

RELIGION

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

The reason so few people are successful is no one has yet found a way for someone to sit down and slide uphill.
— W. Clement Stone (submitted by Bluejay916)

Churches Reach Hurricane Survivors

Nationwide response to displacement overwhelming

(AP) - A black church in Decatur, Ga. quickly raises an average of \$85 from each of its 70 members to feed hungry hurricane evacuees. Across town, a black church pastor takes 10 families into his home. Another black church turns its sanctuary into a warehouse packed with donated clothes, toiletries and hope.

Black churches nationwide have stepped up to provide aid to many of Hurricane Katrina's victims, in response to the overwhelming number of African-American evacuees who are seeking their help, partly out of frustration with the bureaucracy of government agencies and other charities.

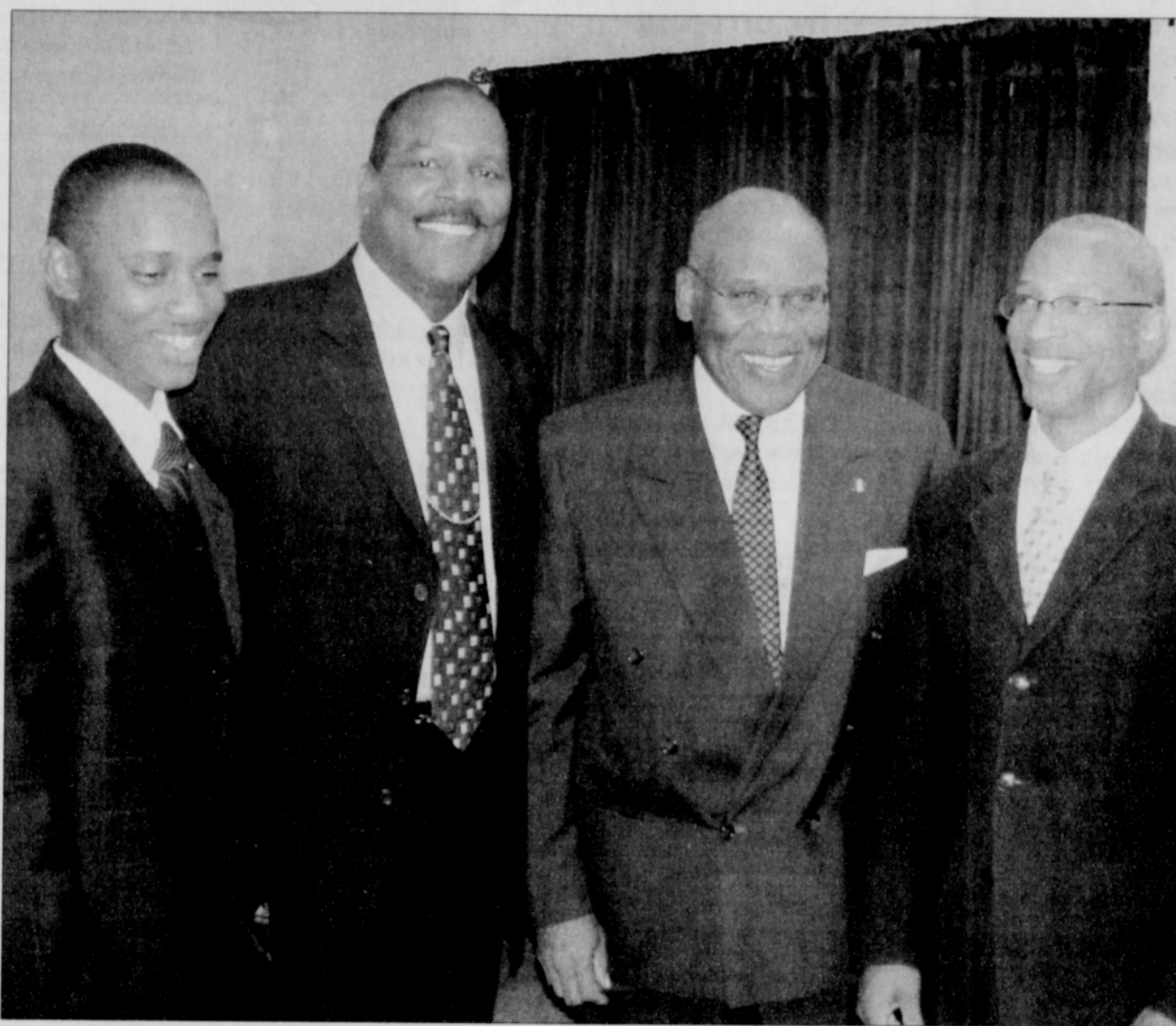
"They're trying to find familiar faces, familiar settings, when everything familiar has been wiped out," said Bishop Eddie L. Long, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, one of the nation's largest black churches with more than 25,000 members.

The Rev. William J. Shaw of Philadelphia, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., said the hurricane "exposed a lack of caring to adequately respond to the most vulnerable."

During a forum at the annual meeting of Shaw's group in Atlanta, members were urged to prepare to make the black evacuees' needs heard in next year's congressional elections.

"Hurricane Katrina is just the latest example of the poor functioning of our government," said the Rev. Wendell Griffen, parliamentarian for the National Baptist Convention, USA.

Black congregations have been providing social services since they were founded, with help ranging from food pantries to



Portland African American leaders are rallying relief to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina through local churches. Pictured at a recent gospel concert to raise donations for victims (from left) are Eli Hardy, Rev. Matt Hennessee, Rev. Robert Kemp and Rev. W.G. Hardy Jr.



Dillon Nelly waits for a meal with his father at a food distribution site organized by the Main Street Missionary Church in Biloxi, Miss.

ies to operate as shelters for evacuees. The four largest black religious organizations — the National Baptist Convention USA, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America and the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. — have partnered with the NAACP to match victims with housing assistance.

At Green Pastures Christian Ministries in Decatur, the pews and aisles are filled with donated clothes. The pulpit is stacked with toothpaste, toilet tissue, blankets and shoes.

"We've got to be what the people need, so we're gonna feed the hungry and clothe the naked," said the Rev. Collette Gunby, the church's pastor. "We don't have to depend on somebody else. We have power in the church."

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

clothing closets, said Michael A. Battle, president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, which trains ministers for predominantly black churches.

"The black church has always had this network of person-to-person contacts. And most of the people affected were black church members and pastors themselves," he said.

Some Red Cross chapters admit they have been overwhelmed at times and didn't have grassroots contact with many faith-based organizations, but many say they are establishing those links as they work to help as many evacuees as possible.

Nationally, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has offered all of its sanctuar-

formers from all over the Northwest including: Trustzetter Shaw Jackson, niece to the late great Mahalia Jackson, Ms. Willa Dorsey, Apostle Mondaine and Belief, Genesis choir, the 25th Hour band and much more. The vision of Eighty-Eight Keys is to recognize and honor church musicians, performers and educators in the arena of sacred music.

This is a black tie affair and is free to the public while seats are available.

The Eighty-Eight Keys Foundation and Celebration Tabernacle is also celebrating another milestone with the addition of Celebration Academy of the Performing Arts, a first through eight grade private school. The academy is in its second year and has already grown to 18 students.

Foundation leaders said say this is the time in our city's history where we really need to support one another, citing the recent disaster in New Orleans as more apparent than ever that we cannot depend on the government.

An Evening of Eighty-Eight Keys

Dedication planned for Mahalia Jackson Hall

On Saturday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m., the Eighty-Eight Keys Foundation will host its 13th annual music benefit concert and awards ceremony at the Christian Performing Arts Center, 8131 N. Denver.

Area residents are invited to come out and be part of history and experience the dedication of the Mahalia Jackson Performance Hall.

Jackson is viewed by many as the pinnacle of gospel music. Her singing began at the age of four in her church, the Plymouth Rock Baptist Church in New Orleans. Her early style blended the freedom and power of gospel with the stricter style of the Baptist church. As a teenager, through her cousin's aid, Mahalia was influenced by such famous singers as Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Enrico Caruso and Ma Rainey.

At this year's event, you will hear per-

Church Fashion Show Hosted

Spirit of Fashions is the theme of a fashion show by the Corner Stone Community Church held Saturday, Sept. 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St.

Donations of \$10 for ages 13 to adult; \$5 for youth ages 7-12; and free for children with a paid adult are requested. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Regena Williams at 503-249-3283 or Laverne Davis at 503-891-5812.

Gospel Music Fellowship

The Gospel Music Association of America invites area residents to join their fellowship by learning the group's past, present and future.

The Portland and Vancouver chapter of the association will host a community gathering on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Genesis Community Fellowship, 5425 N.E. 27th Ave.

The theme is "Only What You Do for Christ Will Last." For more information, call 503-249-1870 or 360-695-7605.

Loving Memories of You

Sunrise: Jan. 2, 1971

Sunset: Sept. 24, 2004

Life gives brief moments with one another. But sometimes in those brief moments we get memories that last a lifetime.

We look back on the times you laughed and shared your beautiful smile. We look back on the times you would play jokes on us all. We will always remember the love you shared and gave to us.

We cannot say goodbye to those whom we have grown to love, for the memories we have made will last a lifetime and never know a goodbye. We will always keep the memories of you in our hearts forever Mohamed Kalifa Jabbie.

Allah! There is no God but He — the Living. The self-subsisting, eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in his presence except as he permitteth? He knoweth what (appeareth to his creatures as) before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of his knowledge except at he willeth. His throne doth extend over the heavens and on earth. And he feeleth no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. For he is the "Most High," The Supreme (in glory).

From your dad, Akim, Shekuna, N'doh, Alhaji Jabbie, Rugiatu Jabbie, Fatmata Jabbie, Auntie K, your daughter Khalia Jabbie, all your family and friends.



Mohamed Kalifa Jabbie

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