

RELIGION

Literacy Program Brings Hope to Youth

Obituary

William Benson Taylor

August 29, 1907 - January 13, 1998

William Benson Taylor, affectionately known as "Daddy" by his eldest daughter; "Dad" by his youngest daughter; "Papa" by his grandchildren; "Uncle Willie" by his nieces and nephews; "Lil Man" by his cousins; and "Mr. T. By his friends. He was born August 29, 1907 in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma. He went to be with the Lord on January 13, 1998 at 8:00 P.M. in Portland, Oregon at Emanuel Hospital. He lived for Ninety Blessed Years.

He was raised by his Mother and Father, Lizzie Thompson and T.T. Taylor in Castle, Oklahoma. The family moved to Sand Creek, Oklahoma where he attended school and began to farm cotton. His Mother passed away when he was very young, so he moved to IxI, Oklahoma with his first Cousins, Pearl, Ethel and Sadie.

As he approached adulthood, he met his close friend Sam Holloway who convinced him to leave the Dust Bowl of Oklahoma and seek a better life in El Centro, CA. During this time in his life he was working as a plumber and thought he could be more resourceful with his hands in the kitchen so he learned how to cook. He learned how to cook many delicious meals and with the perfection of these culinary delights he took his skills on the road to Portland, Oregon. Once there he became a dishwasher for the Union Pacific Railroad. He was quickly promoted to the position of Chief cook. He worked with the railroad for over 40 years until his retirement. During his time with the railroad he traveled from Portland, OR, to Chicago, IL, many times. One on one momentous trip he met a beautiful lady by the name of Mary Daniels. It was love at first sight. They were married in 1952 in Vancouver, Washington. Mary Taylor passed away on December 17, 1996 in Portland, Oregon. Following Williams retirement he truly enjoyed working at the Memorial Coliseum as a Cashier and as a Parking Lot Attendant.

From this union, Two lovely Daughters were born: Phyllis Harris who lives in Walnut, CA, and Darlene Taylor who lives in Portland, OR. He was the Grandfather of Kheoshi Taylor-Mayes, Sumiko Taylor - Hill and Keona Taylor - Hill. He was the Uncle of Alvin Taylor, Charles Mems, Harvey Booker, Richard Taylor, Joann Washington, Helen Mason, Gladys Booker, Iva Lee Holly and Erma Mems. He has two Sister in Laws; Laverne Hamm and Louise Taylor. There are many cousins and a host of friends who will mourn his passing.

I've been involved in helping the community for most of my adult life. I've seen many heartfelt efforts to achieve social justice. It's always seemed obvious to me that the problems of our inner cities trace back to education - that is to say, failed education. We could do more good with effective literacy programs than with all the police and jails that money can buy.

From where I sit, failed education means that the lives of friends or family could be destroyed and the door shut on their opportunities. Our inner city children are still often labeled as needing special education or "diagnosed" as victims of various fictitious educational maladies that spread like disease through our communities. When our children believe these labels, they are marked for life with false and oppressive shackles about their own abilities and potential and they become victims of a new form of slavery. We can't work too hard to prevent this kind of tragedy.

A few years ago, I found a pro-



Isaac Hayes

gram was working as well as it was. Rev. Johnson told me that the techniques he used were something called Study Technology, which had been developed by L. Ron Hubbard.

There are reasons students lose interest in study, become bored, distracted or decide they "hate school." Mr. Hubbard has written extensively about these problems. Best of all, he provided tools to resolve them, called Study Technology.

After checking the World Literacy Crusade and the Study Technology programs out, I decided to do whatever I could do to help. I became a vocal advocate for the World Literacy Crusade, and saw it spread first to church and community groups throughout Los Angeles, and then to other cities and even other countries. We now have thirty groups operating in the US and around the world and we recently formed an alliance with the NAACP, with the goal of having a World Literacy Crusade program in every city that has a NAACP chapter.

The Power of Vision! (Part I)

By SAM PIERCE

I've often recited a verse from the Book of Proverbs that states: "Without a vision, the people perish." It is such a clear and precise statement. It also carries a simple matter-of-fact quality that seems to say: "If you want to live seek a vision; seek out a visionary. But if you want to die, then do neither. Take it or leave it!" And still today, these words of the writer of old still beckon us. For all around us we can see the impact of his wisdom.

so in another season of celebrating one of the world's greatest visionaries, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I thought I would reflect upon the power of Vision! But rather than focus on Dr. King per se, I've chosen to write about vision and visionaries, right here in our own city. For what better way to honor a hero of vision than honoring those who keep his inspiration alive.

Before beginning the task, however, of looking at local visionaries, let's first define what is meant when

we say--Vision. We have heard it more in the nineties than any other time in our history. So the question is: is vision just another hip 90's word that's catchy, sexy and politically correct, or does it have profound meaning that transcends our time and space?

The 1997 Webster's College Dictionary gives several definitions for vision, but the one that equates nearest to our purpose is defined as: the power of anticipating what might come to be; fore-

sight; entrepreneurial vision. But let's go beyond Webster and put vision in its proper context--which is spiritual. For at the very core of vision is wisdom. And wisdom only comes from God and is defined as the righteous application of knowledge.

In other words, wisdom is the God given ability to wade through piles and piles of knowledge and decipher those precious nuggets of truth. Therefore the other pillar of vision is truth.

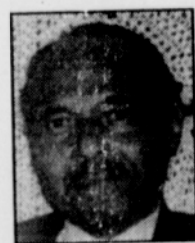
Happy 61st Birthday From Your Family



*You're Gone But Not
Forgotten
You'll Always Be In Our
Hearts, We Miss You.*

*Happy Birthday
Mark Washington
From Your
Family & Friends*

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"A Friendly Church"

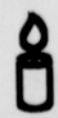


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Pastor and Counselor

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