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RELIGION

T.D. Jakes, the Filmmaker and Actor

Preacher tackles sex abuse in new movie



Bishop T.D. Jakes stands in his church's empty 8,000-seat sanctuary and talks about his new movie, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed." (AP photo)

(AP) — Bishop T.D. Jakes isn't easily intimidated. He is, after all, a best-selling author of 29 books, a Grammy-winning gospel singer, a nationally renowned preacher and the subject of a 2001 Time magazine cover story that asked: "Is This Man The Next Billy Graham?"

Yet here he is, the 6-foot-2, 260-pound pastor with the famously recognizable shaved head, stand-

ing in his empty 8,000-seat sanctuary and talking about the daunting nature of his latest role -

acting in his new movie, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed."

"I won't give up my day job," jokes Jakes, the 47-year-old founding minister of The Potter's House, a 30,000-member megachurch in Dallas. His sermons are broadcast nationally on the Trinity Broadcasting Network and Black Entertainment Television.

Lately, Jakes has balanced his pulpit duties with advance screenings across the country to promote his new movie, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed," which deals with child molestation.

"It's really difficult," he says,

"because by it being an independent film, so much of the groundswell is dependent on us going out and working it up. That, plus all the duties I have, has got me stretched pretty thin right now."

How well does Jakes expect the screen adaptation of his book and play to do at the box office?

"I'm not an expert with movies, and ignorance is bliss," says Jakes. He does know enough about promotion, however, to have an appearance scheduled on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" for Oct. 1, the day the film opens.

Sunday School Teacher Dies at 101

Anna Mae Lee, a former Sunday school teacher, died Sept. 15 at the age of 101.

She was born July 14, 1903 in Winnsboro, Texas, the daughter of Dock Jackson and Emma Lipscombs. Little is known of her earlier childhood except that she always spoke about her grandmother who raised her.

At ages 17 and 19 she give birth to two children. Her son, Floyd Cochran died in 1932 at the age of

12. Her daughter, Florence Norvell died in 1999 at the age of 77.

On Feb. 3, 1937, she married James Lee — no children were born to this union. Mr. Lee died in 1978 after 41 years of marriage.

She was a faithful, active, dedicated and talented member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Portland for over 70 years. She is remembered as a great and wonderful Sunday school teacher. Without a doubt, each of her students has a

pair of Santa boots, pair of rabbits, set of angels or some pieces of ceramics that she gave on special holidays.

She endeavored to perfect her artistic talent by attending ceramic classes. She often spoke of her hardships in Portland because no one wanted to enroll a black woman. Finally, one woman opened her doors and admitted her to ceramic school.

She went on to win blue ribbons in most all the shows where she had

an entry. Her home was full of her crafts. She was also very proficient in the art of Tin Can Crafting-an art almost extinct in our culture today.

In 1954, she helped the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority honor mothers and women of the community at luncheons and other civic functions. Later, these women organized themselves into the Mothers and Patronesses of Delta Sigma Theta. She was the inspiration and backbone to the first annual "Delta Waffle Breakfast" to raise money for scholarships.

Portland Caregiver Remembered

A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, Oct. 2 at St. Andrew Church for Francisca Gabriel, who died Sept. 18.

A happy, upbeat woman who has called Portland home for more than 50 years, she moved to the U.S. from the British West Indies (now known as St. Lucia), an island in the Caribbean, in 1949. After a couple of months in New York City, she was ready to head home, but she met a woman who told her about this nice town called Portland in Oregon. Francisca recalled thinking "What do I have to lose?" She brought passage to Portland and has been here since 1950.

A devout Catholic, Gabriel started meeting people and getting to know her community through

the church. She also worked at St. Mary's High School.

As the University of Oregon Medical School was being structured "on the hill," Gabriel went to work there as a nurse's assistant. She worked in the children's ward, but found working with children in pain too stressful. She transferred to the mental health ward, which she greatly enjoyed.

"We were a family," she said, laughing as she remembered her time there. She said she used to bring some of the patients home with her on the weekends, and took them along to church.

"The doctors and nurses said they never saw people heal as fast as they did with me," Gabriel said. "Some people need medicine, some people need love and kindness."

She retired after 25 years at Oregon Health and Sciences University.



Francisca Gabriel

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Back to the Basics

continued ▲ from Metro

are their child's first and most important teacher, the program teaches parents the effectiveness of forming stronger connections with their child through several practical interaction activities. Examples include simply reading a story to their child or going for a walk together. Parents and guardians are encouraged to bond with

their children by playing, yet teaching at the same time.

The curriculum is called Born to Learn and emphasizes the role of parents as teachers. It encourages the use of every opportunity to work together as a new learning experience for both child and adult.

"There is always room to grow when it comes to the subject of parenting," said Frazier. "Hopefully we can foster some new changes and help close the gap between the parents in our community and their kids as they grow and mature. We value the fact that families are important. We need stronger, healthier families if we're to ever rise up and overcome the problems of society."

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