

## Hooks visits Portland NAACP

Benjamin L. Hooks, the Executive Director of the National NAACP, met with the Portland Branch NAACP Executive Committee while he was in Portland, according to Reverend John H. Jackson, President of the Portland Branch. In town to speak to the national meeting of the Associated Press Managing Editors, Hooks requested a meeting with the Branch Executive Committee the night before his speech. Traveling with Hooks was the Associate Director of Public Information of NAACP, Paul Brock.

Hooks had just been to two Southern churches one of which had presented him with a check for \$10,000 for the NAACP and the other with a check for \$5,000. He noted that the backbone of the NAACP was now, as it always had been, the Black churches. He noted with regret that the support from prosperous, middle-class professional Blacks, as a group, was sporadic. He was more than grateful for those who served faithfully, but compared to the numbers of members from the churches, and their ability to support the organization, he noted that the support of the professional class was weak.

In his message to the NAACP Convention in Portland last July Hooks said, "Remember, my brothers and sisters, none of us have made it until all of us have made it." He urged the Portland Branch to renew its efforts to interest both the professionals and the churches to join the NAACP. Hooks said he is seriously considering giving a percentage quota to cities against which to work for membership. He said, depending on the location of the city or area, that there is really no reason at all why a Branch shouldn't be asked to get five percent or seven percent of the Black population as members. Hooks noted that only with increased membership can NAACP pull itself out of its financial crisis in operating funds.

As a political action organization NAACP memberships, and Life Members, are not tax deductible. The NAACP Special Projects fund is tax deductible, but not one penny of those funds, by law, can be used for operation of NAACP.

The Executive Director said he had been closely examining NAACP's financial status. When the Life Membership program was inaugurated years ago, it was with the provision that only the interest from those funds should be used for operation. It was sound figuring at

the time, but inflation has ruined the plan. Hooks concluded that only an expanded membership, more Life and Heritage Memberships, could remedy the situation. Hooks promised that he would make the operational costs as lean as possible and said that he was curtailing immediately the air travel of NAACP National Staff members. It is Hooks' feeling that the regions, areas or branches that wish the physical presence of staff members to assist them should band together, make tight schedules for the staff and share the expenses of bringing them out. Parenthetically, he jokingly suggested that less time be spent on high level think-tank conferences such as they seem to be so fond of in California, and more money and effort be spent on obtaining memberships.

NAACP National has had a computer handling memberships for almost a year — but he said it will be two more years before it works efficiently. In the meantime, tell everyone to be patient if they don't get their membership cards right away!

Another item of business Hooks took up with the Executive Committee is the matter of quotas for the sale of Holiday Seals. He noted that in most of the country, the quota for seals stays the same year after year. If a Branch quota is \$1,000 one year, and they make that quota, they receive the same quota the next year. Hooks feels that quotas should be increased each year so that each year can be bettered. (The quota has been tied to membership. If a branch has 1,000 members it has been considered that they should sell \$1,000 worth of seals.) Holiday Seal money is unencumbered as far as using it for operating expenses.

Hooks, while spending most of his short time with the Executive Committee on the nitty-gritty of business affairs, nevertheless emphasized that there is no organization save the NAACP which is in any position at all to deal with the difficult days he believes lie ahead.

Hooks feels that the "tax revolt" that started with Proposition 13 in California is also racial — anti-Black and anti-poor folks. He fears a curtailment of the gains of the past 25 years unless NAACP is strong enough to resist incursions upon civil rights. For this reason, as well as many other signs of regression, Hooks urged the Branch to redouble its efforts to gain support.

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Reverend A. Bernard Devers

## New Hope honors pastor

New Hope Baptist Church will hold a series of services in honor of its Pastor, Reverend A. Bernard Devers, beginning Sunday. Devers has been Pastor of New Hope for nearly three years.

In 1970, while a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Seattle, Devers entered school to study for the ministry, graduating from Seattle Pacific College in 1975. While attending college he was associate minister of his church.

On January 17, 1975 he became Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist in Portland. Since moving to Portland he became involved in church and community activities: President, Portland District Sunday Schools, Baptist Training Union and Ushers Congress; Vice President, Albina Ministerial Alliance;

Delegate, National Baptist Convention; President, Metropolitan Federal Credit Union; 32° Mason, Logan Lodge.

Reverend Devers has recorded two albums distributed nationally by Jewel Records of Shreveport, Louisiana. One is entitled "Remember Dr. King, Remember Dr. Jesus," and the other entitled, "Amazing Grace." He has also released a 45 rpm recording entitled "Because He Lives" and "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah." Other secular work experience has been Field Technician for Philco Ford Corporation in Thailand and Vietnam.

Reverend Devers and his wife, Deleria, have four children: Vipa, ten; Arthur Bernard II, eight; Demetrius and Demika, five.

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### ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, located at 3725 North Gantenbein Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97227, will be honoring their Pastor and Wife, Reverend and Mrs. A. Bernard Devers for their three (3) years of service to New Hope and the City of Portland in Celebration Services October 15th, 19th, 20th, and 22nd at the Church.

Pastor Devers, who is active in both the Church and in the community has been pastoring at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church since January 17, 1975, after four years of practical ministry as an Associate Minister at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Seattle, Washington, Reverend Dr. C.E. Williams, Pastor.

Services will begin October 15th at 3:00 p.m. with the Pastors and members of the Paradise Missionary Baptist Church and the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ, as the guests. Pastor Robert C. Hill of Paradise will be the guest speaker.

On October 19th, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church will be the guests, with the Reverend James C.E. Faulkner, Pastor of Saint Paul as the guest speaker.

On October 20th, the Pastor and members of the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, will be the guests. The Reverend Dr. O.B. Williams, who pastors Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, and is also the President of the General Baptist Convention of the Northwest will be the speaker for the evening.

On Sunday, October 22nd, the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Seattle, Washington will be the special guests. Singing a special selection of the song, "Because He Lives" will be sung by Mrs. Mattie Spears of Portland, Oregon. Speaker for the 3:00 p.m. program will be Pastor Devers' "Father in the Ministry," the Reverend Doctor C.E. Williams of Seattle, Washington.

Plan now to attend these services, honoring a great leader in the City of Portland.



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
3725 N. Gantenbein Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97227  
Rev. A. Bernard Devers  
PASTOR



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YPBC	6:30 pm	"The Pastor Speaks"	
Evangelistic Worship	8:00 pm		
Tuesday-Friday	Noon Day Prayer	84 NE Killingsworth	281-0499