

RELIGION

God's Word

One woman using the seven graces found in God's word has created a system that will make the playing field so levels that welfare reform; affirmative action, unemployment and economic development will no longer be used as a Political ball against the disenfranchised or economically deprived.

In November of 1998, God's will I guarantee, there will be millions of poor people participating in the political process. The candidate, who gets their votes, will no longer need to spend million of dollars to be elected, the candidates will be men of integrity. Their words will be their bond.

"The man hire us to work on a job, if we don't pass the test we lose the job." "Well why do we think that politicians are any different." We hire the politicians to work for us for "x" number of years and if they don't keep their words, we fire them and hire someone else."

Mai Henderson, is a well read and mature woman, with a mind that remembers history in detail for decades. Mia is a politically

active community organizer, formally Anti-poverty Program developer. Mia's job in the sixties was getting people on the welfare system. "I'm just as adamant about getting them off." Three great presidents are to be commended for their efforts to reach out to the poor. (Franklin D. Roosevelt's Great Society in the 1930's John F. Kennedy and Linden B. Johnson in the 1960's, however we refuse to enter the twenty-first century dependant upon a system that offers us a handout for a short time. Mai Henderson will be recognized as (Johnnie Mae McHenry) formerly of Mulberry and Tampa, Florida a very exiting business-woman who believes that a person should go to school to learn how to create jobs rather than find one.

All interested persons may reach Mai at the following location. Mon. through Fri. from 8 to 5 Pacific Time Phone (209) 357-3716 after 5 (209) 725-3241 Fax (209) 725-3241 E-Mail johnmai@thergrid.net. Address: PO Box 3574, Merced, Ca. 95344.

Poverty Fights In West Oregon

The Campaign for Human Development (CHD) is the program of the United States Catholic Bishops to fight the root causes of poverty in the United States. Established in 1970, CHD has given life to messages of justice and hope. In the past twenty seven years the Campaign for Human Development has given over \$200 million to more than 3,000 community-based projects. It has awarded \$8 million in national grants for the 1997 - 1998 funding cycle.

The mission of the Campaign for

Human Development is to address the root causes of poverty in America through support of community-controlled, self-help organizations, which seek to empower the poor and change unjust structures, and to provide education about these issues for the non-poor. Grants are given on the basis of need, not religious affiliation. The Campaign seeks economic development through efforts that:

* seek to empower the poor to participate in the economy in a meaningful manner;

Vessels Offers Free Wedding Workshops

Planning a wedding can be an overwhelming task, with too many things to consider, and many that could get overlooked! Vessels will try to make the process a bit easy with a series of wedding planning workshops, titled "Before Jumpin' the Broom."

Brides and grooms-to-be are invited to attend one of these quick courses on wedding planning scheduled at Vessels during the next three months. Dates are on Saturdays from 1-3 p.m.: January 31, February 28 and March 21.

The workshop will feature details on wedding invitation etiquette and offer many helpful do's and don'ts to follow to make this essential prelude

to your wedding day a success. In addition, the workshop will include ways to enhance your wedding by blending cultural elements into the ceremony. From decorate a jumpin' broom to examples of other cultural touches, the session is an event not to miss.

"Before Jumpin' the Broom" will include a presentation by Barbara Taylor, president of Positive Gatherings, a meeting planning and consulting services business. Co-sponsored by Albina CoffeeHouse, the workshop will offer discounts and door prizes. Seating is limited; registration is required by calling Vessels at 249-1952 to reserve a space or for more information.

"Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored"

A Special Evening of Negro Spirituals

Sunday, February 22, 1998, 4:00pm

Bethel A.M.E. Church

5828 NE 8th Avenue - Portland, OR 97211

This special presentation depicts a world which vanished in the wake of integration...the world of living colored.

Behind the painful and sometimes humiliating barriers of racial segregation, there existed a totally black milieu in which a people nurtured, protected each other, and enjoyed together. This evening is an effort to remind a people not to forget where they came from or for their children to never forget the world that gave them their fathers and mothers...and how they survived with their pride and courage intact. It depicts a way of life from the cotton fields, to our way of having church, to the fish fries, to the times we walked down the aisle of the colored coaches on trains to find a seat by the window, where we could look out and see familiar faces waving as the train slowly pulled away. Remembering and clinging to the promises we had heard all of our lives from those who had nurtured us Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored!!!

A history of "Our" times seen through the eyes, music, dance and storytelling performed without a trace of humility by the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Cathedral Choir and friends.

Written and Directed By: J. Rochelle McElroy, Director, Bethel A.M.E. Cathedral Choir, and Rev. Dorsey McCullough, Pastor will be directing featured selections.

"Peace Trek"

-The Family Reunion-

A family reunion should be a wonderful fellowship of relatives. Throughout the planning and preparations, there are, at times difficulties involved in preparing to attend, and in commuting to such an event. You long, with great anticipation, to see loved-ones you've missed over time.

Sometimes, a person might experience a reluctance, or a phobia, of one type or another, usually in regards to transportation especially with

today's rising number of transportation accidents and problems.

Fear, usually, is the result of emotionally-negative intense-anticipation of the unknown. As a rule, the more you educate yourself about your fears, the less significant they become!

Going Home to be with the Lord is magnificent-beyond imagination, plus its eternal!

Many christians dwell much too long on the journey through the... manifestation

zone instead of the celebration after arrival.

The commute is the metamorphosis or "trek" into peace! Anytime your destination is Eternal Peace via the manifestation zone, you can be assured of guaranteed safe passage.

If you are experiencing pain, our loving Father will release you from it at the right time.

Do not be afraid to take the journey.

Going to the reunion should be anticipated with great joy.

The Lord will be there, and is expecting you!

Just for the record, there has never been a failed flight, to a well-planned, scheduled, reunion with God!

So, don't be reluctant to go to the reunion, especially if you've already been planning and looking forward to being there!

See you at the gathering Lord, "thank you for the invitation."

A.J. Bradford

Twenty-Five years of Roe V. Wade:

Reflections From an African-American Minister

January 22 will mark the 25th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

Growing up in Memphis, Tennessee, I witnessed the pain and suffering of black women who risked their lives to get illegal abortions. In fact, during my thirty-three years of ministry in Washington, DC, I have supported many women who had abortions or miscarriages, adopted children, and used family planning services. After the Roe decision, the lives of many women I counseled were greatly improved, especially for those who needed an abortion and could afford one.

Like many Black ministers, I came to social activism through the civil rights movement. Of the many Supreme Court decisions that have affected me like in the past several decades, Roe v. Wade is certainly significant, but hardly the most influential. Because of Brown v. the Board of Education, my son, daughters, and grandchildren have had access to

educational opportunities that were unavailable to most African-Americans of my generation. In the legislative arena, the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 once and for all opened the doors of schools, restaurants, hotels, and voting booths, forever changing the lives of my family.

Back then, religious activism for social causes extended far beyond the civil rights movement and religious support for legal abortion was better known than today. Clergy and lay members of the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion were well known for risking arrest to help women to obtain safe abortions. Moved by the suffering and deaths of women resulting from unsafe illegal abortions, they felt morally compelled to do something. In addition to their direct services to women, members of Clergy Consultation and other similar groups supported legislative and legal efforts to reform abortion laws.

Since that time, the well-funded, media-savvy, and sometime violent

opponents of choice have convinced themselves, much of the media, and the American public that the only valid religious position on abortion is to oppose it. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When I joined the staff of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice almost two years ago, I called many of my colleagues to discuss my new job. Like many clergy, I rarely discussed the subject of reproductive choice, so I had no idea how they would react to my working at an organization that supports family planning, contraception, and legal abortion. Most

of them were supportive.

Surprised by their support, I decided to conduct an informal survey at the annual conference of the national Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., to determine the attitudes about abortion, sex education, family planning, and other reproductive health issues. I was pleased--and a little surprised--to find that more than half of the clergy and lay leaders supported the right to a legal abortion, and an overwhelming majority felt the Black Church has a responsibility to discuss a wide range of reproductive health

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