More Second Chance Programs for High School Drop-Outs, Ex-Offenders

These programs aim to bring ex-offenders and disadvantaged individuals who are out of school and out of work back into the mainstream. Such programs help steer more Americans, especially those at-risk, back on track by providing assistance in getting GEDs, skills training and new jobs.

4. Restore the Federal Summer Jobs Program to Its Previous State

At the end of the 21st Century, federal lawmakers agreed to "reinvent" the federal Summer Jobs Program that had been in place for decades by changing its status from a stand-alone mandatory program to one of 10 optional youth services programs. Under this reform, cities and municipalities have the option of offering the program or not. It resulted in a major scaling back of this successful federal program.

5. Drive Home the Message That Education Pays Big Dividends in the Long Run

Parents need to instill into their children the value of education in achieving their dreams and improving their financial security. They must continually talk to their children about how much better off they will be by graduating from high school and college. They must tell them that their opportunities for professional and economic advancement are much greater with a college degree or higher than without.

So what we've presented here is a blueprint from which we are urging our nation's leaders to work from. Empowering black men to reach their full potential is the most serious economic and civil rights challenge we face today. Imagine if our nation tapped the full potential of all the black boys languishing in the shadows? It would mean greater prosperity for all.

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

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While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most viable of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carrying a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you date to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north.

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

MON-The Gazette formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bocham and Thurman R. Jones

Remember The Name . . . Yundrae

Yundrae, an artist that spreads his message of love and liberation through reality lyrics. The Ft. Worth native has been forged and led out of negative lifestyles he once engaged in.

From enduring violence in his home that led to the divorce of his mother and father, to dealing with drugs, sexual and also illegal activities at a young age, Yundrae now shares the truth and lessons he has learned.

Yundrae is a motivational speaker, talented artist and entrepreneur. He has performed in various events where his messages have touched the hearts and minds of the youth and adults alike. Many listeners have stated, "I didn't like Rap, until after I heard with my ears,

felt with my heart, and saw with my eyes Yundrae perform live." Yundrae gives this world positive rap/poetry with music, raw and



real. He incorporates music and singing, normally with a live band.

Yundrae is not just an artist, he is also a businessman. Yundrae Records, Inc. was birthed from Yundrae Ministries, Inc., which was established over ten years

ago. Under Yundrae Ministries, Yundrae performs in many outdoor events, outreaches, correctional facilities, community events, churches, retirement homes, etc. He has also started his own independent record label, which has a national distribution deal. Yundrae's album "Woman What You Need" is a double disc project with songs that touch the heart.

Yundrae is also the owner of Yundrae's Barber Shop, Inc. This 5,500 Square Foot facility was an old storage for junk, but Yundrae saw potential, and turned it into something special one year later. Vendor booths are available in the barbershop for weekly

rental. There is also a retail-clothing store in the rear of the facility.

Yundrae is also the Owner of Five Star Entertainment, Inc. Clients include Ms. Tamey Mann, who has had starring roles in several Tyler Perry plays. Five Star Entertainment now has a contract with a 3,000-seat facility where they will present monthly events in various cities outside of the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

In addition, Undrape is now the host of his very own show, "The Yundrae Show." Live taping of the show takes place every Tuesday near downtown Fort Worth, at The Historical Rose Marine Theater, located at 1440 N. Main St. Please visit www.TheYundraeShow.com for

more details.

And if all that's not enough, the 30-year old single father is raising four sons: sons, Yundrae (9), Vincent (8), Julius (5) and Jonathan (1).

Yundrae is an awesome performer with an excellent message. He has been at the bottom, and he is and will rise to the very top as grace allows.

"Ready and willing" is the best way to describe this dynamic artist on the move.

For more information www.YundraeRecords.com, email at yundrae@bcglobal.net or call 1-866-yundrae. Music samples can be found at www.CdBaby.com/yundrae1 and www.CdBaby.com/yundrae.

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Business Profile Page 1

employment for locals ranging from the jungles of Central America to the mountains of Nepal so they may in turn help their families and communities. Earthbound Trading Company's mission is to build an ethical working environment that is conducive to employees' skills.

The company celebrates diversity and supports professional development with its domestic

A-Plus Annual Convention Page 1

The convention will feature founders of A-Plus, national and local members, and special guests Floretta Reed, Board Chairman, National APLUS Executive Board and James D. Mitchell, A-Plus National President. The Dallas Chapter President is Willie Russell. Top notch speakers, outstanding workshops and general sessions, and the LeGree Daniels Heritage Award presentation, as well as great entertainment are scheduled.

An award ceremony honoring United States Postmaster General Jack Potter will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

A-PLUS, a non-profit postal

Mayoral Candidate Forum Page 1

addressing issues like voting rights, housing, employment and health, which directly affected African Americans. In 1966, a bi-racial committee began the organizational process to start a Dallas Urban League affiliate, following a meeting with Whitney M. Young Jr., President of the National Urban League. The committee consisted of George Allen Sr., Alex Bickley, Aubrey Costa, Robert Cullum, R. A. Hester, H. Rhett James, Erik Johnson, Henry Lenoir, Les Potter, Tom Shipp, A. Maceo Smith, J. A. Stanfield, L. Story Stemmons, C. A. Tatum, R. L. Thornton, and S. M. Wright.

Felton Alexander, the first Executive Director, was named in 1967. Two years later, under the leadership of Roosevelt Johnson Jr., the Urban League was accepted as a United Way affiliate. Johnson retired after 22 years of service and following a nationwide search Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, Ph.D. became the League's third President and CEO.

The Urban League of Greater Dallas has three satel-

lites within Dallas County that are funded by the Community Service Block Grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The centers are located in Irving, Garland and Pleasant Grove. These locations are part of the Community Action Agency Program. The program provides services to participants whose income is at or below 125% of the poverty index.

Today the movement continues with over 105 affiliates across the nation, each with the mission "To enable African Americans and others secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. Sponsors of the forum include the Urban League of Greater Dallas, Urban League Young Professionals, Dallas Examiner, Dallas Branch NAACP, Dallas Branch NAACP Youth Council, Political Congress of African American Dallas Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Feed My Sheep, Dallas Association of Real Estate Brokers, Texas election Guide, Dallas Black Firefighters Association, African American Pastors Coalition, South Dallas

association, was organized in 1987 for the purpose of mentoring and developing Black postal managers towards a successful career path. Although it was understood that Blacks in the Postal Service were receiving training and some upwardly mobile opportunities through Affirmative Action and other programs, it was clearly obvious that many Black managers lacked some of the primary tools necessary for immediate consideration and placement in mid-level, upper and executive management.

A-PLUS was established on the premise that while a significant number of Blacks in the Postal Service have the required education, experience, skills, and

FDA in regards to international trading. The native of Rochester, New York has always had a passion for retail, an inclination for management and a way with numbers. "My introduction to the industry prior to my current position at this company was truly baptism by fire with on the job training," she says. "My advice to young women who seek achievements in the business world is to be persistent, aim high and don't settle."

the desire to pursue advanced management, there continues to be other considerations and needs for minorities. These special needs – mentoring with confidence, personal development, networking, self-help education, for example – are major focal points for A-PLUS.

Only a small number of Black managers spearheaded A-PLUS thirteen years ago. Today, the membership stands at over 1,000 and is growing. There are currently 40 active chapters throughout the United States and an intense campaign is underway to create more widespread involvement and recognition.

The A-PLUS membership consists of associate members,

Tina Walters-Johnson may be reached by e-mail at twalters@earthboundtrading.com or information on Earthbound Trading can be found at www.earthboundtrading.com.

Earthbound Trading Company's stores can be found in several areal malls, including: The Galleria, Valley View, Hulén, Ridgeman, Grapevine Mills, Northeast, Collin Creek and Vista Ridge.

mid, upper, and executive managers who contribute their personal time and resources to help those in search of career advancement.

A-PLUS chapters across the nation actively participate in many community activities, including voter registration drives, Habitat for Humanity, and mentoring and school tutoring programs. A-PLUS provides local and national scholarships to high school and college students. Additionally, the members contributed over \$14,000 to aid those impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information on the convention and activities visit www.aplus.cc or call 214-681-2493.

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Legal Society. For more information call (214) 428-3446.

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Arts & Entertainment

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The Black Academy Of Arts And Letters Reschedules Program "Full Moon Of Sonia"



The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) announces the rescheduling of its program, "Full Moon of Sonia" starring national poet laureate Sonia Sanchez and former "Living Single" star T.C. Carson.

With great deliberation and under strict doctor's orders, Ms. Sanchez will not be able to perform in TBAAL's scheduled "Full

Moon of Sonia." Originally scheduled April 14, 2007, "Full Moon of Sonia" has been rescheduled for Friday, June 22, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. on the Naomi Bruton Mainstage in the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex as a part of TBAAL's Black Music Month celebrations.

For more information on TBAAL's continual 30th Anniversary Season, please visit www.TBAAL.org.

Black Eyed Peas Bring Hip Hop Stylings To Smirnoff April 24

They've transcended their vibrant hip-hop roots and have become a global phenomenon, the likes of which the music world has rarely seen. Ever-curious and ever-confident, that group is The Black Eyed Peas, and after energizing crowds 'round the globe with the monster-stomp of Elephunk, it's time for the quartet - William, Fergie, apl.de.ap and Taboo to get down to business - Monkey Business, that is.

2003's Elephunk was a breakthrough album for The Black Eyed Peas, vaulting them to a level of success unparalleled by any other hip-hop group. The accolades are quick to recite: 7.5 million albums sold worldwide, 4 Grammy nominations, 1 Grammy award, and an unforgettable performance on the 2005 broadcast.

Monkey Business is an album that further intensifies their passion for making music together, for connecting with their audience through the most fundamental ways: making people have a good time. It is a credo that has inspired the group since they

formed in the late 1990s, earning their keep in the nurturing environment of Los Angeles' vibrant hip-hop underground. Even then, the group possessed a magnetic spirit that helped them establish a worldwide following through their first two albums, 1998's Behind The Front and 2000's Bridging The Gap.

"In going on the road for so long, we got an idea of what kind of music we wanted to play and make," explains something else. The Dick Dale song 'Miserlou,' was on it. At first I was angry - this isn't what I wanted to buy," he laughs. "But then, really, that song is hot. I said, 'we should do a song like this.'"

The Black Eyed Peas will be featured at the Smirnoff Music Centre on Tuesday, April 24, 1818 First Avenue. For more information, call 214-421-1111.

The Black Eyed Peas everlasting road trip. "I was in Brazil doing some CD shopping," will.i.am recalls. "I came across this compilation and I thought it was one thing but it turned out to be



something else. The Dick Dale song 'Miserlou,' was on it. At first I was angry - this isn't what I wanted to buy," he laughs. "But then, really, that song is hot. I said, 'we should do a song like this.'"

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Habitat For Humanity Of South Collin County Opens Restore

Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County has recently opened a ReStore in Plano.

A Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a retail outlet where quality new & used surplus building materials, appliances, furniture, fixtures and more are sold below normal retail prices. Proceeds from our ReStore provide funding for Habitat-built homes locally and internationally.

Merchandise sold by a ReStore is usually donated from building supply stores, manufacturers, contractors and individuals who wish to show their support for Habitat for Humanity. In addition to raising funds, ReStores help the environment by re-channeling usable materials that might otherwise fill up the landfill.

Some volunteers staff the store for Community Service hours and help pick up display and sell new and used items (tax deductible donations) and all proceeds go to help build homes, neighborhoods and lives. This



helps Collin County stay green by keeping useable building material, furniture, fixture, appliances and much more out of the land fill. The Grand Opening Celebration will take place on

April 23rd - 28th, 2007, from 10:00AM to 6:00PM. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place Thursday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by The Vagabond trio group. All events will be held at 1400 Summit Ave, C-3, Plano, Texas 75074

The ReStore is located at 1400 Summit Ave, Suite C-3, Plano, TX, 75074 (corner of Summit and Ave N) across Central Expressway from the Collin Creek Mall and one block East of K Ave and one block N of Plano Parkway.

For more info on the ReStore, visit <http://www.habitat-ccc.org/>. Come visit our booth at the Living Green in Plano Expo 2007 May 5th at the Plano Centre. www.livegreeninplano.com

Third Coast Arts Center Page 1

Squaring Square, Downtown Dallas and at Astroworld (in Houston) was unveiled during the slain civil rights leader's 50th birthday commemoration ceremony.

Robert A. Simpson, Sr. - for more than 40 years, has masterfully entertained audiences of all ages and ethnic backgrounds with his incredible talents on soprano, alto and tenor sax and flute. He is noted for his musical ability to blend jazz, Latin, funk and R&B in original compositions and arrangements creating sounds that are both innovative and memorable.

Erykah Badu - was working as a teacher and part-time singer in Dallas when she opened for D'Angelo at a 1994 show. D'Angelo's manager was impressed with her performance and paired her with the singer to record a cover of the Marvin Gaye/Tammi Terrell duet "Precious Love." He signed Badu to the Kendar Entertainment label where she recorded her first hit single "On and On," which hurled her album "Baduizm" to number two on the charts.

Since then, her musical career

has been on a fast track lined with one success after another. In addition to her musical pursuits, Badu has an exemplary strong devotion to her community. She lectures students at local high schools about the life-altering impact of promiscuity, drug abuse and poor nutrition. She also serves as a celebrity spokeswoman for the AIDS Arms Life Walk and gives free concerts at the Black Forest Theater which she had refurbished in south Dallas.

Willie Holmes - a talented playwright who is founder and executive director of the Blacken Blues Theater of African Americans in Dallas. The company's mission is to share the rich culture of African American life and promote racial tolerance through education and understanding. Holmes has presented his contemporary tales of love, life and loss in sold out performances from Texas to New York. Holmes also is an educator in the Dallas Public School system.

Ann Williams - is Founder and Artistic Director of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, founding member of the Dance Council, The International Association of Blacks in Dance and the Dallas

Morning News Dance Festival. For almost three decades Ms. Williams has directed Dallas Black Dance Theatre from a community-based, semi professional organization to a full professional dance company. Williams is a leader in the Dallas artistic community and serves on the Board of Directors of the Uganda Children's Charities Foundation. Nationally, she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the International Association of Blacks in Dance.

Kathy Jones - is Community Relations Manager for the City of DeSoto, Texas. DeSoto is committed to promoting the arts and Jones serves as the staff liaison to the DeSoto Arts Commission, which oversees the arts grant process. Her day-to-day responsibilities as community relations manager include producing the city newsletter, brochures and fliers. She also manages the programming of DeSoto's government access Channel 16 where they produce live broadcasts of the City Council and Planning & Zoning meetings.

For more info contact Robert Simpson at 214-331-1845 or visit www.thirdcoastartscenter.org.

Don Imus Debate Page 1

Obama said, "And I hope this prompts some self-reflection on the part of all of us."

Others turned up the volume against harmful themes in rap. "We all know where the real battleground is," wrote Kansas City Star columnist Jason Whitlock. "We know that the gangsta rappers and their followers in the athletic world have far bigger platforms to negatively define us than some old white man with a bad radio show."

"We have to begin working on a response to the larger problem," said the Rev. DeForest B. Soaries Jr., who as pastor of the Rutgers coach helped mediate the Imus imbroglio. Soaries announced April 13 that he would organize a nationwide initiative to address the culture that "has produced language that has denigrated women."

The larger problem was allud-

ed to by CBS President and Chief Executive Officer Leslie Moonves when he announced Imus' firing: "The effect language like this has on our young people, particularly young women of color trying to make their way in this society... has weighed most heavily on our minds as we made our decision."

Pointing out that the rapper Mims uses "ho" and worse epithets in his chart-topping song "This Is Why I'm Hot," columnist Michelle Malkin asked: "What kind of relief do we get from this deadening, coarsening, dehumanizing barrage?"

The Rev. Al Sharpton, among the loudest critics calling for Imus' termination, also indicated that entertainment was the next battleground. "We will not stop until we make it clear that no one should denigrate women," he said after Imus' firing. "We must deal with the fact that ho and the

b-word are words that are wrong from anybody's lips. "It would be wrong if we stopped here and acted like Imus was the only problem. There are others that need to get this same message."

Some defenders of rap music and hip-hop culture, such as the pioneering mogul Russell Simmons, deny any connection between Imus and hip-hop. They describe rap lyrics as reflections of the violent, drug-plagued, hopeless environments that many rappers come from. Instead of criticizing rappers, defenders say, critics should improve their reality.

"Comparing Don Imus' language with hip-hop artists' poetic expression is misguided and inaccurate and feeds into a mindset that can be a catalyst for unwarranted, rampant censorship," Simmons said in a statement April 13.

Interracial Marriage Page 1

Last year, the Salvation Army installed Israel Gaither as the first black leader of its U.S. operations. He and his wife, Eva, who is white, wed in 1967 - the first interracial marriage between Salvation Army officers in the United States.

The boom in interracial marriages forced the federal government to change its procedures for the 2000 census, allowing Americans for the first time to identify themselves by more than one racial category. About 6.8 million described themselves as multiracial - 2.4 percent of the population - adding statistical fuel to the ongoing debate over what race really means. Kerry Ann Rockquemore, professor of African-American studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago, is the daughter

of a black father and white mother, and says she is asked almost daily how she identifies herself.

The surge in interracial marriage comes at "a very awkward moment" in America's long struggle with racism, she says.

"We all want deeply and sincerely to be beyond race, to live in a world where race doesn't matter, but we continue to see deep racial disparities," Rockquemore said. "For interracial families, the great challenge is when the kids are going to leave home and face a world that is still very racialized."

The stresses on interracial couples can take a toll. The National Center for Health Statistics says their chances of a breakup within 10 years are 41 percent, compared to 31 percent for a couple of the same race.

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TXDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Fort Worth
Contract 0747-03-075 for TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION in TARRANT County will be opened on May 09, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 0902-00-101 for FY 2006 ADA COMPLIANCE in TARRANT County will be opened on May 08, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract 2266-02-124 for TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION in TARRANT County will be opened on May 09, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TXDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TXDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TXDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 23319
State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP280
Ft Worth, Texas 76133
Phone: 817-370-6500
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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Church News



Sister Tarpley

Years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze, prostitution, and murder.

Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Capone out of jail. Capone paid Eddie very well and gave him special dividends. Easy Eddie's family occupied a fenced-in mansion that filled a Chicago block, with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. Although Eddie gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him; he had one soft spot; a son that he loved dearly; the son had the best of everything: A good education, clothes, cars, etc. Nothing was withheld and price was no object. However, Eddie tried to teach his son right from wrong. He wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

Yet with all his wealth and influence, Eddie couldn't pass on a good name and a good example to his son.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision; he wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. To do this, he had to go to the authorities and tell the truth about Capone, clean up his tarnished name and offer his son some semblance of integrity.

He had to testify against "The Mob"; he knew that the cost would be great. Within one year of

God Knows The End To The Beginning

testifying, Easy Eddie lived in a blaze of gunfire on a Chicago Street. But in Eddie's eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift that he had to offer, at the greatest price he would ever pay.

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

On February 20, 1942, O'Hare's

was only one thing to do. He must divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. He fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was spent. Undaunted, he continued the assault, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction. Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his battered fighter limped back to the carrier. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of O'Hare's attempt to protect his fleet. He had destroyed five enemy aircraft.

O'Hare became the Navy's first Ace of WW II and the first Aviator to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. At 29 years of age, O'Hare was killed in aerial combat. O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is named in tribute of Butch O'Hare. His statue and Medal of Honor is located between Terminals 1 & 2. Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son. God is so awesome!

Email: religion@monthebuzzette.com
Office: 972-516-4191
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878
Fax: 972-509-9058

Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Jabez, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."



Picture of The Week
Sister Tarpley and one of the distinguished Tushego Airman, Robert McDaniel, Retired, at Prairie View A & M University's Ft. Worth's Alumni Scholarship Fund Raising Luncheon

entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his tank. He didn't have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet. As he was returning to the carrier, he saw a squadron of Japanese aircraft speeding toward the American fleet.

The American fighters were on a maneuver and were all but defenseless. O'Hare couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet; or warn them of the approaching danger. There

visit www.reconcil.com or call 214-962-3600.

About Girls Inc.:
Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas is a non-profit agency whose mission is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold by empowering girls to take charge of their lives.

Girls Inc. has served Dallas for 39 years and has six centers in Dallas' most economically challenged neighborhoods. A variety of programs at the centers prepare girls to be self-sufficient, responsible members of the community. For more information, visit www.girlsincdallas.org or call 214-654-4530.

South Dallas Center Page 2
sionals, 37 years and younger. Participants are TREC members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and dedication to community service through volunteer participation in TREC and the foundation's initiatives and committees. For more infor-

Church Happenings

ANTIOCH FELLOWSHIP MBC.

April 24-27, 12 Noon
April 24-30 pm Nightly
The Lacey Kirk Williams Ministries Conference. Theme: God's Cycle of Grace: 77 Years of Empowering and Equipping Ministry Leaders. The FREE Worship Services will feature: Rev. Kevin Rodgers, Pastor, Covenant B.C., Lancaster, TX; Rev. C.B.T. Smith, Pastor Emeritus, Golden Gate B.C., Dallas, TX; Dr. A. Louis Patterson, Jr. Pastor, Mount Corinth B.C., Houston, TX; Dr. David Collins, Jr. Pastor, Caritas Fellowship B.C., Brooklyn, NY; Dr. Tony Evans, Pastor, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas, TX; and Dr. Freddy Clark, Pastor, Shalom Church, St. Louis, MO.

Topics for women, church staff, ministry leaders and lay leaders. For registration fees and additional information, contact Yvette Blair @ 972-228-2420, Ext. 309
Antioch Fellowship MBC
Rev. Kerry Wesley, Senior Pastor
7550 S. Hampton Road
Dallas, TX 75232
972-228-2420

CHRIST COMMUNITY CONNECTION

This Monday, April 23, 11:30 am
CCC, a non-profit 501 C(3) organization that provides spiritual growth to the community using various projects to bridge the gap between diverse races, cultures and traditions will host a fundraising Golf Tournament. Join us for a great cause. Education Assistance for Youth Scholarship @ the Coyote Ridge Golf Club, 1680 Bandera Drive, Carrollton, TX 75010.
For more info contact Rev. Rainwater @ 972-423-4000.
Hill Chapel CME Church
Rev. Clarence Ford, Pastor
11131 Avenue I
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-4090

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES, INC.

April 19-21, 2007
Tonight, please join us for our FOBCA National Women's Conference. Fellowship of Believers Ministries Bishop Gregory Crawford Founder and Senior Pastor
501 Wynnewood Village, #423
Dallas, TX 75224
214-972-3624

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

Starting Tomorrow, April 20-21, 2007
Our Women Ministry will hold its Annual Retreat @ the Marriott Hotel Legacy Town Center, 7120 Dallas

Parkway, Plano, TX 75024. Topic: "Women Seeking to Know God More Intimately." Theme Scripture: "... you will be done, not mine." (Matthew 26:39) Women please wear white. Seats will be reserved. Registration will be April 20th @ 1 pm with a Midnight Prayer Service after Sessions and Dinner @ 5:30 pm. Saturday's Service will start @ 7 am, with prayer @ 8 am; lunch @ 12 Noon and the closing session after lunch.
For registration fees, call Pam Williams @ 972-235-4235 or Joi Cross @ 469-330-7035.

First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park
Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor
And Rev. Anthony Foster, Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235

HILL CHAPEL CME CHURCH

April 29, 3:30 pm
Seventh Banquet & Silent Auction, "Round Up of God's Talented Children" @ the South Fork Ranch, 3700 Hedge Drive (Murphy Road), Parker, TX 75002. Attire is Business Casual
For more information, please call the church @ 972-423-4000.
Hill Chapel CME Church
Rev. Clarence Ford, Pastor
11131 Avenue I
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-4090

JOHNSON CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 28, 4 pm
Marvin Matthew Production is introducing "No He Didn't" written and produced by Marvin Matthew Walker, Jr. featuring the newest R & B sensation Corrian, the soulful songstress; Kenneth Morris, AKA "K-Mo" and Gospel's newest recording artist Elijah Kelley, Pastor of Deliverance Chapel COGIC. This play is about one man's battle between love, death and God.
For tickets and more information, call 214-734-0150.

JOHNSON CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 21, 8 am
Prayer Walks at: Webb Elementary, Dowell, Faubion, Evans and Johnson Middle Schools; McKinney High School and in Historic Downtown McKinney surrounding the courthouse/McKinney Performing Arts Center. These Prayer Walks will lead to our FREE and OPEN

MCKINNEY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

April 21, 8 am
Prayer Walks at: Webb Elementary, Dowell, Faubion, Evans and Johnson Middle Schools; McKinney High School and in Historic Downtown McKinney surrounding the courthouse/McKinney Performing Arts Center. These Prayer Walks will lead to our FREE and OPEN

to the public National Day of Prayer Observance on May 3rd @ 7 pm in Ron Poe Stadium on #1 Duvall Street near White Street.
City of McKinney Task Force
Beth Bentley, Publicity Chair
McKinney, TX 75069
214-498-3540

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

This Saturday, April 21, 11:30 am
Annual "Mad Hatters-Spring into Summer" Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show @ the Brookhaven Country Club, 3333 Golfing Green Drive, Dallas, TX 75234. Tickets are \$35 with proceeds going to scholarships. For information and tickets, contact Patricia Hempstead @ 972-236-1377.

High School recipients are: Vanetta Cannon, Newman Smith; Thysha Standford, A Maceo Smith; Jamaica Lett, Piana East; and Vanessa Kwarteme, Naaman Forest. PACE
Patricia Hempstead, President
P. O. Box 112721
Carrollton, TX 75011-2721
972-236-1337

WOMEN PRAYING FOR CHRIST MINISTRY

April 27, Doors Open @ 11 pm
"Prayer Shut-In #2 Program," for Women Only - Speakers & Prayer Warriors every hour featuring Dr. Angela S. King, WPPC Founder/CEO; Candace Watson, Hope and Humble Organization; Connie Greer, First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park; Evangelist Dorothy Danberry, Rhema Life Fellowship Church; Maria Reyna, Productive Women Ministries; Sis. Dorothy Beard, SISTAS Ministry Inc.; Prophet Charlotte Posa, To Women With Low Ministries; Leslie Denman, Girls Living Life On Purpose, Inc.; Prophets Lori Manning, Dominion Keepers Community Church; Rosilyn Houston, The Potters House; Kerrina Dauway, Psalmist; Robyn H. Jimenez, WPPC - Spoken Word. FREE Admission, but you must pre-register for this Prayer Shut-In. Registered attendees will receive a confirmation e-mail or phone call. Register @ 214-450-7634; the shut-in will be at Open Bible Fellowship Church, 2701 Briarwood Drive, Plano, Texas 75074, 972-422-4248, Pastor Don Bright. Women Praying for Christ Ministry Dr. Angela S. King, WPPC Founder/CEO
P O Box 863766
Plano, TX 75086-3766
214-450-7634

Church Directory

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church
"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"
Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm
14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cmc@sbcglobal.net (Email)
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

Avenue F Church of Christ
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-423-8833
"Our Pilgrimage to Heaven in 2007" - Hebrews 11:13-16
Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am
Men Bible Class 5:00 pm
Women Bible Class 5:00 pm
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 pm
Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KRVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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KGGK 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

Hill Chapel
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:30 A.M.
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.

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521 W. Avenue E Garland, TX 75040 972.487.9703
Email: slamechurch@aol.com
Sunday 8:45 a.m. Church School
9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience
Tuesday 7:15 p.m. Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Church School
Thursday 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

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Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.
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Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir
For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

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1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley
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Worship Celebration... 11:00 a.m.
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Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.
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www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com

Body And Soul Ministry Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By: John A Lovelace

An unlikely couple of Dallas churches, St. Paul United Methodist and Highland Park Presbyterian, celebrated a decade of, togetherness in Body and Soul Ministry on March 24. During those 10 years, according to a fact sheet produced for the celebration, "Body and Soul has never missed a Saturday breakfast or Sunday dinner . . ." for upwards of 100 homeless people per meal at St. Paul in the downtown Dallas Arts District. For their celebration site, St. Paul and Highland Park had the spacious year-old facilities of First UMC, Richardson, which entered the Body and Soul sponsorship in 1999, North Dallas Bible Fellowship entered in 2003. Richard Morrow, who

steered First Church, Richardson, into Body and Soul as the church's Social Action chair, said a typical Sunday evening meal takes 15-20 volunteers "three hours, out and back."

Nothing describes Body and Soul Ministry better than its own publicity, as witness: "For the past ten years, the homeless community has identified St. Paul United Methodist Church and the Body and Soul Ministry as a safe place. No rules except to treat others as you would want to be treated and no fighting. We hope we continue to provide a safe place to eat, worship, paint, draw, and sing."

"Eat" and "sing" were two main parts of the 10th anniversary celebration. Photographic images played an indelible role, too. Laura Kane-Sellers, a

human resource executive from Fort Worth who attends First UMC, Richardson, presented



St. Paul UMC pastor Rev. Elzie Odom Jr. results of her ethnographic study of Body and Soul participants. As a different approach,

she said, she gave inexpensive cameras to selected Body and Soul homeless folks and said, "Make me an album of your life. Then we'll talk about your pictures."

The audiotaped conversations generated 1,000 transcribed pages. One conversation, at a Starbucks, ran four hours, moving quickly from pictures to a lifetime of remembrances. Photo images ranged from clean-floored mission-center sleeping rooms to street trash and human refuse and two men with a dog. As the images flashed by, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong sang. "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen." Later, a Power Point slideshow of still-picture images ranged above Body and Soul Ministry's 10 years, eliciting many expressions throughout

the audience such as, "I know who that is" or "Oh, I remember him."

St. Paul UMC pastor Rev. Elzie Odom Jr., referred to extensive Dallas Arts District construction immediately adjacent to St. Paul, then added, "We're not going anywhere. Neither is Body and Soul." When asked to stand, St. Paul members constituted one-third to one-half of the estimated 225 persons present. B. Aston from Highland Park Presbyterian told the NTC Reporter that her church under the pastorate of Rev. Clayton Bell entered the partnership with St. Paul UMC under the pastorate of Rev. Henry Masters ten years ago "because we were looking for a way to serve the homeless." Grinning, she acknowledged that volunteer crews from her

church have sometimes been short-handed for the 7:00-10:00 a.m. breakfasts at St. Paul, "but the homeless always pitch in and help us clean up."

With her at the 10th anniversary dinner was her daughter, Mary Kate, who at age 6 was helping serve jelly at Body and Soul. Data gathered for the 10th anniversary indicated what a success Body and Soul Ministry has been and continues to be. For starters:

- Over 100,000 meals served
- 117,000 eggs scrambled
- 52,000 biscuits baked
- 109 sausages cooked
- 78,000 servings of grits
- 60,000 snack packs distributed
- 6,500 gallons of milk
- 5,460 gallons of orange juice
- 72,800 individuals served.
- 30,000 volunteer hours given.

GMA Announces Performers And Presenters For Dove Awards At Grand Ole Opry On April 25th



Mandisa

TobyMac, Kirk Franklin, Mandisa, Take 6, The Crabb Family, MercyMe and Chris Tomlin are among the first performers announced for the 38th Annual GMA Dove Awards, today announced John W. Styll, president and CEO of the Gospel Music Association and executive producer of the Doves. Michael W. Smith, Brenda Lee and Bob & Larry from VeggieTales are among those slated as presenters.

The Dove Awards (www.doveawards.com)

is Christian/Gospel music's biggest night of the year, where top artists from every style of gospel music come together for a national night of music and celebration as the GMA bestows the industry's highest honor - the Dove Award. Dove statuettes will be handed out on April 25, 2007 at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. The awards show will then be televised in national syndication in May. Tickets are now on sale for the awards and can be purchased at TicketMaster.

The more than a dozen musical performances will range from rousing soulful gospel to

infectious hip-hop to powerful quartet harmonizing to rock n' roll to inspiring modern worship, representing all the top Dove Awards nominees and reflecting all the diversity in gospel/Christian music. Several special Dove moments are

planned including the show opener with TobyMac performing with Kirk Franklin and Mandisa and a multi-artist segment from the new Glory Revealed project and a performance from the soundtrack of the film, "Amazing Grace." The list

of artists confirmed to perform is:

Presenters will include teenage activist Zach Hunter, child actor Grayson Russell, country music legend Brenda Lee as well as artist Michael W.

Smith, New Artist of the Year nominee Aiyeha Woods and songwriter/producer Ian Eskelin. Hosting the 38th Annual GMA Dove Awards will be Littrel, Donnie McClurkin and Natalie Grant.



Take 6

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Website: www.rockdallas.org

Office: 972-241-9151
Fax: 972-240-6278
Music Ministry Hotline: 972-241-9888
Prayer Line: 972-240-2037

Office Hours: Monday & Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church Of Hamilton Park
8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243
Church Office: (972) 792-0239
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240

Service Times
Sunday School: 9:45AM
Morning Worship: 11:00AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00PM

PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

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www.fbcfallen.org

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First Lady Tasha Stafford

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Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church: 8:15 am & 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study: 7:00 pm
"Youth for Christ" - Every Monday: 7:00 pm

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If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

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"Each One, Reach One"

Worship Services: 7:30 am and 10:30 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Wednesday Night Service: 8:00 pm

Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor
Ann Anthony Foster, Pastor

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.
300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4135
www.fbcjp.org

Everest Experience
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www.everest.org
Ph: 972.991.0200

Reverend William E. Williams, Sr. Senior Pastor

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd. Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm.
Monday School: 7pm
Men's Fellowships: Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibccj.org

Friendship Baptist Church
4396 Main Street
The Colony, Texas 75056
(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:
Sunday
Early Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship (1st Sunday): 6:00 p.m.

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Macedonia Ministries
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972-436-2011

"We Choose Love to Nourish and Cherish One Another"
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29

T.J. Denson, Pastor
www.macedoniaministries.com

Saturday: Intercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am
Sunday Services: Sunday School @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 am
Monday Services: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Prisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6390

Email: church@benwashington.org
Site: benwashington.org

"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union

Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor
New Worship Home
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088
972-463-4964

A Place of New Beginnings. . . II Corinthians 5:17

Sunday Life Bible School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life: 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

"The Church with a Vision"

Tuesday
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Morning Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.