

'Oh How Sweet the Sound'

A Gospel choir that numbers over 130 people strong was organized back in 2006 when Raymond Burell III spurred a comprised reunion group of past and present members of the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church.

Today this acclaimed ensemble, representing several generations, unites on special occasions to create one distinguished, home-grown gospel choir; OHow Sweet the Sound.

Throughout the evolution of the troupe, the choir has grown to also include a host of local and out of state guest singers associated with other local churches. Since the choir's conception, this awe-inspiring choir continues to exalt the name of Jesus Christ in an explosive spirit! They are a truly a treat to be seen, heard and experienced.

The choir's next appearance is on Sunday, Jan. 17 during a 3 p.m. Martin Luther King Drum Major service at the church, located at 3138 N. Vancouver Ave.



The Vancouver Avenue Renuion Gospel Choir performs Sunday during a Martin Luther King Drum Major Celebration.

Haters

By Maya Angelou

A hater is someone who is jealous and envious and spends all their time trying to make you look small so they can look tall.

They are very negative people to say the least. Nothing is ever good enough!

When you make your mark, you will always attract some haters...

That's why you have to be careful with whom you share your blessings and your dreams, because some folk can't handle seeing you blessed...

It's dangerous to be like somebody else...

If God wanted you to be like somebody else, He would have given you what He gave them! Right?

You never know what people have gone through to get what they have...

The problem I have with haters is that they see my glory, but they don't know my story...

If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, you can rest assured that the water bill is higher there too!

We've all got some haters among us!

Some people envy you because you can:

- a) Have a relationship with God
- b) Light up a room when you walk in
- c) Start your own business
- d) Tell a man/woman to hit the curb (if he/she isn't about the right thing)
- e) you are a strong person and don't let people run you over
- f) you have a strong & loving marriage and they can't get in-between spouses to spoil it

Haters can't stand to see you happy.

Haters will never want to see you succeed.

Most of our haters are people who are supposed to be on our side (like some family and friends).



How do you handle your undercover haters? You can handle these haters by:

1. Knowing who you are & who your true friends are *(VERY IMPORTANT!!)

2. Having a purpose to your life: Purpose does not mean having a job. You can have a job and still be unfulfilled. A purpose is having a clear sense of what God has called you to be.

Your purpose is not defined by what others think about you.

3. By remembering that what you have is by divine prerogative and not human manipulation.

Fulfill your dreams! You only have one life to live...when it's your time to leave this earth, you want to be able to say, 'I've lived my life and fulfilled my dreams, Now I'm ready to go HOME!'

When God gives you favor, you can tell your haters, 'Don't look at me... Look at who is in charge of me....'

Pass this to all of your family & friends who you know are not hating on you including the person who sent it to you.

If you don't get it back, maybe you called somebody out! Don't worry about it, it's not your problem, it's theirs. Just pray for them, that their life can be as fulfilled as yours!

Watch out for Haters...BUT most of all don't become a HATER.



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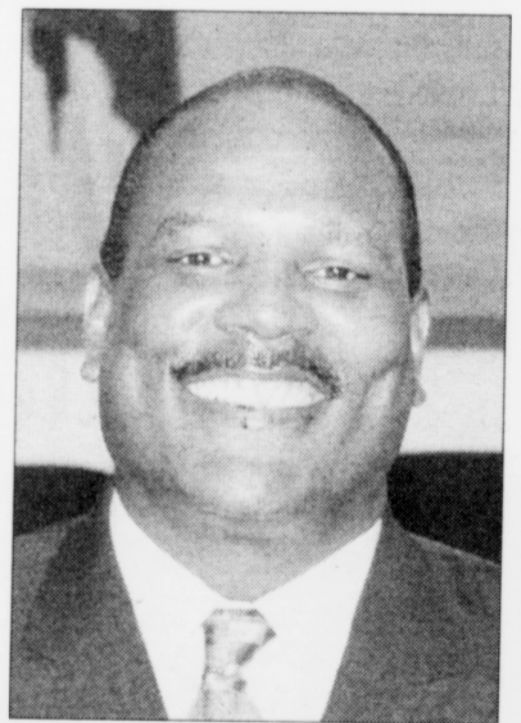
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Drum Major Service Sunday

Historic church honors leaders

The historic Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave., invites the community to attend the annual Drum Major Ecumenical Scholarship Service and Award Ceremony on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 3 p.m.

The program honors the lives and legacies of the late Rev. Dr.



Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee

Martin Luther King Jr., Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Mrs. Rosa Parks and Ms. Yolanda King.

The theme of the event is titled Living the Dream and it is an inspiring kick off to Portland's many admirable MLK tributes. Entering its fourth year of implementation, the program continues to grow strong in popularity, uniting communities of all faiths in the name of peace and unity.



John Kroger

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