

RELIGION

A job doesn't necessarily get you out of poverty

Working poor continue to come to Catholic Charities for emergency food

Millions of Americans continue to show up at Catholic Charities food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. And many of them work. Three years of economic stability have not made a dent in the level of emergency needs of poor families, whether they work or not.

While the stock market contin-

ues to set records, Catholic Charities are beginning to sound like a broken record: poor and working poor are being left out of the economic good times.

Bread lines and homelessness have become permanent fixtures in the United States at a time when the federal government is ending its 60-year commitment to poor people.

Catholic Charities USA will release the results of its 1995 survey--

the most comprehensive report available of private social services and activities--at a December 17 news conference.

Prepared by The Urban Institute for the nation's largest, private social service network, the report is a unique documentation of services provided by local Catholic Charities and represents a microcosm of people throughout the country who need social services.

The Tommies Anniversary Album



"Shout" with Rev. Milton Brunson & The Thompson Community Singers.

Forty-eight years ago Milton Brunson formed a community choir in Chicago, Illinois. Today, the "Tommies" remain the longest-standing community choir in the United States, still guided by Brunson.

To commemorate over four decades of recording for Milton

Brunson and the Thompson Community Singers, Word/Epic has released an anniversary project filled with some of the "Tommies" most memorable performances. Many of the tunes on Greatest Hits

Volume 1 will be made available for the first time in CD format.

The new album was recorded live on April 26, 1996 at a sold-out concert in the "Tommies" hometown of Chicago. Former members of the choir reunited for this anniversary celebration recording.

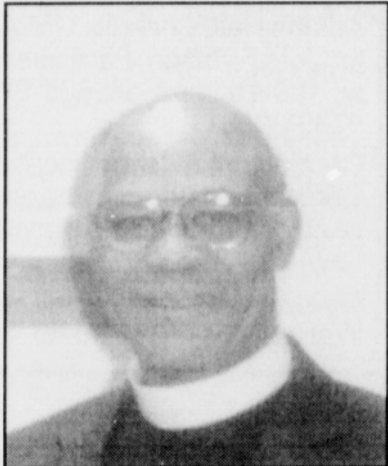
Though his health is ailing, Brunson remains a mentor to the choir's current director, Tyrone Block and musical director Darius Brooks. Reverend Brunson has continuing input into the music of the choir, and according to Brooks, always offers his spiritual guidance. "Reverend Brunson is a tremendous role model," says Brooks. "He's taught me that what you are inwardly is just as important as what you are outwardly." Block agrees. "Reverend Brunson brings a real compassion for people's souls," he adds. "My greatest hope would be to keep his dream alive for years to come."

The "Tommies" have garnered seven Stellar Awards during their career, and most recently, won a Grammy Award for their 1995 project, Through God's Eyes.

Installation Ceremony

The Martin Luther King Memorial Lutheran Church installed as its first pastor, Reverend Rozell Gilmore, on Sunday December 1, 1996. Performing at the Installation Service was the vocal music group, Latter Rain, of Seattle, Washington. The public was invited to attend this service of celebration with the Martin Luther Memorial congregation. Martin Luther King, Blvd., Portland, Oregon. A dinner buffet was served after the service.

Pastor Gilmore has served as the Director of the Lutheran Inner-City Ministries since 1989, and as Acting



Reverend Rozell Gilmore

Pastor for Martin Luther Memorial Lutheran Church for the same period of time. Prior to taking the position of director of Lutheran Inner City Ministries, Pastor Gilmore obtained a Master of Arts in Religion degree at the Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and served as the director of Minority Affairs at Concordia College in Portland, Oregon. He previously served as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Miami, Florida; Resurrection Lutheran in Chicago, Illinois; and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Seattle, Washington.

In memory of Isaac S. Payne

Isaac Payne was born August 9, 1910 in Mart (McLennan County), Texas. The middle child of 13 Born to Hayes and Sarah Annie Payne. He married Martha Kiser in 1930 and they had two children. Martha died in 1982.

Isaac was a farmer in Texas until 1945, when he moved his family to Vanport City, Oregon. The family relocated to Portland when the flood destroyed Vanport in 1948. Except for an initial 6-month employment at Alcoa in Troutdale, Isaac worked as a Fireman at the Southern Pacific Railroad Roundhouse, from which he retired in 1975. He was also an Accountant and Notary Public from

the mid-1950s until his death.

Isaac was an active participant in church and community affairs. He served as Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent and Church Trustee and Deacon. He was a Long-Time Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 92 at Boise Elementary School in the Albina neighborhood, and was awarded the Silver Beaver Award for service to Scouting. He was an NAACP life member, and served as Accountant for the Portland NAACP Federal Credit Union. He was also Voting Precinct Chairman.

Survivors include daughter Margaret J. Isaacs of Portland; son Isaac Payne II (Col, USAF, retired) of

Albuquerque, NM; Granddaughters Benita Payne and Juane Johnson of Portland, Kimberly Harvey of San Diego CA, and Noralyn Clemons of Canoga Park CA; Great-Grandchildren Paul and Andrea Tillman of Portland; sisters Jessie Bullock and Sarah Barron of Dallas TX and Melba Knight of Seaside CA; and Brother Morris Payne of Dallas TX.

A memorial service was held at 11 AM Thursday December 5, 1996 at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 3725 N. Gantenbein Avenue, Portland.

Internment is located at Lincoln Memorial Mausoleum.

New Shirley Caesar project

Outreach Convention Choir recording marks a first for Caesar.

It was 24 years ago that Shirley Caesar began her "outreach" conventions near her hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina.

This year alone, over 7,500 people attended each night of the week-long convention, now located in near-by Fayetteville. Nationally-known gospel singers and musicians, as well as speakers and pastors from across the country participate in the conventions, which are a mixture of seminars and concerts emphasizing ministerial outreach.

Word/Epic has released the first recording featuring Shirley Caesar's Outreach Convention Choir. Produced by Bubba Smith, Caesar and Michael Mathis, Just A Word was recorded "live" at last year's 23rd annual convention.

Caesar took home her eighth Grammy Award earlier this year for her recording Shirley Caesar Live--He Will Come, which has also spawned a subsequent video of the same title.

Caesar was also a featured performer on the Grammy Awards, along with Whitney Houston and CeCe Winans.

Currently, Caesar is nominated for the second annual Lady Of Soul



Shirley Caesar

Awards, an off-shoot of the Soul Train Awards.

Caesar remains one of gospel music's most heralded performers, garnering three gold records, ten Stel-

lar Awards and eight Dove Awards in addition to her Grammy honors. Caesar is Pastor of Mt. Calvary Word of Faith Holy Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Christian Women give sellout fund-raiser

BY DENNIS SCHATZMAN

Undaunted by threats of cancellation by Hollywood Park Casino administrators, criticism from talk show hosts like Gloria Allred and Geraldo Rivera, and a "vicious local mainstream mass media, the newly formed Christian Women for Justice sponsored a gala fundraising luncheon for O.J. Simpson.

"Our goal is to network and bring about changes in the legal system for the African American family, and to initiate social and cultural programs geared to motivate the African American community into solving problems," Erma Jean Bryant, the group's president, told the audience in the banquet room of the Hollywood Park.

"But at this moment," Bryant continued, while tearing up a prepared speech, "Orenthal James Simpson is the focal point. We have decided that enough is enough! We are strong Black women and we will see Mr. Simpson through. He was found innocent of all charges brought against him in the only system we have. It was a system that was put in place when we were still chained to a plow."

Simpson was acquitted of double murder charges filed against him for the June 13, 1994 murders of his estranged wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Lyle

Goldman. Simpson is now facing a civil suit in Santa Monica, CA by both the Brown and Goldman families for the "wrongful death" of the two victims. He is also fighting the Brown family for the custody of his two youngest children 60 miles away in an Orange County Court.

"We are not getting a fair shake in the criminal justice system," noted civil rights attorney Leo Terrell. "It is stacked against us."

"Here's a man," Terrell said while pointing at Simpson who was sitting next to the podium, "who played by the rules, did everything right. Thank God he had the resources that enabled him to create a level playing field and he was acquitted. O.J. Simpson is the only man in America who at the same time is fighting for his kids in Orange County and defending himself in a wrongful death suite in Santa Monica."

Terrell chastised the news media during his remarks. "The media has done everything to try to destroy this man. Some have done it while at the same time, profiting at his expense," he said. "I won't mention their names Geraldo! (Charles) Grodin!"

Rivera and Grodin appear on daily talk shows broadcast on the fledgling CNBC cable television network. Since the June 1994 murders the two

hosts have aired over 500 programs just on Simpson, compared to less than five on CIA/crack cocaine distribution in Black communities to raise funds for the Contras in Nicaragua.

As one of the invited speakers to the event, I informed the audience that I had received two death threats for agreeing to speak. I reminded the guests that the loss of freedom is not always physical, it is often mental. Some people aren't free because they are concerned about the names they call us. But if you're free, you live by that old African proverb: 'It's not what you call me, it's what I answer to.'

Vernoy Thompson, local business man and former president of the Compton NAACP brought the 300-plus crowd to its feet when he said, "The system has got to learn one thing, we stick by our own. No one tells us who to love. No one tells us who to support."

"A man came in my office the other day, 'Dr. Thompson continued,' and saw the flyers all over the place, and he said, 'You know, if you support O.J. these white folks will cut you off. I replied, 'But Uncle Tom...I support O.J. not yesterday, not today, but tomorrow and forever.'"

Georgia Mass Choir On A Roll

The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, CA is still buzzing about the Georgia Mass Choir's spiritual performance when they sang background for Whitney Houston at the taping of Ebony Magazine's 50th Anniversary special. The television special, which aired Thursday, November 28th includes the Georgia Mass Choir and Houston singing their version of "Joy to the World." As the featured choir in "The Preacher's Wife" (starring Oscar winner Denzel Washington and multi-Grammy winner Houston), the Georgia Mass Choir is finally on their way to superstardom!

Discovered by Savoy Records CEO Rev. Milton Biggum in 1983, the Georgia Mass Choir has become one of the most nationally recognized gospel chorales in America. With numerous Grammy, Stellar, Dove and GMA Excellence awards and nominations to their credit, Georgia Mass recently released their great-

est hits album entitled "Georgia Mass Greatest Hits" on November 15, 1996. Featuring the hit single, "Sunday Morning Medley," this seventh album was released in conjunction with the soundtrack to "The Preacher's Wife" where the choir is featured on five songs with Houston. The soundtrack, along with "Lord Take Me Through," showcases the choir's awesome vocal versatility and uniqueness.

In support of their new release and

their appearance in "The Preacher's Wife," The Georgia Mass Choir are in the midst of a mass media campaign beginning with a week long list of New York engagements. These engagements included the choir musically supporting Whitney Houston at the premiere of "The Preachers Wife," (December 9) and on "Saturday Night Live" (December 14 hosted by Rosie O'Donnell). The choir will also perform on "Good Morning America" (Dec 13).

Get Ready

"Jesus Is In The House"

featuring The Emmanuel Temple Youth Choir

In concert under the direction of Minister Beverly Brazzle.

Guest choirs: R.L. Mannaway Tabernacle Coral Ensemble & R.L. Mannaway Youth Choir of Seattle, WA.

November 30, 1996, 6:30 p.m., Emmanuel Temple F.G.P.C., 1032 N. Sumner, Portland, OR 97211. For more information call 287-2223.

Free will offering

Bishop A.A. Wells, Pastor

Immaculate Heart Church,
2926 N. Williams Ave., 287-3724, invites you to breakfast every third Sunday of the month after 10a.m. and 12p.m. masses. Adults \$3.50, children \$2.25 to help with building fund.

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