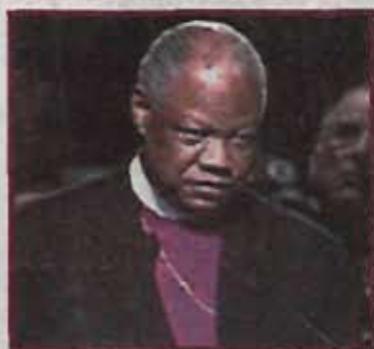


The Truth Clinic

Bush Medicare Plan Robs Poor Pays Rich

Page 3



Methodists Inspect 'Fruit' of Church's Repentance for Racism

Page 3



MON The Gazette's 21 Questions with R&B Singer Chico DeBarge

Page 7

Visit Our Website At www.MONTheGazette.com

A Division of

MON
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Volume XII, Number XXXVIII

December 04 - December 10, 2003

The Gazette

"North Dallas" Weekly Paper of Choice

SERVING PLANO, DALLAS, RICHARDSON, GARLAND, ALLEN, MCKINNEY AND MESQUITE



On the Homefront

Santa & Mrs. Claus return to Downtown Plano, December 5, for Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tree lighting at 7 p.m. at Haggard Park, 901 East 15th Street. Carriage rides, live music, strolling carolers, pony rides and magicians are just a part of the festivities.

Annual Tree Lighting with Santa, December 5, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 305 Century Parkway, Allen. Take pictures with Santa and enjoy holiday music and seasonal refreshments - it's all free!

Santa's Village will be open for visitors December 6-7, 11-14, and 18-21, on the Civic Center/City Hall Lawn, US 75 and Arapaho Road, Richardson. Admission is free. Nightly entertainment, dinner at the Castle Cafe. Most activities and entertainment free; pony rides and sleigh rides have a small fee. For more information call 972.744.4580.

The West End Association and The Shops at the West End MarketPlace, Market and Munger Streets, Dallas, bring the Yuletide spirit to the retroplex with a holiday celebration. December 6, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Live entertainment, holiday ice carving, holiday activities for kids, arts & crafts vendors, plus Santa and one of his reindees will be available for photos!

'Mama Nem's House' - Tonya D. Stewart's gospel comedy stage play at the new dinner/theatre at Tiki's Restaurant, 408 S. Harwood. Free entrée and drink. Shows held each Saturday in December, 8:00pm. \$25.00. Limited seating, RSVP. Log on to www.tikisdallas.com or call: 214.744.454, or 214.394.1193.

Kwanzaa Fest, December 13 - 14, Automobile Building at Fair Park, Dallas. Saturday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. For vendor information call 214.906.0949.

Multi-Cultural Business Network Referrals Luncheon, Tuesday December 16, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. RSVP at nhr@theknow.com. "While most networking groups just pass leads, we compensate you for your referral that becomes a sale." Teras Land and Cattle, 3945 Central Expressway. \$15 lunch. Call 972.2517.4483.

INSIDE

Home Front 1
Community Spotlight 2
Truth Clinic 3
Allen Begins Celebration 3
Community Calendar 5
Art & Entertainment 6 & 7
Career Opportunity 8
Sister Tarpley Column 9
Church Happenings 9 & 10

THE "CALL" HAS COME TO DALLAS

By Cathy Johnson

In 1912, in the city of Dallas, Texas, two dedicated trailblazers, Maria Etter-Woodworth and F.F. Bosworth led a six-month revival at Perry and Fletcher Streets, just 500 ft. from the Cotton Bowl. Now 91 years later the mantle is passed, and twenty-five thousand gathered in attendance answering the "Call" on Saturday, November 29, at the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas-commissioned to pray, worship and allow the Spirit of God free reign for the Day.

The spiritual gathering aptly named the "Call," is taken from Joel 2:15 in the King James Version, "Call a solemn Assembly". The goal and premise being: to revolutionize a radical move within the hearts of this nation with a return back to God through fasting and prayer with repentance.

Mark Jobe of Life Outreach Ministries International and National Coordinator of Churches for Life said, "This is not a conference, a festival or a concert, it is a fast." Leading the sheep of Dallas during a 12-hour fast lasting from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., were Founder-President Cleo Ahn and Vice President Lou Engle.

Rooted in Pasadena, California, Ahn senior pastor of Harvest Rock Church, and Engle wrote in their autobiographical book, "The Call Revolution" that they were an unlikely pair, "Lou wasn't gifted as a pastor, evangelist, or administrator, but he was a prophet who knew how to fast



25,000 people attended "The Call"

and pray. I fasted back then," writes Ahn. "But you can't linger in Lou's presence very long without being polluted with his passion for prayer and fasting."

Tailored to meet "sin" head on, the leaders and staff base their revolutionary meetings on location, arrived through many hours of prayer, "We feel like Dallas and the

Cotton Bowl were the ideal place for targeting such topics as Abortion, Racism, Bitterness, Division and Justice- the goal is to expose the many faces of sin representative of the area and repent," said Jobe.

This is the seventh "Call" gathering, marking the 40th year since Roe vs. Wade; a case placing Dallas on the historical map of controversy- 45million babies have died since then. Dallas has been a hot bed of attack because of the "death culture" according to Jobe. "Some very negative key incidents have occurred in Dallas that have aborted an innocence and affected our nation greatly. Roe vs. Wade, the murder of JFK, and the elimination of Prayer from our schools. Our mission is to identify with our forefathers and repent of their sins" said Jobe.

While a host of well-known speakers, pastors and worship leaders attended, there were no grocery lists of accolades or public displays of showmanship as all attended for one purpose: to pray, fast and repent.

In an effort to heal old wounds of the Native Americans, a very moving

The "Call" Comes To Dallas Page 6

Plano or Thorntonville? Hollywood Executive Producer Excited About His Family's History

By: Monica Thornton

The Thornton House project in the Douglass Community of Plano is in another phase of change, this time one that could thrust the city to national recognition. The legacy of the house serves as monuments to human strength and resilience, and in itself has enough history to warrant national attention. Add to that Benny Medina, Hollywood Executive Producer and Manager, and the project could explode.

Medina, executive producer of 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air', is the great-great grandson of John Thornton, a freed slave who walked from Mississippi to Plano, and eventually owned most of the land in the downtown Plano area. From all accounts, Thornton was a relentless businessman, finding favor in the Black and White communities. He built the two-story Thornton House around the turn of the last century, and was a successful share cropper

and landowner.

Since the summer of 2002, local businessman Ron Williams has steadily fought to preserve the Thornton House (at Ave I and 13th Streets in Plano) with hopes of turning it into an African American Museum.

Medina said he is overwhelmed by the efforts already put into the project and wants to see the museum come to fruition.

"This absolutely must happen, it's too important not to," said Medina, who still has family in the Douglass Community (where his mother is buried).

Although he moved to California around the age of seven, after his mother died, he remembers his early years in Plano.

"My greatest and fondest memories are of being outdoors, the smells and the sounds, and trying to catch lightning bugs, just to capture their essence," Medina added.

He said the downtown area was full

of the Thornton family.

"We had loads of aunts and uncles, we were everywhere," said Medina. "It was as if it wasn't Plano, it was Thorntonville."

After the death of his mother, Medina went to stay with his aunt Erma (his mother's sister) and her husband in California. A pioneering couple themselves, he said they always told him that that if he wanted something, he could get it if he was willing make it happen.

From his great-great grandfather, who strove to build Plano a century ago, to being one of Hollywood's most successful executive producers and managers, Medina is anxious to revive the Thornton spirit in Plano.

Although the project is gaining momentum, there are still many negotiations taking place to procure land and buildings, to have not only the house as a museum, but to have additional facilities for individual and group visitors.

The Potter's House Honors Dr. Dorothy Height with the 2003 Leading Lady Legacy Award

The Potter's House Woman-to-Woman ministry will honor graduates from this year's God's Leading Ladies Enrichment Program. During the ceremony, scheduled December 19, 2003, Mrs. Sheila Jakes will join her husband Bishop TD. Jakes in honoring Dr. Dorothy Height with the 2003 Leading Lady Legacy Award.

The Woman-to-Woman ministry is the ladies ministry at The Potter's House church under the leadership of Mrs. Sherita Jakes. Dr. Dorothy Height, recently named a Congressional Gold Medal

Recipient, will be honored at the event as this year's Leading Lady Recipient. The



event will feature Grammy Award-winning group Take 6, followed by the acclaimed dance group Elledancesworks.

God's Leading Lady Life Enrichment Program, sponsored by The Potter's House for women desiring to center stage while fulfilling their role of a lifetime as one of God's Leading Ladies, will hold its annual graduation ceremony. It will be preceded by a black tie reception, beginning at 5:45 pm and a silent auction. There is no charge for the graduation, which begins at 7:00 pm; however, tickets for the reception are \$35 and may be purchased at The Potter's House bookstore at 6777 W. Kiest Blvd. Proceeds will benefit the Girls Inc. of Dallas.

S.Africa Game Lodge Owner Denies Betraying Tiger's Privacy

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - The owner of a South African game lodge where Tiger Woods proposed last week to his Swedish girlfriend denied on Wednesday that he had broken a pledge of privacy over the engagement.

World number one Woods said on his Web Site on Tuesday that he had enjoyed being in South Africa for last month's Presidents Cup team competition, with one exception. "I was betrayed by Adrian Gardiner, founder of the Shamwari Game Reserve," Woods said.

"He promised to protect my privacy during a four-day stay with friends, but went back on his word, not only alerting the newspapers about my engagement...but inviting the mayor and local school children to the airport when we departed."

But Gardiner told Reuters he had

wanted to great lengths to protect the American golfer's privacy.

"His privacy was protected 100 percent," he said. "He had the lodge on his own with his party. We even moved guests that were in that lodge to give him total privacy."

Gardiner said Woods had proposed to Elin Nordegren, a 23-year-old former model, on a wilderness trail in front of two guides. Everyone at the lodge was informed and no one was told to keep it a secret, he added.

Shamwari said in a statement last week that Woods had proposed to Nordegren during a sunset walk on Tuesday. Her father had earlier broken the news to the Swedish media.

Woods, 27, met Nordegren when she was working as a nanny to the children of Swedish professional golfer Jesper Parnevik.



Woods and Nordegren are seen at the opening ceremony for The Presidents Cup at Fancourt, in George, South Africa, November 20. (Toby Melville/Reuters)

The True Meaning of Turkeys' Day

By James
Clingman

By the time you read this article many of you will have eaten enough to feed one of those starving children for a week, and some of you will have gone out and spent your hard-earned money on things you did not need just because the advertisers told you the biggest shopping day of the year is the day after Thanksgiving.

By the time you read this, you will have taken advantage of the big sales and all of the bargains, thus, continuing the trend of enriching others by creating wealth for them, while maintaining the current level of economic enslavement that exists among African-Americans. Oh yeah, and we will inevitably hear the post-Thanksgiving fallout about "Black Friday" and how we should have spent our money at Black-owned businesses and vendor marketplaces.

I have written several articles on this subject and decided to curtail my pre-Thanksgiving pleadings this year. It seems to do no good to suggest that we incorporate a daily, year-round, sustainable economic strategy rather than get all bent out of shape when Thanksgiving and Christmas roll around. I suppose that's too easy and we definitely like

things to be difficult- don't we? For instance, I have pushed and advocated for a mindset, a collective consciousness among Black folks that would create in us a daily "habit" of seeking out Black businesses and mutual support.

If we could ever get to that state of mind we would not have to revisit the annual flawed strategy of waiting for the holidays to react to our economic plight in this country. We would not need Black Out Days and other superfluous efforts that only last for short periods of time and have no sustaining effect on those we are attempting to hurt. As a matter of fact, we get so hung-up on hurting others and often neglect the fact that we should be helping ourselves.

With all of that said, I am suggesting that we are the real turkeys in the economic scenario of this country. They carve us up and divide us up every year - as a matter of fact, they do it all year long. They stuff us with advertising and marketing campaigns, rub us down with the oil of credit, tie our legs together in order to keep us contained, and then they bake us all day long in their oven malls until we are done, I mean really

Blackonomics Page 8

Local Radio Personality Hosts Annual HIV/AIDS Testing Drive

97.9 The BEAT's Action Jaxon and UT Southwestern's Community Prevention and Intervention Unit hosted Action's annual HIV/AIDS Testing Drive on World AIDS Day, Monday, December 1st. Testing was free and open to the public.



Ann LeJancy-UT Southwestern; Alvin Dawson; Action Jaxon-97.9; Santiago Pedraza-UT Southwestern

Test results will be available at the 97.9 studio on Monday, December 15th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between 850,000 and 950,000 Americans have HIV, and a quarter of them don't know it.

"Help Action help you," was the slogan for this year's testing drive as Action

states, "There's only one way to know if you're HIV positive and that's by getting tested!"

Plano's Star-Studded Coffee Shop



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony takes place at Kick's Coffee Shop with Plano Mayor Pat Evans, Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt and members of Plano Chamber of Commerce



Benny Medina, Mayor Pat Evans, Writer and Producer Jeff Pollack, Gary Reeves, Blair Underwood



Ron Williams, Name unknown at time of press, Plano City Mayor Pat Evans, Irma Medina, Benny Medina, Myrtle Hightower, Actor Blair Underwood, Geonna Fassett



Jennifer Love Hewitt waits while customers get the opportunity to take a photo with the star

By: Monica Thornton
Plano recently enjoyed a star-filled day when Hollywood celebrities attended the grand opening of Kick's Coffee Café Shop in West Plano.

Plano's Benny Medina, executive producer and manager, actors Blair Underwood and Jennifer Love Hewitt, and writer and producer Jeff Pollack joined Plano City Mayor Pat Evans at Kick's, located inside Wal-Mart at Preston and Park Roads, Plano, on Thursday, November 20 to cut the ribbon of this unique coffee shop.

Medina and Underwood are co-owners of Kick's, and both said they are looking forward to see how the project progresses. Kick's is the first of its kind in coffee shops, not only because of the superior coffee used, but also because of its star-studded ownership, and that it has coffee for adults and smoothies for



Blair Underwood, Gus Betts



Monica Thornton interviews Benny Medina

children.

Medina, who was raised in Plano until he was almost seven and who still has family in Plano, is the co-executive producer of 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air,' (which was based on his life). He also manages dozens of Hollywood celebrities, and recently produced 'Fighting Temptations,' starring Cuba Gooding, Jr., and Beyonce Knowles. He is also the great great grandson of John Thornton of the Thornton House Project in the Douglass Community of Plano.

Underwood has been a successful actor since the 1980's, starting out on soap operas. He has also starred in movies including Full Frontal with Julia Roberts, and Just Cause with Sean Connery, and Soul of the Game and Asunder.



Photographer Dwayne Gibson poses with Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt

This particular location is the pilot shop, with more planned for other Wal-Mart stores around the country. Gary Reeves, the pilot behind the program, said he wanted to present an upscale coffee shop to Wal-Mart customers for convenience. He added that with the late hours of Kick's it is also a



Actor Blair Underwood, Monica Thornton, staff writer, MON-The Gazette, and Ron Williams, coordinator of the historic Thornton House project located in the Douglass Community of Plano

safe place for women to come in the evenings as they are in a secure location. Reeves is the owner of Star Brands, a company dedicated to helping stars branch into entrepreneurship.

Are You Stressed Out?

- Behind On House or Car Payments
- Divorce Left You in Debt
- Owe the I.R.S. back Taxes
- Need Child Support Modification
- Credit Card Harassment
- Unemployed Due to Personal Injury or Lay Off

FREE
Consultation
\$0 Money
Down*

T.R. Weaver & Associates
Attorneys At Law

Let Us Represent You
Affordable Payment Options

469-330-8000

811 S. Central Expressway, Suite 412 • Richardson, TX 75080
(Comerica Building • 75 & Spring Valley)

* On Chapter 13 Bankruptcy. Excluding Fees
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization



- Who Are the Women of God?
- Why is MON-The Gazette Honoring Them On Mother's Day Weekend 2004?
- What Can You Do To Be A Part Of The Momentous Occasion?

Go To www.monthe Gazette.com (Click on Women Of God)
or Contact Sister Tarpley At 972-606-3878 voice mail

Discover a Winter Wonderland of Destinations



Watch the new-look Mavs pound the hardwood at American Airlines Center. Take DART Rail to West End Station, then take the free shuttle that runs every 10 minutes to the center. Mid-Cities and Fort Worth fans can ride the TRE to Victory Station. For tickets, call 214.747.MAVS or visit nba.com/mavericks.



DART to Dallas Sidekicks games all season long! Just ride DART Rail or the TRE to Union Station and then head over to Reunion Arena for all the action. Go to dallasidekicks.com or call 214.653.0200 for tickets and information.

The fastest way to center ice is on DART. Ride DART Rail to West End Station, then take the free shuttle that runs every 10 minutes to American Airlines Center. Mid-Cities and Fort Worth fans can ride the TRE to Victory Station. For tickets and information, call 214.60.STARS, ext. 2, or visit dallasstars.com.



Santa is taking the train to Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano. You should too! Enjoy holiday music, carriage rides, a visit from Santa and a tree lighting ceremony. It all happens on Dec. 5 from 6 to 10 p.m., and you can take DART Rail to Downtown Plano Station to get there.

Get in the holiday spirit at the Neiman Marcus Adolphus Children's Parade on Dec. 6. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on Commerce St. and features colorful floats, giant balloons and Ole St. Nick himself. Ride DART Rail to any downtown station and walk over to Commerce. Get more information at 214.456.8360 or childrensparade.com.



If you like riding the rails, you're going to love The Trains at NorthPark™! These lilliputian locomotives run daily Dec. 1-31 at NorthPark Center. Just take DART Rail to Park Lane Station, then jump on the NorthPark Center Shuttle. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children and seniors. Call 214.361.6345 for more information or visit northparkcenter.com.

It only takes a little jingle to get to the Jingle Bell Run 5K on DART. Come out for the run/walk, costume contest, Santa Land for kids and post-race party. The event takes place Dec. 9 at the Dallas Convention Center, and all you have to do is ride DART Rail to Convention Center Station. For more information, call 817.412.5500.



214.979.1111



we'll take you there...

Kwanzaa brings the gift of community together in celebration of family, unity and pride.

CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION WITH BANK OF AMERICA VISA® KWANZAA GIFT CARDS. Purchase our special Kwanzaa Gift Card for friends and family and enter to win a \$10,000 VISA® Gift Card of your own. Just visit bankofamerica.com/kwanzaa. It's the perfect way to remember those you love this Kwanzaa—including yourself.

Bank of America Higher Standards

Gift Cards are issued by Bank of America, N.A. (USA) under a license from Visa (USA). Bank of America, N.A., Member FDIC. ©2003 Bank of America Corporation. No purchase necessary. Visit www.bankofamerica.com/kwanzaa by 1/5/04 for rules and entry. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Void where prohibited.

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Bush Medicare Plan Robs Poor Pays Rich

The Bush Administration has done it again. This time to America's senior citizens. The new Medicare law passed last week by congress and trumpeted as a political coup for the Bush Administration is the latest bait and switch tactic designed to transfer wealth from the poor to the rich. And the administration didn't even use a gun or wear a mask to carry out this rip off.

The law, pushed by President Bush, is the biggest change in Medicare since its creation in 1965. The drug benefits, which are scheduled to start in three years, have gotten most of the publicity, however, the bill also calls for competition for Medicare patients from private health plans, increased federal payments to doctors and hospitals, a new tax shelter for the wealthy, and subsidies for employers that provide health benefits for retirees. But what does it really do?

Gail Shearer, senior health policy analyst for Consumers Union, stated in a report that analyzed the Medicare plan, "It is nothing short of tragic that legislation that was meant to offer relief from high prescription drug costs to seniors is laden down with so many dangerous provisions that it will harm Medicare beneficiaries and threaten the program's long-term viability." The report provides insight into some of the Medicare pitfalls that await unsuspecting seniors.

The funds set aside for the prescription "benefit" — \$400 billion over 10 years — covers just 22 percent of the anticipated drug costs, leaving consumers to pay the rest of the bill.

Medicare is being positioned for privatization under the disguise of

competition between private health plans and Medicare. On the surface it sounds reasonable but the law does not require private plans to demonstrate cost savings that result from efficiency. Rather, the law provides additional subsidies to these private plans and allows them to reap financial benefits by cherry-picking the healthiest members.

One of the bedrocks of Medicare was the large risk pool it created. The wealthy and the healthy are in the same pool as the poor and the sick. Permitting the insurance companies to break up Medicare's risk pool will raise costs to poorer and sicker seniors, because profit minded insurance companies make more money insuring healthy people rather than sick ones. To assume that the private companies will not "cherry-pick" is to ignore years of historical data on insurance practices. As a result of the bill, health care providers will enjoy a multibillion-dollar windfall.

Private Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), who will administer the drug benefit program, get to pick what drugs are covered under the new Medicare plan with no transparency or accountability to the public or the government. Lists of covered drugs will vary from plan to plan and from region to region. Information on how drugs are selected for a particular plan does not have to be provided to the public or the regulators. Conflicts of interest will cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

The most glaring bait and switch proviso of the new plan, that completely undermines the stated intention of reducing the cost of drugs, is the government's prohibition from negotiating prescription drug discounts for consumers.

Market principles dictate that with its huge pool of patients, Medicare could extract a good deal from the drug companies.

"If you're serious about cost containment, you don't block Medicare from using its enormous purchasing power to bring drug prices down," says Robert Greenstein of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Also Congress in their infinite wisdom deleted a proposal that would permit consumers to purchase U.S.-manufactured drugs from Canada and other countries where they are sold at lower prices than charged in the United States.

The Congressional Budget Office indicates that seniors will face annual increases in premiums and deductibles and a growing gap in coverage under the new Medicare law. For example, the baseline deductible and out of pocket payment gap at the start of the program in 2006 is projected to rise 10 percent after just one year. By 2013, the eighth year of the program, the deductible and the coverage gap are both projected to grow by 78 percent.

The new law heavily subsidizes private insurance companies and private health plans. What seniors have to look forward to in the future is a continual flood of special interest lobbyists, supported by multi-million dollar advertising campaigns demanding that Congress provide more and more subsidies while threatening to cut back coverage to seniors and the disabled if they do not get the money. Senior citizens better watch their wallets.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truthclinic.com

Methodists Inspect 'Fruit' of Church's Repentance for Racism

By Linda Green

BALTIMORE (UMNS) — Three years have passed since the United Methodist Church apologized for the sin of racism and sought to reconcile with African-American Methodist denominations that formed during the 18th and 19th centuries.

During that repentance service at the 2000 General Conference, United Methodists were warned that the fruits of their repentance would be under scrutiny by the African-American churches.

"The ritual act of repentance alone would not lead to the development of a new attitude or a new social consciousness," said Bishop Clarence Carr, with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, at the end of the repentance service.

"The ritual tree of repentance is barren without fruit worthy of repentance," he said. "Repentance leads to redemption, and redemption demands restitution, reparation, liberation — a new sense of freedom — both for the victim and the victimizer."

Calling the act a defining moment for the church of John Wesley, Carr said that he and other members of African-American Methodist denominations would not judge the United Methodists but would be "fruit inspectors." The denominations were formed largely because of racism in the United Methodist Church's predecessors.

Since then, most of the 64 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States have held repentance services. Local congregations have engaged in partnerships with members of the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion and Christian Methodist Episcopal churches. Members of those denominations also hold membership on the governing bodies of United Methodist boards and agencies.

Representatives of the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal and United Methodist churches came together in Baltimore before Thanksgiving in search of the fruit and to see how they would journey together in

Christ in the future. Native American United Methodists also participated.

The United Methodist Church has made strides in its repentance, but it needs assistance in identifying the missing pieces, said Anne Marshall, a staff executive with the denomination's Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

The consultation focused on identifying next steps for the United Methodist Church to take beyond the act of repentance to reconciliation.

Several ideas for next steps included moving beyond the "safe" observances, focusing on people 25-45 years old, acknowledging the intersections of race, and tearing down walls that separate various races. The group also discussed encouraging the startup of cooperative congregations under the pan-

continues to exclude those who never left its ranks — a reference to the racism that still exists in the denomination. He also questioned whether the act of repentance was an attempt to "bring people of color back in to reverse the cycle of the downward spiral in terms of membership, or is this an attempt to control and dominate as the past has proven?"

The United Methodist Church should "walk the walk and not simply talk the talk," Powell said.

He also called for a pragmatic process or strategic plan with measurable action steps to help the churches in their journey together.

Using the image of a rear-view mirror, McClain said it is important to reflect on history, looking at how mistakes have prohibited reconciliation and prevented the denomination from becoming "the church in the world."

It is time to get serious about living out the faith, he said. "We need to be serious in not simply talking about multiracial churches or multicultural events and people holding office and serving the church, but in fact doing it." The barriers to reuniting the pan-Methodist denominations must be removed, he said.

McClain suggested that reconciliation is possible if the United Methodist Church "confesses and ... straightens out what we messed up."

Listening, sharing and trusting will move the four denominations toward becoming the Methodist family again, she said. She indicated that she was not talking about merger or organically becoming one, but in developing concrete relationships within communities.

The four churches' journey together will not end, Marshall said. "Once you develop a relationship, there is not an end to it. You will always be on this road together. The destination is one where we listen to each other with respect and work together with integrity and come together in a relationship that has trust."



Bishop Clarence Carr

Methodist banner.

After all of the church-wide and caucus reports on racism and the ritual acts, "where are the fruits of repentance?" asked the Rev. William McClain, professor of preaching and worship at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington. In the keynote address, McClain wondered aloud whether any fruit exists or "do we still produce wild grapes?"

"If a tree is purporting to be an apple tree, the way to tell if it is so is to taste the fruit, examine the fruit," said Staccato Powell, an African Methodist Episcopal Zion representative from West Chester, Pa. "So if the United Methodist Church is genuinely repentant for its actions of the past, then we want to know that by their current deeds and practices."

Powell asked how the United Methodist Church could reach beyond its institutional walls if it

City of Allen to Begin Holiday Celebration, Friday, December 5

Allen, TX- From the 8-inch ornaments on the tree to Rudolph's racing shoes, the City of Allen in cooperation with other city organizations, is set to host a series of festivities as part of the annual Home for the Holidays celebration. The big holiday weekend officially gets underway with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 5 at City Hall. The event includes the countdown and lighting of the 30-foot Eastern Red Cedar tree along with musical entertainment and a special appearance by Santa and his friends from the North Pole. Something new to this year's event includes Wish List Central and Santa's Lane. The evening will be complete with seasonal treats. Parents are reminded to bring cameras for snapshots of the children with Santa. The event is free to the public.

Festivities continue bright and early Saturday morning, December 6 as the check-in and registration for the annual Rudolph Run begins at 7 a.m. at the Allen Heritage Center, 100 E. Main. The event includes the 5K competitive race, the one-mile Elf Fun Run/Walk for children 12 and under, and the one-mile Frosty Fun Run/Walk for non-competitive runners of all ages. All race participants receive a

commemorative T-shirt and special giveaways with awards being given to the top three male and top three female finishers in the 5K. The run is hosted by Allen Parks and Recreation. For more information about entry fees and registration, call 972-727-0148.

For residents looking for more passive activities or a good breakfast, the Kiwanis Club of Allen will host the annual Pancake Breakfast the same Saturday morning from 7 to 10 a.m. at the old Central Fire Station, 105 S. Anna. The old fire station is now the new home for the interim Allen Senior Center. Admission to the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is by ticket offered in receipt of a \$5 donation for adults, and \$3.50 for children. Proceeds from the breakfast support a variety of club projects.

Shoppers looking for unique gifts and holiday home decor items will want to check out the Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Joe Farmer Recreation Center, 1201 E. Bethany. The craft fair features over 50 vendors with a variety of homemade and hand crafted gift and decor items.

The Allen Philharmonic Symphony performs a special holiday concert on Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. at First Baptist

Church of Allen, 201 E. Main. Music will be performed by the Allen Symphony Chorus and the First United Methodist Church handbell choir. Ticker information is available by calling 972-359-0656.

Concluding the Home for the Holidays event line-up is the annual Christmas Parade sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Allen. The parade takes place Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. The parade route begins at Allen High School through Allen Station Park, south on Cedar to Main, right on Main to Allen Drive.

A wide variety of Allen merchants are offering special discounts and incentives during the Home for the Holidays weekend. Call the Allen Chamber of Commerce at 972-727-5585 for a complete list of participating merchants and discount offers. Another season activity hosted by Allen Parks and Recreation during December is Lunch With Santa offered Dec. 12, 17, and 18 from noon to 12:45 p.m. at the Joe Farmer Recreation Center, 1201 E. Bethany. The activity is for children ages 2 to 5 years old and costs \$5. Advance registration is required as space on Santa's guest list is limited. For more information, call 972-727-0152.

Where Do You Want To Go Today?

Publisher's Office:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: publisher@monthegazette.com

Sales Department:

Phone: (972) 606-7351

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

Editorial Department:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 516-4197

Email: editor@monthegazette.com

Entertainment Department:

Phone: (972) 665-0170

Email: entertainment@monthegazette.com

Website: www.MonTheGazette.com

MON The Gazette

6100 Avenue K, Suite 105 • Plano, Texas 75074

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

Publisher

Thurman R. Jones

Assistant to Publisher

Katrina Timmons

Production

Robert Booker

Vice President National

Michael T. Caesar

Sales and Marketing

Shirley Demas Tarpley

Religious/Marketing Editor

Sakina Jackson

Assignment Editor

Jacqueline Perry-Williams

Staff Writers

Monica Thornton

Columnists

Cheryl Jackson

Contributing Writers

Lakeisha Joe

Belinda Alexander

Photography

Shauna Benoit

Frank Lett

Editorial Designer "Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Patrick "PJ" Johnson

Cartoonist

Brad McMillan

Advisory Board:

John Dudley

John Hightower

Myrtle Hightower

Fred Moses

Annie Dickson

Cecil Starks

Ben Thomas

Willie Watley

Coty Rodriguez-Anderson

B. J. Williams

Denise Upchurch

Barbara Simpkins,

ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARY

Advisory Board Committees:

Public Relations

Planning and

Implementation

Cecil Starks, CHAIRPERSON

Business Growth

Referral

John Dudley, CHAIRPERSON

Quality Assurance

Myrtle Hightower,

CHAIRPERSON

Coty Rodriguez

Ben Thomas

Program Policy

Development

Annie Dickson,

CHAIRPERSON

Program Creation

and Planning

Goals Committee

Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

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 visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare 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 Bochum and Thurman R. Jones



Mega Millions!™



It's The Only Game Bigger Than Texas!

Texas has joined ten other states in offering the Mega Millions™ game. Mega Millions is a multi-state lottery game with jackpots starting at \$10 Million! Texas has even added a special feature called the Megaplier™. Play Megaplier for a chance to increase your non-grand/jackpot prize winnings by 2, 3 or 4 times. The best part is Mega Millions proceeds benefit Texas.

When you buy, Megaply!™



www.txlottery.org



Overall odds of winning a prize in Mega Millions™ are 1 in 43. Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket.
©2003 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved. For more information call the Texas Lottery Commission Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO. www.txlottery.org

On-going

Collin County emergency preparedness hotline: 972.548.4114. You can also visit www.co.collin.tx.us.

Interactive Dallas Children's Museum at Valley View Center - a hospital fantasyland, a miniature grocery store, a farm, a "Jungle Impressions" exhibit complete with rain forest, arts and crafts. Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sundays noon - 6 p.m. Children 2-10 years \$4/Adults \$5. Call 972.386.6555.

Interurban Railway Station Museum, 901 E. 15th Street, Plano, Historic Downtown. From 1908 to 1948, this was a station on the Texas Electric Railroads' Interurban Line. Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. For special tours call 972.941.2117.

Job seekers can attend weekly meetings held by TeamNetworking Collin County. The nonprofit, business-to-business group oversees several chapters, with the Collin County group meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Blue Mesa Grill, 8200 North Dallas Parkway in Plano. No reservations are required, and more information is available online at www.teamnetworking.com.

Through December 13
Sistuh, Sistuh, Sistuh, a nonprofit organization, provides

life skills workshops Saturday, from 10:00-11:30, including informational sessions on self-esteem, finances, computer literacy, obtaining employment and goal setting. At St. Phillip's School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Dallas. 214.421.5221 ext.122.

Through December 31

The SPCA of Texas will hold its annual winter adoption event at NorthPark Center, 1-75 and Park, Dallas. Visit the adorable cats and dogs, and shop for a full array of merchandise for pets. Come and pick out your new best friend Saturdays 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sundays noon - 6 p.m.

Through January 5, 2004

Santa vs. The Snowman is coming back to Fort Worth's Omni Theater. An instant holiday classic, beginning November 14 at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery Street, Fort Worth. For times and information call: 817.255.9300 or 888.255.9300, or visit: www.fortworthmuseum.org.

Through January 10, 2004

Eclectic Nature: Teaching Ecology Through Art. Features the many faces of mother nature, at The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary. A mixed media show of two McKinney artists, Brian and Schelly Corry. Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. One Nature Place, McKinney. Call 972.562.5566, or visit: www.heardmuseum.org.

Admission to museum and grounds is \$8 adults/\$5 children 3-12.

The ArtCentre of Plano unveils "In Living Clay," an exhibit by Galisteo, New Mexico, author and clay muralist Priscilla Hoback, December 5, Reception - 6 to 8 p.m. Runs through Jan. 10, 2004, sponsored by Holiday Inn. Animals are her primary subject matter. The ArtCentre is located at the corner of 15th Street and Avenue K, Plano. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission. Call 972.423.7809.

December 4

The City of Garland's annual holiday celebration, downtown Garland, 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., featuring, for the first time, a full-length lighted Christmas parade. Prizes for the most outstanding floats and walking units. Horse-drawn sleighs and carriages, the Polar Express train, traditional Christmas Tree lighting, holiday entertainment, and of course Santa Claus.

How To Buy a Computer Workshop (for senior adults 50 and up), 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. first session/6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. second session. SeniorNet Learning Center at Interim Allen Senior Center, 105 S. Anna. \$5. Advance registration required. Call 972.727.0155.

December 4 - 6

Christmas in the Park at Westlake Park, Mesquite, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bring the entire family to see Santa and Mrs. Claus, Santa's Workshop, Tree

Lighting Ceremony, Christmas Carolers and more! Contact 972.216.6260 for more information.

December 4-7

Garland Civic Theatre presents "God's Favorite" at the Granville Arts Center, 5th and Austin Streets, downtown Garland. Neil Simon's comic and heartwarming version of the book of Job, set in a Long Island mansion. A laugh out loud comedy. December 4, 5 - 8 p.m., Dec 6 - 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Dec 7 - 2 p.m. Tickets available at the box office or by calling 972.205.2790.

December 5

"An Evening of Jazz" is presented by the Mesquite Fire Department and features Area All Star Jazz Ensemble directed by Curt Bradshaw, "Mondo Drummers" directed by Eddie Dunlap and the James Vernon Trio at 7p. Admission is one new, unwrapped toy for a child. Call 972-216-6349.

December 6

Annual 5K Rudolph Run Event, 7 a.m. in Downtown Allen. Trophies to the top three male and female finishers. \$20 entry fee for 5K race. \$15 entry fee for fun runs/walks. Annual 5K race with trophies awarded to the top three male and female finishers. 1-Mile Elf Run/Walk before the race for kids 12 and under. Or join in the 1-Mile Frosty Run/Walk for non-competitive runners. Register at Joe Farmer Recreation Center, 1201 E. Bethany, or the Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium, 110 E. Rivercrest. Call 972.727.0148.

"Celebration." - the Garland High School pop group perform their favorite holiday songs at the Plaza Theatre, downtown Garland, 521 W. State Street, 7:30 p.m. \$5.00. Call 972.494.8240 x5375. This is Celebration's first holiday show and they hope to see you there!

Holiday Craft Fair, Joe Farmer Recreation Center, 1201 E. Bethany. Free admission. 10 a.m. Gifts, holiday décor and homemade specialties at the annual bazaar. For information about purchasing a vendor booth, call 972.727.0132.

Come to the Mesquite North Branch Library, 2000 Oates Drive for our new storytime and crafttime program, presented by students from North Mesquite High School. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. and is for children 3-8 years old and their families. Call 972-681-0165 for more information.

Support Groups

Healing Matters Grief Support Group meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Medical Center of Plano classrooms. This is a pregnancy loss support group for anyone who has lost a baby to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, newborn death, or SIDS. There is also a share group for those pregnant again following a loss. For information call 972-519-1588.

DivorceCare meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Fellowship Bible Church North, 650 Lexington, Place. Call Bob Hornstein at 972-783-8800.

Collin County Community College District's Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling, crisis assessment, intervention and referral. For more information call Counseling Services at 972.881.5779 at the Spring Creek Campus; 972.548.6615 at the Central Park Campus; or 972.377.1671 at the Preston Ridge Campus.

Volunteer opportunities

Women needed to mentor teen mothers at Hope Cottage Pregnancy and Adoption Center, 22 years and older. Spend time with a teen mother and her baby, providing emotional support, positive role modeling and a listening ear. To make a difference in the life of a teen mother and her baby, call Tara Pitt at 214-526-8721, ext 226, or visit www.hopcottage.org.

The Plano Animal Shelter need volunteers over 16 years old to wash and walk the animals, help with clerical services and customer service. Foster homes are also needed while permanent homes are found for animals. Call 972-578.7510.

Who Are the Women of God?
Why is MON-The Gazette Honoring Them On Mother's Day Weekend 2004?
What Can You Do To Be A Part Of The Momentous Occasion?
Go to www.monthe gazette.com
(Click on Women Of God)
or Contact Sister Tarpley
At 972-606-3878 voice mail

Sponsored By:



Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



**Right Store.
Right Price.**
For Holiday Cheer!



Grade "A" Fresh, All Varieties
**Butterball Bone-In
Split Chicken Breast or
Whole Fryers • Wings • Drumsticks • Thighs**

**99¢
Lb.**

SAVE UP TO \$1.70 LB. WITH CARD

3 or 5 Lb. Chub Pak
**Kroger Ground
Beef Chuck**

**\$1.49
Lb.**

SAVE \$1.20 LB. WITH CARD

Selected Varieties & Sizes
Frozen Entrees &

**Marie
Callender's
Dinners**

**50%
OFF**

SAVE 50% WITH CARD

18 Ct Tampons, 40 to 64 Ct.
Lightdays or 18 to 22 Ct.

**Kotex
Maxi Pads
\$1.96
Ea.**

SAVE UP TO \$1.73 EA. WITH CARD

8 Roll Brawny Towels or
24 Reg. Roll or 12 Dbl. Roll

**Northern
Bath Tissue**

**2 \$9
For**

SAVE UP TO \$7.98 ON 2 WITH CARD

Perfect for Guacamole

**Haas
Avocados**

**3 \$1
For**

SAVE \$1.98 ON 3 WITH CARD



TRIPLE COUPONS UP TO & INCLUDING 39¢ DOUBLE COUPONS UP TO & INCLUDING 50¢
With Your Kroger Plus Card
See Store for Details.

THIS AD VALID WED., DEC. 3 THRU TUES., DEC. 9, 2003. Copyright 2003. Kroger Texas L.P.

Alicia Keys Keeps Fame in Perspective

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Music Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The pressure of following up a multiplatinum, Grammy-winning album is enough to give even veteran artists nervous fits.

So 22-year-old Alicia Keys — whose debut album sold more than 10 million copies worldwide and won a record-tying five Grammys — must be feeling a bit apprehensive about the release of her sophomore disc, "The Diary of Alicia Keys," this week.

Keys knows that's what everyone expects to hear — and she's happy to disappoint them.

"They're dying! They're like, 'Please Alicia, just say it, say it! Say that you feel like, terrible,'" Keys laughed during an interview with The Associated Press backstage at MTV, where she was preparing for yet another promotional appearance.

"(But) for whatever reason... I'm really able to keep things in perspective. I don't look at myself as how people describe me, as a five-time Grammy Award-winning, 10-platinum artist, first album — I don't see myself like that," Keys says. "I look in the mirror and that's not what I see. I just see me. I just see a young woman that's searching and growing and changing and just trying to hold on to something good."

The success of 2001's "Songs in A Minor" was more than something good — it was spectacular.

Keys was introduced by music mogul Clive Davis on his J Records label and hyped as a superstar in the making. And Keys — a classically trained pianist with stunning looks and soulful, powerful pipes that recall Whitney Houston or Mariah

Carey — lived up to her billing. Her first single, the dramatic ballad "Fallin'," went to No. 1 on the charts, and she was only the second woman besides Lauryn Hill to receive five Grammys in one night (Norah Jones repeated the feat earlier this year). The album sold more than 5 million copies in the United States.

In a little less than a year, Keys went from fledgling to superstar — and the instant fame took a little getting used to. "I would just feel awkward because I wasn't used to that type of attention," she says.

"She has the maturity and wisdom of somebody really much older than her 22 years," says Davis. "It's an amazing thing to witness because it's innate wisdom, it's innate maturity."

"Alicia's always been a very private person, and I think she always will be a very private person," says her manager, Jeff Robinson, who has been with Keys since she was a teen. "You have to have that balance. People who seek out the camera 24-7 are always doomed to have a bad spot on Page Six someday."

Keys credits her attitude to a close-knit group of friends and family — like her mother, who works as her assistant. And on the surface, she doesn't seem to have changed much at all.

She still sports her cornrow hairstyle,

though a little less frequently. She hasn't converted herself into a glammed-up diva or sexpot. She tries to stay away from the spotlight when she's not performing, eschewing late-night, A-list parties. And she still speaks with same the streetwise, New York accent.

"That's the reason why I'm (expletive) sane, I promise you, is because I don't believe my own hype," she says with a smile. "If I believed my own hype right now, you'd be talking to a majorly different person, I can guarantee that."

But she does believe in her own talent. Ask how she thinks her new album will do, and she beams with a confidence that borders on cockiness.

"I know this album is the bomb," she says. "This album is going to do what it's supposed to do, and it's going to do damned good."

Her prediction seems on target. The first single, the retro-soul "You Don't Know My Name," is already a top 20 hit on the Billboard charts and rising.

"I think everybody around her was more stressed out than she was," says Robinson. "Alicia's always been like very, very laid-back, and it's truly been about the music."

The story of how Keys early material was rejected by her first record company has been often told. Despite her current



The "Call" Comes To Dallas Page 1

appeal was made to the white attendees for their ancestors' acts against the Cheyenne people where 700 Native Americans led by Chief Kettle, were massacred at San Creek, Colorado in 1864 while they hunted for their winter's supply.

Jay Swallow, Kettle's descendant, confessed his many years of bitterness and bondage against the oppressors. "I have prayed and ministered to my people for over 40 years and never knew the gravity of the pain I masked against the white people. Today I am no longer bitter. I cast my staff to the next generation for the work that God called you to do," said Swallow.

The spirit of repentance flowed freely as the plea went out against racism against African Americans as well. Vernon Johnson of Mississippi, shared his experiences as a Black man in America, and the injustices he and his children face even today. "I've been spat on, and my sons have been traffic-stopped for no other reason than driving while being black, yet I continue to teach them not to hold bitterness in their heart," said Johnson.

Pastor Mike Hayes of Covenant church spoke out against false doctrinal teachings on the subject of Blacks as cursed descendants of Ham, thereby substantiating slavery, and white supremacy. "I don't want to ever hear another white pastor say

Founder of Shirley Clark Ministries, and Jabez Prayer Network, stated that her vision and dream is for total reconciliation. "When the leadership reflects all people, only then can we begin reconciliation among the races and denominations. As long as everyone looks like us and acts like us, there is no re-defining, and thus no change can occur," said Clark.

James Robinson of Life Today recalled his story of being an illegitimate child and product of rape as he appealed to the Pro Life issue. "This nation must repent for the injustices done to hopeless and innocent unborn children," said Robinson.

Steve Wagner, of Stand to Reason used the following analogy, "If I crumple a \$20 dollar bill and step on it, and rub it in dirt most everyone would still want it. Why then is so little value paid to that of the unborn child because of its size?"

If value is indeed the issue, the "Call's" outpouring of support for spiritual awareness and accountability with the promise of change is priceless!



Attendees praying during the "solemn assembly"

that God doesn't see color. God certainly does see colors that's why He made a variety," said Hayes, also white. As an act of contrition, white attendees were asked to pass the mantle they've held in false authority and relinquish it to their Black brothers and sisters.

— Shirley Clark, Intercessor and

PLANO
MLK

"His Vision, Our Mission"

P.O. Box 860242
Plano, Texas 75086-0242

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration Committee

The Martin Luther King 2004 Planning Committee is pleased to announce the opening of its annual Art Contest Competition. Our theme this year, "His Vision, Our Mission", embraces the invitation of all artist throughout the Plano community to submit their creative works for all to see during this auspicious observance. We hope you will post the enclosed announcement and encourage your members to participate in the category that best describes their artistic talent...

Guidelines:

1. One entry per student.
2. Media: Drawing paper, Canvas, Poster Board, illustration board.
3. Artwork needs to be mated or mounted with a stiff backing.
4. All entries must be original, no copy work will be allowed.
5. Entry must be accompanied by entry form with permission slip taped to the back.
6. Entry must be submitted to MLK Arts Committee by December 15, 2003.
7. Artwork must be delivered to Karen Johnson, Brenda McDonald/Earnest Burke at Douglass Community Center located at 1111 Ave. H, Plano, TX 75074. Phone 972.424.8301.
8. Judging will be December 16-19, 2003.
9. Works will be displayed at the Saturday City Hall program, Sunday night program at Custer Road United Methodist Church, and the Monday Power Leadership Breakfast at Collin County Community College.

Contest Groups:

Ages 6-8 Ages 9-11 Ages 12-15 Ages 16-18

Awards:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Place Ribbons will be awarded to winners in each group. 1st Place winners in each group will receive a \$50.00 savings bond.

MLK CELEBRATION ENTRY FORM

I agree to allow my son/daughter's original artwork to be displayed in public as part of the MLK Celebration. In doing so, I release the MLK Celebration Committee and the MLK Arts Committee from any and all responsibility in the event of loss or damage to the artwork. I understand that effort will be made to insure the safe care of my child's work. Finalist will have their work on display at other locations to be determined. The artwork may also be used to be a part of the MLK Celebration Committee's publications and/or letterhead or other public relations activities.

Participant Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Print Participant Name

Age

Participant's Phone Number

FOR YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS



3265 Preston Rd., Ste. C
Frisco, Texas 75034

Business: (214) 618-4636

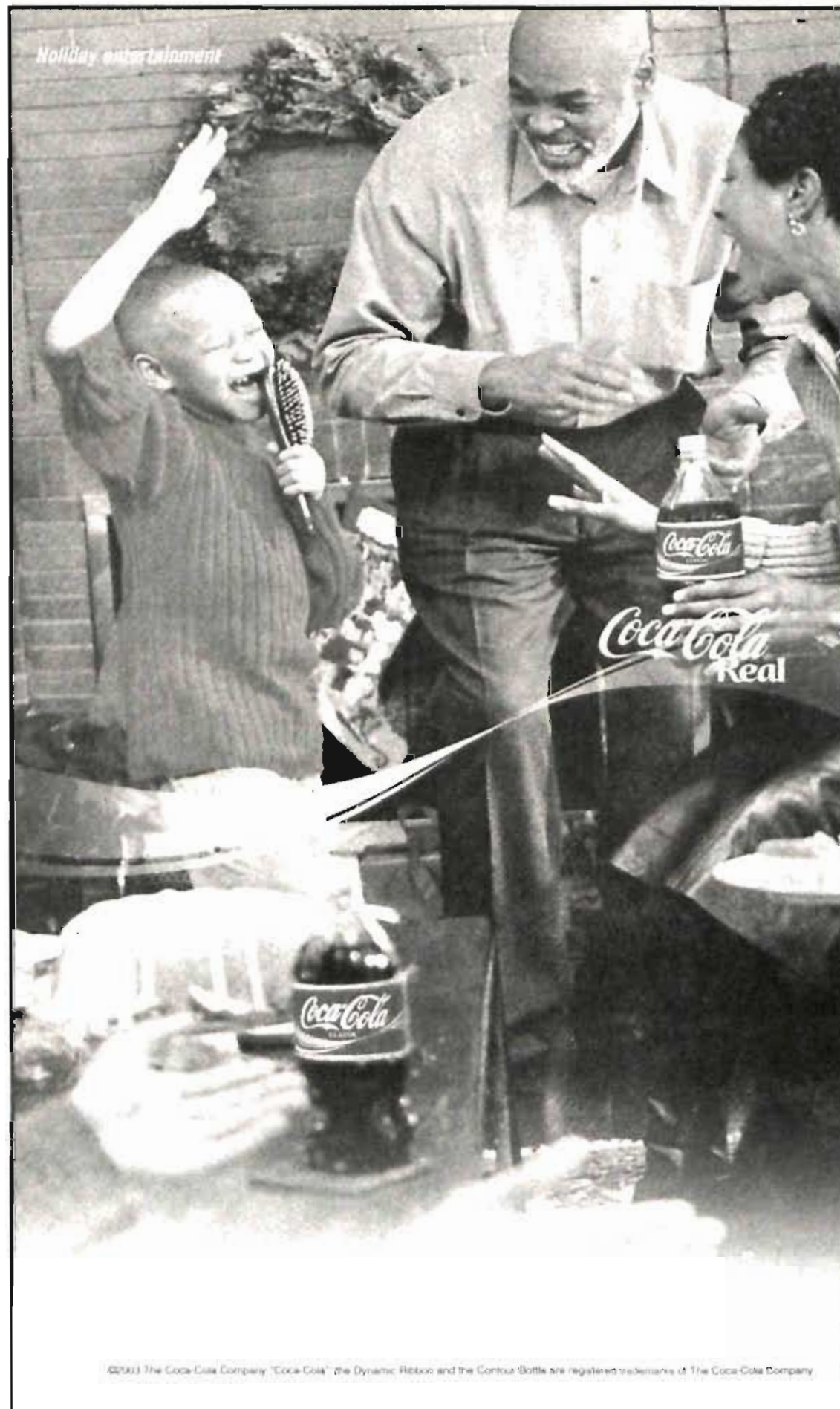
Fax: (214) 618-4635 • Direct Line: (214) 435-4335

E-Mail: GretaLoney51@comcast.net

Greta Loney
REALTOR®

Century 21

Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated



BOXING'S BIGGEST NIGHT... EVER!

UNDISPUTED MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

HOPKINS

VS. JOPPY

INTERIM HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

RAHMAN

VS. RUIZ

UNDISPUTED WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

MAYORGA

VS. SPINKS

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

PLUS: **ZAB JUDAH**

SUPER WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

AND **ALEX GARCIA**

CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHTS ALL NIGHT LONG!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 • SPECIAL TIME 8PM ET / 5PM PT

LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW

CALL
1-800COMCAST

EVENTS
IN DEMAND

Visit Our Website At www.MONTTheGazette.com

Page 6 • December 04 - December 10, 2003 • Minority Opportunity News - The Gazette

Arts & Entertainment

Al Jarreau joins Benoit, Manchester & Charlie Brown in Charlie Brown & Friends, A Family Christmas Concert December 9th at NextStage

The epitome of contemporary jazz and the only vocalist in music history to score Grammy awards in three separate categories (jazz, pop and R&B), Al Jarreau has recorded more than two dozen albums over the last three decades.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisc., in 1940, Jarreau grew up in a religious household; his father was a minister and young Al sang in the church choir as a child.

After a brief career as a

social worker, Jarreau moved to Los Angeles and began playing in small clubs on the West Coast. His first album, 1965, released in that year, was a pure jazz album featuring pianist Cal Bezemer, bassist Gary Allen and drummer Joe Abodeely.

After a 10-year break from recording, Jarreau



went back in the studio in 1981's Breakin' for We Got By, his first release for Reprise Records. Throughout the next two decades, Jarreau's output was prolific; he released almost an album a year. Career highlights include 1981's Breakin'

Away, which went platinum thanks to the hit single "We're in This Love Together" and his most successful work, the theme from the popular '80s television show, "Moonlighting."

In 1996 the Best of Al Jarreau compilation was released on Warner Bros., featuring Jarreau's career hits, "Moonlighting," "We're in This Love Together," "Boogie Down" and "Roof Garden," as well as two new tracks written by George Duke.

Something's Gotta Give



Jack Nicholson stars as an older man seemingly content with his career and with a girlfriend young enough to be his daughter. After suffering a heart attack at the house of his girlfriend's mother (Diane Keaton) in the Hamptons, N.Y., he reconsiders his life. A young doctor (Keanu Reeves) arrives to help in the recuperation process, but he finds himself attracted to Keaton's character, a woman old enough to be his mother. Nicholson's character also begins to enjoy the care and company of a woman his own age, which results in a competition of sorts between the two men.

Starts December 12, 2003

The Hebrew Hammer



This action comedy spoof, said to be in the same vein as Undercover Brother, but for Orthodox Jews, Adam Goldberg (Saving Private Ryan) stars as a superhero detective who's out to stop Santa's evil son Damien (Andy Dick) from eliminating Hanukkah forever. It's based on the short of the same name, written and directed by Jonathan Kesselman during his days as a student at USC's Film School.

Starts December 19, 2003 in select cities

MON The Gazette's 21 Questions with R&B Singer Chico DeBarge

By Vivian Fullerlove

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters hosted Tyler Perry's hit play "Why Did I Get Married?" starring Kelly Price and Chico DeBarge. I had the chance to sit down and talk with this multi-talented artist while he was in town. Chico, who is a member of one of music's most talented families, has done what few younger siblings have been able to accomplish! Like Janet Jackson, Chico has emerged from the DeBarge family as a major force in the music industry gaining much love, success and critical acclaim over the past few years since the release of his debut album "Long Time No See" in 1997. All three of his albums have received accolades from fans and critics alike for their creativity, innovation and soul stirring sound that simply is Chico DeBarge. As he explores and develops his craft as an actor, he proves that not only can he tickle the ears of his fans, but also delight audiences around the country in Perry's hilarious new stage play chocked full of laughs along with a wonderful message of finding true love and most importantly self love.

did, and "Long Time No See" evolved from that method.

9. So your big brother is very involved in your career?

Definitely. I think my music is very indicative of El's sound. I give him a lot

baby?"

Not really. I finally caught up with them. I think they look at me as an equal now. They ask my advice sometimes.

The cutest grin I've ever seen spreads across his face at this point.

14. I know Mama gets much love!

Mama is beautiful. She is love and inspiration.

15. Does your family get to come to many of your shows?

Absolutely. When we perform up in Detroit the family comes out.

16. Tell me about your new album "Free."

It's about love. This album is very personal...warm and passionate. It's more about the adoration of a woman's qualities and spirituality. It differs from my other albums they were more sexual. "Free" is about being more aware of how to express love on a deeper level than physical love. Okay, this is where you can take a deep breath and recover from what he just said. But it does get better!!

17. What is the most romantic thing that's ever happened to you?

Hmmm...I'd have to say it was unexpectedly finding out that someone I liked, that I never thought liked me, actually did. We were in the car together and she asked if she could kiss me just out of the blue. That was the most wonderful, powerful and passionate thing I'd ever known because it was unexpected.

I told you it gets better...here it is...

18. What is the greatest achievement you've yet to realize?

To find my match. A woman that matches me...not just getting along, but my home spirit. I've been waiting for her all my life, and I can't wait to meet her. Before I leave this earth I know we'll find each other because I'll never give up on her. I know she's out there.

19. You seem to be in such a great place right now. How did you get there?

I really don't know sometimes. There was a time when I took a lot of things for granted. He quotes: "My soul look back and wonder how I got over." I'm just so grateful to be free. I really appreciate life so much more than I used to.

20. What is the most important lesson you've learned?

The power of love and how necessary it is. The first law we learn is that of love. The first song we cry out as infants is a song and cry of love. Love really is our purpose. Each day, I know that I made it through being who I needed to be. Just let love lead you.

Okay, so I have one question left and there is only one thing I've been dying to know every since we sat down, but dare I ask? Oh, what the heck...I'm going to go for it! Check out Chico's newest video "Home Alone" and you'll understand.

21. Is it real?

He points at a small tattoo on his neck. Nearly embarrassed, I smile and shake my head, "No." He smiles back and slowly raises his t-shirt.

Yes. It means "Wish and Will of God" in Hebrew.

Well, I certainly got my wish!!

1. What is your character TROY like in Tyler Perry's play "Why Did I Get Married?"

He is a free spirit who has never been really committed to anyone. He is part of a group of friends who grew up together, and every year they all go to a Time Share and vacation together. This year, the lead, SHEILA, played by Kelly Price, finds out that her husband has been cheating on her with a woman who is supposed to be one of her best friends. Kelly and my character wind up falling in love with each other and getting married.

2. How exactly does that happen?

SHEILA's husband spends a lot of time belittling her for being overweight and leaves her because of it. That leaves her with very little self-esteem, but TROY falls in love with her for who she is and helps to rebuild her self confidence and shed the extra weight.

3. Is this a comedy or drama?

The play is very funny and combines the music of Kelly Price.

4. Do you sing at all in the play?

Not a lot. I perform one song, "Let's Get It On" by Marvin Gaye.

5. How did you become involved or interested in acting?

It's something I've wanted to do for a long time. It's a good outlet and expression of artistic vision...another form of expressing myself. As a musician, I am able to act out sentiment in my voice and the composition of a song, but in acting, you are able to adorn character with the eye. It is very therapeutic for me, and another creative outlet. It can also be a healing for others; I like having the opportunity to share that.

Yes, the brother is sensual, wildly talented and DEEP!!

6. Do you have any other non-music projects in the works?

Yes, I just finished a movie called "Envy." It stars Ben Stiller, Christopher Walker, Lisa Raye, Ving Rhames and Maia Campbell. Two best friends become at odds when one of them is successful at launching a get rich quick scheme. It should be out in 2004.

7. Did you have any mentors when you decided to pursue acting?

Tyler Perry has been a wonderful inspiration and mentor to me. I saw him a couple of years ago in a show and was just amazed at his ability to enrich and empower people. He sort of took me under his wing and his given me a lot of instruction and some wonderful opportunities.

8. Now, back to music. You were at the forefront of the Neo Soul movement -as we know it currently. You were Neo Soul before it had a name. How did you develop your style?

My brother El and I really came up with it. I remember going into my first album and asking him how should I express myself. He said let's create a sound and let the people hear it without worrying about what to call it or giving it a title. And that's what we



of credit in helping me to find my voice.

10. How many are in your family?

Nine boys and four girls.

11. Wow! What was it like growing up with so many people around?

I really can't imagine it having been any other way. I was the next to the youngest; so, I think each of my brothers and sisters really instilled some sort of discipline and life lesson in me over the years. Since my mom was a single parent, my brothers were like fathers to me, and they all helped to shape different values in me.

12. Do you all keep in touch?

Yes, with every one of them!

13. Do they still treat you like "the

Ladies 400 Billion ON The Table!

Looking for Serious
Minded People. Who Truly
Want Their Own Business.
Work From Home P/T and
Build Your Own
Communication Company.
Set The Bar High For The
Next Generation.

Call Reginald For Overview
972-527-7472

DIVORCE

Starting at \$89 Plus Filing Fee
(Uncontested with Property or children)

Family Law Criminal Defense Tickets \$45

- Divorce
- Adoptions
- Custody Case
- Name Change
- DWI
- Robbery
- Assault
- Suspended License
- 24 hr. Jail Release (Warrant Lifted)

Easy
Payment Plan

2730 N. Stemmons Frwy.
Suite 409 Dallas, TX 75207
214-638-5930

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Ride
DART
free
while
you learn
at the downtown star★



Qualified credit and non-credit students can ride free on DART trains or buses anywhere, anytime while enrolled at El Centro, your downtown star. You'll also enjoy the lowest tuition in the Metroplex, the choice of more than 50 quality educational programs and many financial aid plans. Check with us for details.

REGISTER NOW through December 18 for spring 2004 (classes start January 12). Last days for spring registration: January 6-10. Register through December 15 for Winter Term (classes start December 15).

El Centro
COLLEGE
Educating Dallas since 1966

801 Main St. Dallas, TX • 214-860-2037 • www.elcentrocollege.edu

Public Meetings

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) of the North Central Texas Council of Governments welcomes the public to the following meetings:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003, 6:30 P.M.

East Regional Library
6301 Bridge Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76112

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2003, 1:30 P.M.

Duncanville City Hall
203 E. Wheatland Road
Duncanville, Texas 75116

*TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2003, 6:30 P.M.

Carpenter Park Recreation Center
6701 Coit Road
Plano, Texas 75024

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The RTC encourages you to join policy officials for an in-depth look at the elements of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

This includes the overall Plan and these components:

- Air Quality Conformity Results
- Progress on Transit Planning Initiatives
- Status on Transit Implementation Structures

Provide input before this \$50 billion Plan is presented to policy makers for approval in January 2004.

*The Collin County Transportation Study will also be presented at this meeting only.

For special accommodations due to a disability or for additional information, please call Jaime Walker at 617-695-9247. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

Middlekauff Ford

4400 W. Plano Pkwy. • Plano TX, 75093



Salutes:

Ken Hewitt
The #1

Sales & Leasing Consultant
For 5 Consecutive Years

New Car Sales & Leasing

(972) 985-3600

"A Name You Know, A Name You Can Trust"



Blue Oval Certified

done. Then they feast on us for the following four weeks or so, as turkey stew, turkey sandwiches, turkey soup, turkey hash, and turkey salad.

They slice us, dice us, fry us, mix us up, and stir us up in an effort to keep that turkey flavor flowing for as long as they can. And we accommodate them by continuing to buy, buy, and buy all year long, all the while neglecting our own economic survival.

Yes, we are indeed their Thanksgiving turkeys, brothers and sisters. We are also their Christmas presents. When are we going to wake up from our fantasy-land economic delusions? Black people in this country are the economic fodder for everyone else's wellbeing and prosperity. We complain, march, and come up with strategies and tactics that do no more than make us feel good about getting an apology from those who economically exploit us. Our so-

called leaders tell us when to be angry, what to be angry about, and at whom we should be angry. They even tell us when it's time to stop being mad, but they seldom tell us anything we can do to economically empower ourselves to the point where it would no longer matter who calls us a name or fails to give us good service at their restaurant.

What brand of leadership serves its own people up for dinner? I often say that we have enough intellectual capacity to great things for our economic future and that of our children. The message from our "leaders" should be couched in economic freedom, self-reliance, and empowerment, rather than feed us a steady diet of mere "feel-good," "you can do it," and "you're a winner," speeches and strategies.

They should be teaching us how to move beyond the rhetoric to real action and progress from year to year. They should, in addition to the registering to vote campaigns, teach us what Booker T. Washington taught

us: How to register our dollars all year long. They should show us the way to economic freedom; they should lead us there, and they should serve us, as Carter G. Woodson wrote, with their expertise in business, finance, and entrepreneurship.

Every Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are marinated, basted in our own savory juices, and cooked to perfection until the meat just falls off our bones, not unlike the dollars that fall out of our pockets and purses. We traipse to the stores, plop down the green, and return to our abodes to complain about how miserably "they" treat us.

This year, as we move through another holiday season that used to be a Holy Day season, let's resolve to change the menu and take turkey off the tables of the corporate hordes. And let's stop allowing our people to be consumed and digested, only to be excreted upon when the New Year begins. I apologize for the graphic language, but this is just that serious,

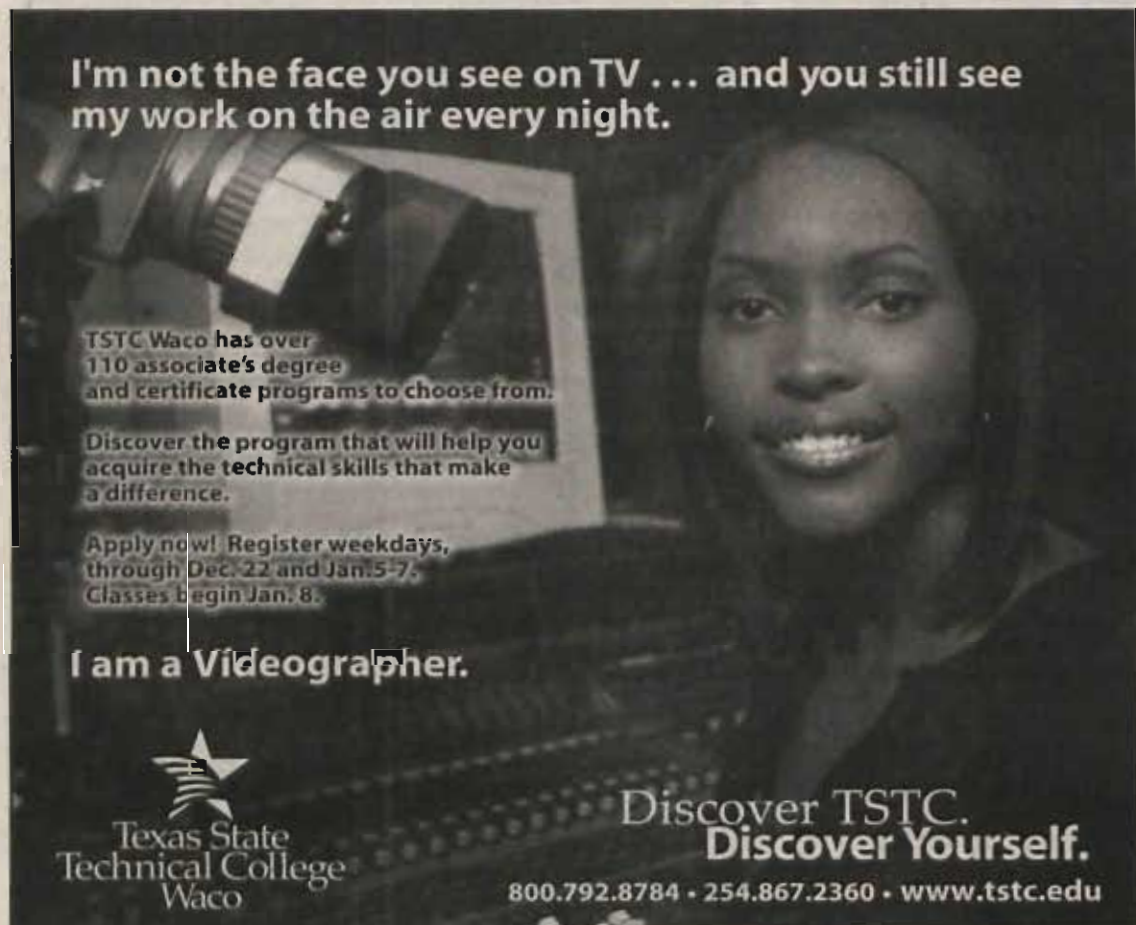
brothers and sisters. We're supposed to have the meal, not be the meal. It's called "Turkey Day," not "Turkeys' Day."

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American

Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and is the author of the book, "Economic Empowerment or

Economic Enslavement-We have a Choice." He can be reached at (513) 489-4132, or by e-mail at jclingman@blackonomics.com.

I'm not the face you see on TV ... and you still see my work on the air every night.



TSTC Waco has over 110 associate's degree and certificate programs to choose from.

Discover the program that will help you acquire the technical skills that make a difference.

Apply now! Register weekdays, through Dec. 22 and Jan. 5-7. Classes begin Jan. 8.

I am a Videographer.

Discover TSTC. Discover Yourself.

Texas State Technical College Waco

800.792.8784 • 254.867.2360 • www.tstc.edu

Career Opportunities

Contact Ms. Sakina Jackson to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-606-7351 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

MON-The Gazette

is looking for community writers and reporters. Pay on a contract basis or by the hour. Email your resume to editor@monthegazette.com or fax to 972-516-4197. Leave a message at 972-881-1646.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

KSKY-AM is looking for full-time Account Executives with outside sales experience. Candidate should have an understanding of the programming and the mission of KSKY. Previous radio sales experience is not necessary. Knowledge of southern gospel music is a plus!

Please fax a letter along with a resume to Len Sosh, Sales Department at 214-561-9662. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

KSKY-AM is a subsidiary of Salem Communications, an equal opportunity employer

SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

KWRD-FM is looking for candidates who have been successful in outside sales. A commitment to the programming and the mission of KWRD is critical. Previous radio sales experience is not necessary.

If you're interested in this position with KWRD-FM, Please fax an introduction letter along with a resume to Easy Azell at 214-561-9662. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

KWRD-FM is a subsidiary of Salem Communications, an equal opportunity employer

ROUTE PERSONS

Needed For:

Garland/Mesquite
Plano/Richardson/N. Dallas
Farmersville/Wylie
McKinney/Allen/Frisco/
Lewisville/Denton/Dallas Areas

Salary Negotiable

Call (972) 606-3261
Please leave a message!

CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS

Police

POLICE HOTLINE
(972) 941-7299

FIRE HOTLINE
(972) 941-7402

24 HOUR
CAREER INFORMATION HOTLINE
(972) 941-7116

Home Page: www.planotx.org
FAX (972) 941-7230

AA / EOE / ADA

Established Art gallery looking for exceptional salesperson to lead/create sales forces and to sell art in corporate environment. Fax your resume to 214.752.5589 or e-mail it to stephaniegallery.com

For more information call 214.752.5588

KWRD/KSKY PROMOTION DIRECTOR

The Promotions Director for KWRD-FM and KSKY-AM reports to the General Manager and works hand in hand with the Operations and Sales departments in developing and implementing marketing and promotional campaigns for the radio station. This position involves interaction with local church and community leaders, listeners, advertisers and vendors. A solid understanding of Christian radio, familiarity with the Church, strong writing, telephone and interpersonal relations skills are important to success in this capacity. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Website Maintenance
- Interfacing with/promoting KWRD-KSKY to local church leaders and congregations.
- Working with Operations and Sales departments in developing marketing and promotional materials for the radio station.
- Maintain website
- Order station merchandise
- Maximize station's exposure to local and national media.
- Writing and securing press releases about promotional events at the radio station.
- Layout, production and writing articles for Faith Talk Magazine.
- Establishing station presence at key local events
- Educate listeners as to the mission of KWRD-KSKY
- Develop revenue-generating promotions in conjunction with Sales and Programming departments
- Coordinate and facilitate all station events

Fax or mail resumes to:
Pete Thomson
General Manager
KWRD/KSKY
1400 E. Beltline Road, Suite 110
Irving, TX 75063
214-561-9662

Legal Notices

Contact Ms. Sakina Jackson to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-606-7351 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

Baylor College of Dentistry

A Member of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center System

INVITATION FOR BIDS

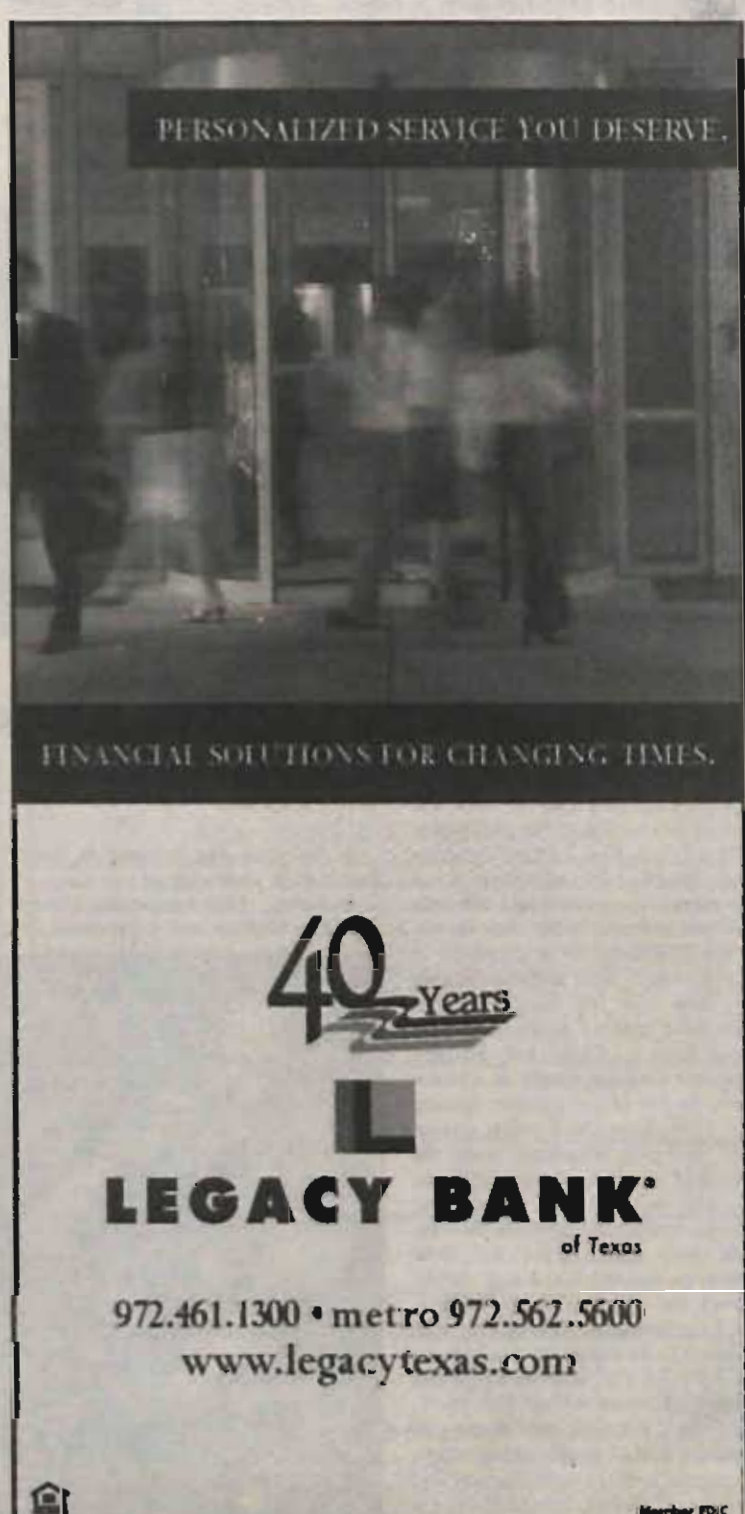
Complete finish out of existing 2 story facility located at 3221 Gaston Ave, Dallas TX.

Competitive sealed bids for the Baylor College of Dentistry, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center will be received at the Purchasing Department Room 7, Nita Holland, Director of Purchasing, 3302 Gaston Ave. Dallas, TX 75246 for the following:

Bid Pkg #1 Casework System
Open 1-15-04
Bid Pkg #2 Mechanical/Elect. Additions
Open 1-22-04
Bid Pkg #3 Plumbing Additions
Open 1-29-04
Bid Pkg #4 Architectural finish
Open 2-05-04
All Bid Openings will be at 2:00PM

Bid Packages may be picked up from ARB Architects, 1151 W. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX 76013

PERSONALIZED SERVICE YOU DESERVE.



FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGING TIMES.

40 Years

LEGACY BANK
of Texas

972.461.1300 • metro 972.562.5600
www.legacytexas.com

Member FDIC

Career Opportunities

Contact Ms. Janice Deans to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-606-7351 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

North Texas Job Corps Center

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The NORTH TEXAS JOB CORPS CENTER, located on 87 sprawling acres in McKinney, Texas is currently accepting applications for the following positions. Qualified candidates may apply as follows:

1701 North Church Street, McKinney, Texas 75069-8003
FAX: (972) 547-7700
e-mail: brownmanru@jcc.northtexas.gov

CAREER PREPARATION INSTRUCTOR: Requires bachelor's degree in education or related field, and State teacher certification.

COOK: Requires 1-2 years related experience. Hours may include mornings, evenings, weekends, holidays.

DRIVER: Requires 6-12 months related experience; must obtain commercial drivers' license (CDL) within 90-days of hire.

LVN (on-call): As needed basis.

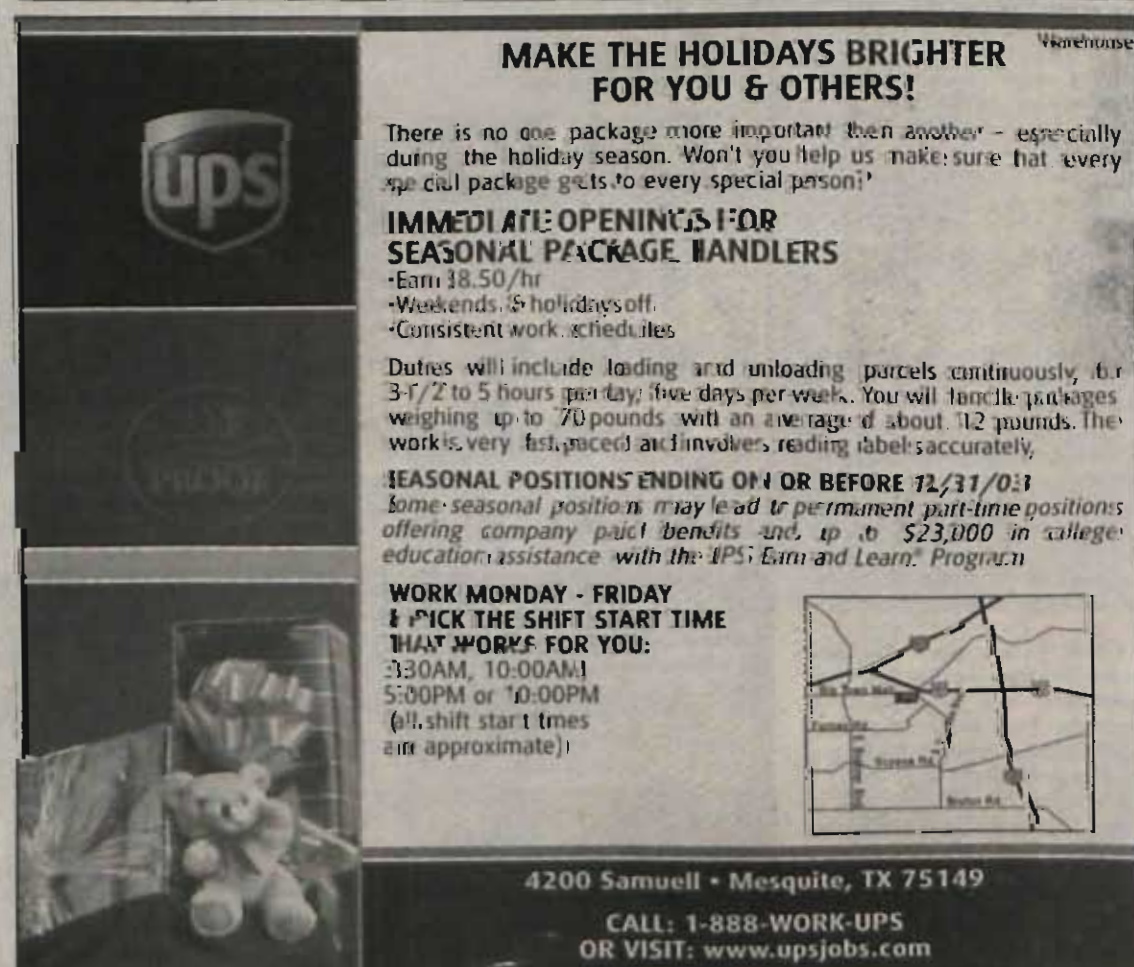
RESIDENTIAL ADVISOR: Requires high school diploma or equivalent. Associates' degree and previous residential or rehabilitation program experience is desirable. Schedules may include weekends and holidays. Hours include: 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., 11:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., or a four day work week consisting of 9:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Sunday and Monday and 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

SECURITY OFFICER II: Requires 1-2 years related experience; ensures safe and secure environment.

TEAP SPECIALIST: Requires bachelor's degree or equivalent in behavioral sciences; must obtain additions certification within 1 year of hire.

The North Texas Job Corps Center is a drug-free workplace. All candidates under final consideration for employment are subject to pre-employment drug testing and background checks.
EEO/AA-M/F/D/V

MAKE THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER FOR YOU & OTHERS!



There is no one package more important than another - especially during the holiday season. Won't you help us make sure that every special package gets to every special person?

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR SEASONAL PACKAGE HANDLERS

- Earn \$8.50/hr
- Weekends & holidays off.
- Consistent work schedules

Duties will include loading and unloading parcels continuously for 3 1/2 to 5 hours per day, five days per week. You will handle packages weighing up to 70 pounds with an average of about 12 pounds. The work is very fast-paced and involves reading labels accurately.

SEASONAL POSITIONS ENDING ON OR BEFORE 12/31/03

Some seasonal positions may lead to permanent part-time positions offering company paid benefits and up to \$23,000 in college education assistance with the UPS Earn and Learn Program

WORK MONDAY - FRIDAY & PICK THE SHIFT START TIME THAT WORKS FOR YOU:

3:30AM - 10:00AM
5:00PM or 10:00PM
(all shift start times are approximate)

4200 Samuell • Mesquite, TX 75149
CALL: 1-888-WORK-UPS
OR VISIT: www.upsjobs.com



Sister Tarpley

One visit to Covenant Church during any church service and you will observe the congregation of various races, creeds and colors; you will also get the feeling of being welcomed and feeling God's love all around you.

I first learned of Rev. Mike Hayes, Founder and Senior Pastor of Covenant Church in Carrollton, Texas when his church was located on Old Denton Road and the church name was Faith World. At the time, Pastor Mike (as he is called) had a fairly large congregation and each service was filled to capacity without adequate parking spaces. It wasn't too long before the name of the church changed to Covenant Church and Pastors Mike and Kathy (his wife) moved the congregation into a larger edifice on Trinity Mills in Carrollton.

When talking to Pastor Mike, you easily get the feeling that it's not all about Pastor Mike—it's all about God and building His Kingdom.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio (the Ku Klux Klan was founded in Ohio), Pastor Mike grew up in Flagstaff, Arizona. Pastor Mike first realized his calling from God around the age of 14 when he lived in Houston, Texas. While living in Ohio, Pastor Mike witnessed bigotry against minorities firsthand, as well as in Arizona where racism against Native Americans was common. But God had a calling on his life and there are times that God will allow an individual to witness something or go through something for their growth and to prepare them to work in His Kingdom.

After completing college, Pastor Mike established a diverse evangelistic ministry that took him across the United States as well as several foreign countries. This was another journey in his life that helped him prepare to work for God and to grow in Him.

In 1973, Pastor Mike married Kathy Parker of the "The Singing Parkers" and in 1976 they moved to the Dallas area and established a church. Beginning with just a vision, the church membership is now 10,000 plus and reaches thousands of people through radio, television and a website.

During the early 80's and on several occasions since, I have heard Pastor Mike say that God didn't call him to preach to a certain group of people but to all people.

IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD

This love for all of God's people and welcoming everyone into God's house has allowed the couple's ministry to continually grow. "At Covenant Church our backdoor is closed and the front door stays open," said Pastor Mike. And with God's help, they seem to have weathered any storm with ease that crossed their path.

Having just celebrated the church's 27th anniversary, Pastor Mike, an accomplished author, recently released a new book, "When God is First", which is what he has done since the start of his ministry; he has put God first in his life. He believes that it is necessary to



Pastors Kathy and Mike Hayes

put God first in your life, because if you do, blessings await you.

Pastor Mike said that he expects his congregation to mirror what they have learned from Pastor Kathy and him. He believes that one of his greatest accomplishments for Covenant Church is creating an environment for all people where they feel comfortable in growing in God and working for God's Kingdom.

Pastor Mike said that Covenant Church is a relationship-based Church that is founded on the principles of the Bible. The worship is alive, the preaching is practical and relevant, and the programs are fun and engaging for the entire family.

Pastor Mike has been at the forefront of many innovative ideas; one in particular that has been in practice at Covenant's church (when it wasn't a popular practice) has been the relaxed dress code from the traditional church. He said that came about because of the church's attempt to be "user friendly" so that people will feel at ease and free coming to church to worship God.

He believes that the greatest challenge for

churches today is broken families; that is why Covenant Church is planting other churches throughout the Metroplex area, they have a branch church in Denton County and one in Frisco, Texas. He is actively preparing a generation of leaders that are destined to be world changers for the Kingdom of God.

With his obvious love for youth and their Christian growth, the church is expanding their Christian schools and their youth outreach programs. They are actively reaching out to future generations. Pastor Mike believes that everyone should make a difference because you are the only one with your gift.

Being respected around the world as an author, radio and television host (Pastor Mike and Pastor Kathy are often hosts on the Trinity Broadcasting Network's national program "Praise The Lord"; and for his insight into the Word of God, he was recently asked to be one of the main speakers of a spiritual assembly known as "The Call" at the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas. He was asked to speak out against false doctrinal teachings on the subject of Blacks as cursed descendants of Ham, thereby substantiating slavery and white supremacy. But with his busy schedule, he almost said no, then he thought, what better person to speak on "The Call" because early in his life God "called him into the ministry" to do His work. God has given him the ministry of bringing a diverse group of people together and encouraging them to accept God and His Word. Pastor Mike said that through it all he hasn't regretted his decision to step out on faith in God.

Email: starpley@wt.net
Pager: 214-833-1639
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878
Fax: 972-516-4197

Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Jesus, "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."

- Who Are the Women of God?
- Why is MON-The Gazette Honoring Them On Mother's Day Weekend 2004?
- What Can You Do To Be A Part Of The Momentous Occasion?

Go To www.monthe gazette.com
(Click on Women Of God)
or Contact Sister Tarpley
At 972-606-3878 voice mail

Church Happenings

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL CME TEMPLE OF FAITH CHURCH
Mondays, 6:00 am - 7:00 am
House of Prayer

Christian Chapel CME Temple of Faith Church
Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor
14120 Noel Road
Dallas, TX 75240
972-239-1120

GOOD STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
December 12, 2003,

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Women's Day Celebration Prayer Vigil

December 13, 2003,
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Women's Forum discussion using the book, "Journey to The Well" by Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie
For more information, call Mary Kirvin at 214-375-4420

Good Street Baptist Church
Rev. Caesar Clark, Pastor
3110 Bonnie View Road
Dallas, TX 75232

214-372-3570

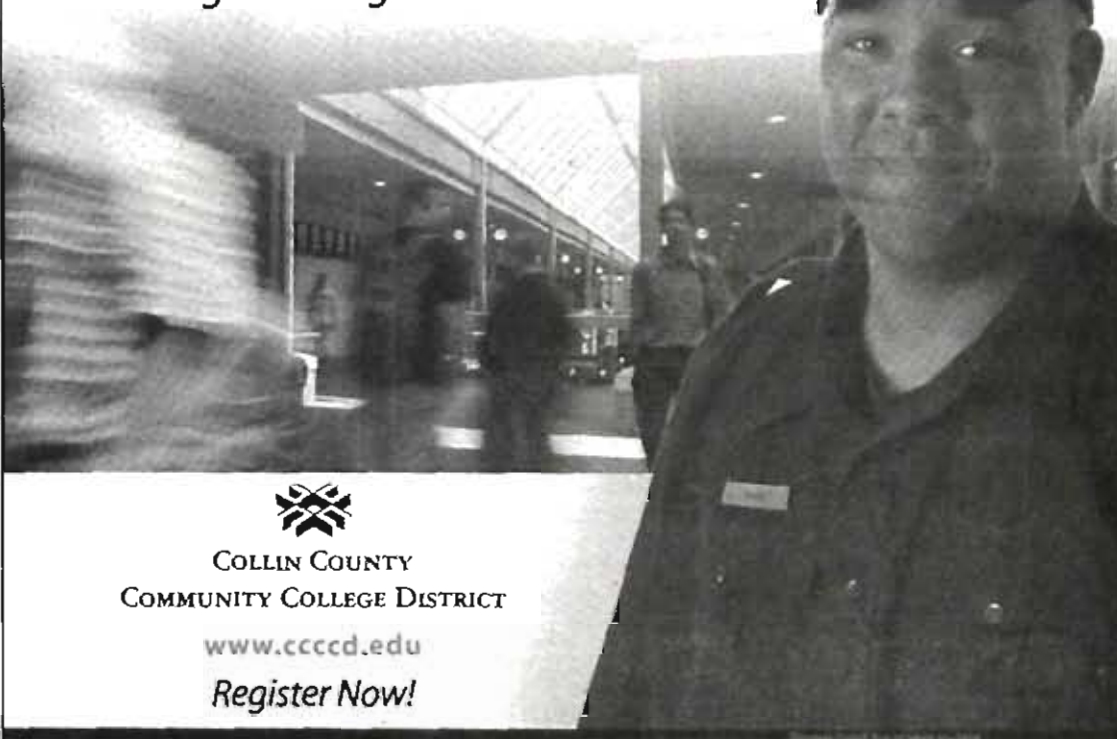
GREENVILLE AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volunteers Needed for 2004 College Preparation Workshop
Planning is now underway! Help is needed to form several committees
Sign-up is available in the atrium of the Family Life Center
Workshop begins February 14, 2004
For more information, call Elizabeth Griffin at 214-732-7635.

Church Happenings Page 10

Smart Move.

Training a new generation of heroes



COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

www.ccccd.edu

Register Now!

Church Directory

Feel Better Now.

KHVN
HEAVEN 97 AM

Uplifting, Inspirational Music

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service

Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday Service

Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm



Pastor Robert E. Price

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church



1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney Tx
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



Sunday

Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration... 11:00 am.
- Nursery Facilities Available -

Wednesday

Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call

972.542.6178

www.saintmarkbc.com
stmarkmissionary@aol.com

Friendship Baptist Church

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor



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.

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.

4396 Main Street

The Colony, Texas 75056

(972) 625-8186

website: www.fbc-online.net

"The Church with a Vision"

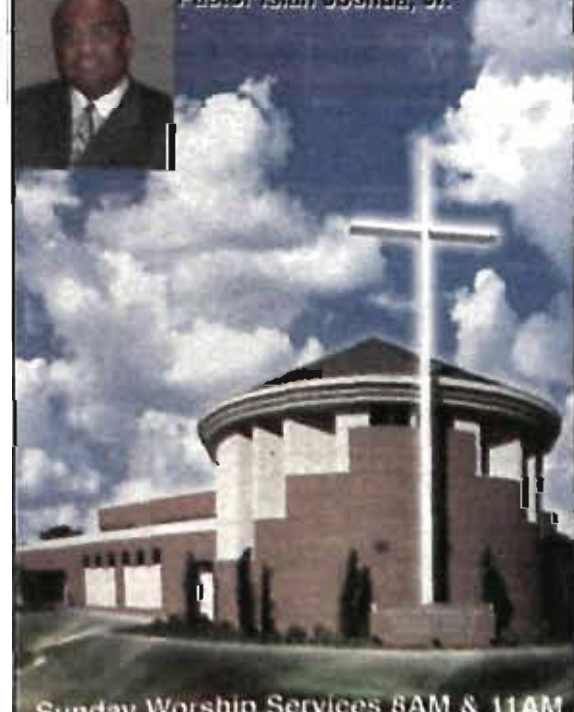
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Ishai Joshua, Jr.



FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH



FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

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

Mt. Olive Church of Plano

740 Avenue F, Suite 303

Plano, TX 75074

A Non-denominational Church for all Nations



Pastor Sam Fenceroy



Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

Schedule of Services

Sunday School... 9:30 am
Morning Worship... 10:45 am
Men & Women Ministry... 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:30 pm
Leadership Meeting... 2nd Mondays 7:30 pm
Singles Ministry... 4th Mondays 7:30 pm
Youth Bible Study... Wednesdays 7:30 pm
Mid-Week Service... Wednesdays 7:15 pm
Mother's Day Out... Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm



Pastors Pedro and Diana Santillan

Servicios En Español

Domingos Noche... 6:30 pm
Jueves Noche... 7:30 pm

Phone: 972-633-5511

Fax: 972-633-3728

Email:

mocop740@verizon.net

Radio Broadcast Station 1040 AM-KGRR
M-F 10:25 am - 10:30 am

Minister Returns to Pulpit After Prison

LAKELAND, Fla. - The Rev. Henry J. Lyons walked out of prison Sunday morning and headed directly back to the pulpit, telling worshippers he had erred but that time behind bars helped renew his faith.

Lyons served nearly five years on grand theft and racketeering charges for using his former role as president of the National Baptist Convention to steal millions of dollars to finance his lavish lifestyle. The scheme fell apart after Lyons' wife set a fire at a home he had secretly bought with his mistress.

"I have suffered God's rod of correction," Lyons, 61, told the crowd crammed into First Baptist Institutional Church. "I stand here today to tell you I truly, truly, repented of my sins."

During the service, about two dozen ministers gathered around Lyons for a restoration ceremony. An old robe — signifying the sins of the past — was removed from him, and a new robe wrapped around him.

"Christianity is about forgiveness, about love. It's about assisting someone who has fallen," said the Rev. Alex Harper Sr., pastor of First Baptist.

Lyons' fall came after his wife, Deborah, set fire to a \$700,000 waterfront home he co-

owned with another woman, Bernice Edwards, in July 1997. Lyons and his wife divorced earlier this year; Edwards died in prison in May of natural causes.

Lyons, former pastor of Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, bilked \$4 million from companies doing business with the National Baptist Convention, one of the nation's largest black church organizations.

Lyons will remain on probation for the next three years on federal charges of bank fraud and tax evasion, and still owes \$2.5 million in restitution. He said he will meet with federal authorities Monday to work out payment terms.

"I have no idea how to do it," Lyons said. "I don't have any money. The attorneys have all the money. I have an agreement with God — 'You make it available to me, and I have no problem paying it.'"

Lyons said he hopes to meet with convention members in January, but has no plans to seek any leadership positions.

"I would love to go back to being a pastor, but I understand if I don't, I did an awful lot of counseling while in prison, so that's a possibility."

He is currently working for the Coney Funeral Home, which was part of his work release plan with the prison.



The Rev. Henry J. Lyons, center, is fitted with his new robe as part of the rededication ceremony by fellow pastors and ministers of the National Baptist Convention Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003, at First Baptist Institutional Church in Lakeland, Fla. Lyons, who walked out of prison Sunday morning, served nearly five years on grand theft and racketeering charges for using his former role as president of the National Baptist Convention to steal millions of dollars to finance his lavish lifestyle. (AP Photo/Willie J. Allen Jr., Pool)

Church Happenings Page 9

3rd Sunday of Each Month

Free blood pressure screening in the gym after evening services

For more information on times & room, call 972-644-2335.

Sundays After Evening Services in the Auditorium

Achievers are Successful Tutoring Program, the TAKS test and how to become a TUTOR. Tutoring for grades K-12

For more information, call 972-644-2335.

Greenville Avenue Church of Christ Minister Shelton Gibbs, III, Pastor 1013 S. Greenville Avenue Richardson, TX 75081 972-644-2335

GOSPEL MINISTRY OUTREACH THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (G.M.O.R.-DFW)

Mondays & Thursdays, 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm

Now taking registrations for Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Biblical Studies and Bachelor of Counseling Classes! Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, Executive Director

Gospel Ministry Outreach Theological Institute (G.M.O.R.-DFW) (Inside Shekinah Glory Community Church) Bishop Robert Ethridge, Pastor 515 West Center Street Duncanville, TX 75138 1-800-923-9149

• Who Are the Women of God? • Why is MON-The Gazette Honoring Them On Mother's Day Weekend 2004? • What Can You Do To Be A Part Of The Momentous Occasion? Go To www.monthe gazette.com (Click on Women Of God) or Contact Sister Tarpley At 972-606-3878 voice mail

HAMILTON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 12, 7:30pm- 11:30 pm

Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC) hosts Christian Adult Evening of Praise and Worship- open mike, food, fellowship, and The Word

Event is free! Donations accepted (including canned goods) Daycare provided. Open to ALL ADULTS, not just Singles.

For more information, call 972-235-4633, Ext. 32.

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church

Rev. Derrick R. Wright, Senior Pastor

Rev. Shirley Reaves, Associate Pastor

11881 Schroeder Road Dallas, TX 75243

972-235-4633

MESQUITE FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

2nd & 4th Sundays

Blood pressure screenings available after 11:00 am service

Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church

Rev. Terry M. Turner, Pastor

2232 Franklin Drive Mesquite, TX 75150

972-329-5030

MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Mothers' Day Out Program for ages 2 months to 4 years of age. Phonics, numbers, colors, shapes & other early childhood skills will be offered.

For enrollment package & registration fees contact Sister Seretha Dawkins at 972-633-5511, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. For more information, call

972-633-5511.

December 31, 2003,

from 8:00 pm to 12:30 am

New Years Eve Celebration featuring the Johnson Brothers from Mississippi, Gospel Singer Melba Spears and Christian Comedian John Lewis. There will be food, ministering, singing and much more. Everyone is welcomed!

Coming Attraction: Starting January 4, 2004 there will be two Sunday Services Early Morning Worship Services at 8:00 am and 11:00 am

Mt. Olive Church of Plano

Rev. Sam Fenceroy, Pastor

740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75075

972-633-5511

NORTH DALLAS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Thursdays, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Support Group-Healing Past Wounds Held in Youth Library, Room D204

For more information, contact Tera McFarland at 972-437-3493, Ext. 111

Through December 7, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Marriage Class- The Five Love Languages

For more information, contact Charles and Wan Gladney 972-889-9422.

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship

Rev. Leslie W. Smith, Pastor

302 Centennial Blvd.

Send your church announcements to editor@monthegazette.com or fax to 972-516-4197 c/o Church Happenings. Deadlines are 1-fridays before publication date. (MON-The Gazette is published each Thursday.)

GREATER DAVIS CHAPEL COGIC

"The Vision Shall Come To Pass"

Worship Address: 821 East Miller Road Garland, TX 75040

Mailing Address: 1941 Burke Street Garland, TX 75040

SERVICE TIMES

Sun Prayer 9:00 am Mon Prayer/Bible Band 7:30 pm

Sun School 9:30 am Mon Brotherhood 7:30 pm

Worship 11:00 am Wed Pastoral 7:30 pm

W.P.W.W. 6:00 pm Every 4th Fri C.W.C 7:30 pm

Evangelist Hour 8:00 pm Every 3rd Sat Nursing Home Ministry 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

972-861-0011 (Phone) • 972-861-2771 (Fax) • www.davischapel.org (website)

BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

8:30 am - Sunday School • 10:00 am - Worship Services

6:30 pm - Missions • 7:00 pm - Brotherhood

WEDNESDAY

6:00 pm - Teacher's Meeting

7:00 pm - Prayer & Midweek Lesson

SATURDAY

10:00 am thru 1:00 pm

Youth Activities

6710 Webster Avenue • Dallas, TX 75209

214-352-3552 (Phone) • 214-352-6793 (Fax)

abethany@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Rev. A.K. Haynes, Sr. Senior Pastor

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Gospel Ministry Outreach Theological Institute

G.M.O.R. - DFW

Since 1982

"Helping to erase the tragedy of spiritual illiteracy in Christian annals, through theological studies"

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING DEGREES:

Bachelor of Biblical Studies, Bachelor of Biblical Counseling, And

Bachelor of Theology, In Class-room or

Correspondence courses. We also offer the

Master and Doctorate degree program as well.

Call for registration and more information: 1-800-913-9149 today!

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth W. Johnson, D.Div. Executive Director

Richardson TX 75081-5057

972-437-3493

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

December 21, 4:00 pm

Christmas Extravaganza

For more information, call 972-221-

5668.

Westside Baptist Church

Rev. Kenneth Blake, Senior Pastor

802 Bellaire Boulevard

Lewisville, Texas 75067

(972) 221-5668

Join us at one of our fun, relaxed and inspiring services.

Agape Christian Fellowship

Senior Pastor - Terry Harshbuckle

2350 E. Mayfield Road, Arlington, Texas 76014
(817) 557-5811 or www.agapacf.org

Children & Youth Activities Provided for All Ages
State-of-the-art Gymnasium
New POWERhouses for Kids Featuring Games, Slides & Caffe
Loving & Friendly Receptionists

Service Days & Times:
Sun. 9:00 & 11:00am Services
Wed. 7:00pm Bible Study
4th Fri. 7:30pm Women's Ministry
4th Sat. 8:00am Men's Ministry

Keller Springs Baptist Church

(Pursuing The Person, The Presence and The Power of God)

Sunday Morning Bible Studies: 9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Monday Night Discipleship: 7:00 pm
Wednesday Night Prayer & Praise: 7:00 pm
(Childcare Available Each Service)



3227 Keller Springs Road • Carrollton, TX 75006-1206
Phone: 972-735-8077 • Fax: 972-735-8087
Email: info@kellersprings.org
Website: www.kellersprings.org

All Nations United Methodist Church



"Christian by Faith, Diverse by Design"

Sunday 8:45am	Lectern Bible Study
Sunday 8:45am	Sunday School
Sunday 8:45am	Estudio Biblico En Español
Sunday 10:00am	Worship Service
Tuesday 7:00pm	Prayer Meeting

3415 E. 14th St.
Plano, TX • 75074
972-424-8500
www.allnationsumc.org

(Free Nursery Provided For Ages 4 and Under)

Other ministries include: "English As A Second Language" and "Spanish As A Second Language" Classes.

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

Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor

14120 Noel Road
Dallas, TX 75254

972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)

templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center

972-404-1412

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church



Rev. Derrick Wright
Senior Pastor

(Childcare Available Each Sunday)

A Christian Community of Faith Called by God to Make Disciples for Jesus Christ.

11881 Schroeder Road
Dallas, TX 75243-3656

Phone: 972-235-4633 • Fax: 972-235-5713

Email: hparkum@aol.com

Website: www.hparkumc.org

Little Flock Baptist Church

Pastor Louis E. Laurent
Internet Broadcast: www.krgm.com
(Mon - Fri @ 12 Noon)

A Place Where a "Taste of the Word" is Guaranteed

Sunday School	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 am
Tuesday Night Brotherhood	7:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	7:00 pm

704 E. Almee Street • P.O. Box 903 • Forney, Texas 75126

Phone: 214-325-