

RELIGION

The Imani Project

Free Rolling Into Sin

One summer day, during my childhood, my brother and I were seriously at play. Rolling down our drive way in a pressed cardboard storage barrel, we, without doubt, trusted one another to stop the barrel before it would have a chance to enter the street and it's dangers. We never though twice about each other's dedication to the other's safety.

As Christians, we should strive to truly trust the Lord, Jesus Christ, with all aspects of our lives. He will not let us roll into the oncoming dangers of sin without providing a stop for us. He gives us the power or gift or ability to stop ourselves in the form of what we refer to as freewill. Making the right choices will protect us from sins deadly clutch.

The analogy of rolling down a driveway, in a barrel, illustrates the way we, sometimes, blindly play with temptation.

Only a strong intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, our savior, will enable and inspire us to select our activities, in life with more care for our spiritual survival.

With Jesus Christ Inner Joy Will Swell, With Satan expect nothing but hell!

-A.J. Bradford



Imani Project member's stand proudly

In recent years, Gospel music has given birth to a number of 'young lions' that has assisted in catapulting the medium to new heights. Included in the mix are names such as Hezekiah Walker, Kirk Franklin, God's Property and a group that will definitely join that group of names, The Imani Project.

The Imani Project, a community based choir comprised of some of the finest young voices in the city of Toledo, Ohio, has released its self-titled debut album for CGI Records.

The choir's name, Imani, is taken from the Swahili word meaning 'faith.' "We came up with the name Imani through Dave Young, one of our choir

members," says Dwight Still, the choir's music director. "Before the choir was formed, Dave had a group named Imani. We came to the conclusion of using that same name for the choir after Dave's group disbanded. We like the name Imani because of the way it ties the culture of African people to the center of all religious denominations, faith."

The choir came into being during the Summer of 1993 through the idea of a group of singers, musicians and songwriters from Toledo who had a genuine purpose in mind. "The whole thing started from a youth explosion held at a church here in town," says Still.

A guy by the name of Craig

Johnson had pretty much toyed with the idea of forming a choir. Craig felt that all of the young singers and musicians of the city needed to come together as a collective musical body. At that point Dave Young pulled everything together. We gave him the names of the individuals we felt should be involved. Those original board members included myself, Dave Young, Brian Cook, Eric Smith, Kerwin Manning, Mark William and Craig Johnson.

"We all eventually came together for a series of meetings, throwing out ideas and things we wanted to do as well as the plan of action we were going to take to pull this off."

This dream became a vivid reality on November 6, 1993 with the choir's first recording, which took place at Toledo's Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church. "We had a young lady handling our public relations who happened to have worked at one of the radio stations in the city," says Still. "People ended up attending the session out of sheer curiosity because they didn't have any idea as to what the Imani Project was."

Still adds, "The church holds about 1200 people and I guess we had around 1400 to 1500 come out. I think that the hype and the excitement that was generated that night will be something that people around here will never forget."

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Psalm 71:1

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In Loving Memory of Robert H. Dillard

Robert H. Dillard was born in Paris, Texas on March 27, 1920. He was one of fourteen children born to Johnnie and Versie Morgan Dillard. He attended School in Lamar County. Robert served in the United States Army, company E. of the 370th Infantry where he was a Platoon Sergeant. He received the American Theatre Campaign metal, Purple Heart and EAME Campaign Metal with two bronze stars, the World War 2 Victory metal, Good Conduct metal and a honorable discharge on December 11, 1945. Following his discharge he moved to Portland, Oregon. Once here he attended barber school and cut hair for four years. On May 6, 1950 he married E. Jean Hilburn. They had one son, Ronald Wayne Dillard. Robert was a waiter on the Northern Pacific Rail Road. He was one of the first two blacks hired to drive for Rose City Traction Bus company. In 1955 he hired on with the United States Postal Service, where he retired from in 1982. During this time he served as Union President of local 315. He was a member of Allen Temple C.M.E. Church for many years. He served as a Steward, Trustee, and Recording Steward, on the Finance Board and was a faithful member until he became ill.

He was a member of Prince Hall Grand Lodge Acacia #6 of Masonic Fraternity, 32 Mason. Served as Patron of Adah Chapter #6, order of Eastern Star, PHA. He was a member of Mina Temple #68 order of Mystic Shrine. Member of Willamette Consistory #23, 33 Mason, and a past Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge. He was a member of the NAACP and the Urban League of Portland.

Memorial Services will be held at 11:00 Thursday, October 9, 1997 in the Allen Temple C.M.E. Church NE 8th & Skidmore St. Portland, OR

Contributions may be made to the Church Building Fund or to Parkinson's Disease c/o 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd. Portland Oregon 97201

Arrangements have been entrusted to Rose City Cemetery & Funeral Home, 5625 NE Fremont Portland, OR. 97213 281-3821