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She's 'Gotta Dance'



Briana Reed

ST. PETERSBURG — Briana J. Reed successfully auditioned for a dance position with Ballet Hispanico of New York in February and expects to begin work after graduation from the Julliard School dance division this May. Ballet Hispanico tours the US, Europe and South America; its artistic director is Tina Ramirez.

At age 3, Briana began her dance training at the Academy of Ballet Arts where she was tutored by Suzanne Pommerantz and Lester. After a six year interval, Briana resumed training at the academy and successfully auditioned for admittance to the Pinellas Center for the Arts magnet school at Gibbs High School

in August 1989.

At Gibbs, Briana's mentors and teachers included Mrs. P and Reginald Yates, who initiated a visit from two scouts from the Julliard School during her senior year.

The following summer, Briana received a call from Benjamin Harkavy informing her that she had been accepted at Julliard and would receive a scholarship.

As a sophomore, Briana was asked to join an 8-member Julliard touring ensemble, *Gotta Dance*, under the direction of faculty member Elizabeth Keen. This production was the collaborative effort of a Julliard composer and the

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AKA Honors Maria Mitchell



Marsha Lewis Brown

TAMPA — Each year, in conjunction with Gamma Theta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Miss Teenage Tampa prepageant activities, the sorority holds the Miss Teenage Tampa appreciation luncheon. This project is the chapter's major fund-raising activity for scholarships and community service programs.

Maria P. Mitchell is the 1997 Miss Teenage Tampa appreciation luncheon honoree. She will be recognized for her contributions at a public luncheon on Saturday, March 29 at the Tampa Airport Hilton, 225 Lois Avenue.

A member of the sorority for 27 years, Mitchell has devoted

countless hours to designing scenery, stage decorations and visual artistry for the pageant. She also serves as artistic director of the Ivy AKAdemy. The Ivy AKAdemy is the sorority's educational and cultural enrichment program.

A graduate of Hampton, Maria Mitchell received her masters in art education from the University of Illinois. She is employed in the Pasco County school system at Cox Elementary.

Mitchell's speciality is three dimensional art and sculpture. Her works were displayed at the Polk County Museum during Black History Month. She enjoys reading mystery.

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ST. PETERSBURG/TAMPA

MARCH 15, 1997



Willie and Laura Brantley

Couples Honored For Long Marriages

ST. PETERSBURG — On Wednesday night, March 5, 22 African-American couples who have been married for 50 years or more were honored at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

The event was planned by James Rollins of Tampa and

Bettie J. Powell of St. Petersburg, who wanted to do something to reach young people, most of whom seem to think that family doesn't matter.

Powell, with the help of her husband Roosevelt and her pastor's wife Marilyn Welch,

contacted the couples in St. Petersburg. Rollins talked to pastors in Tampa and everything fell into place.

The couples in Clearwater, Rev. Joseph and Marie Collins and Ernest and Willa Carson were found through a friend.

"When contacted, most of the couples seemed skeptical because we were not a corporation or organization," said Powell. "They wanted to know what it would cost them and what they had to do and they were told that it would cost them only 2-1/2 hours of their time and finally they became as excited as I was."

One couple, George and Ada Edwards were married when she was 12 and he was 19 and they still look happy.

Doctors Robert and Virginia Lewis have been married the longest, 67 years and are 94 and 90, respectively. They are still active. Mr. Lewis still lectures at Eckerd College periodically and was told by friends two years ago that he should not drive back to Chicago, his home, but to fly.

Alvin and Bernice Downing were honored. A well known jazz musician and a former Tuskegee Airman, Downing

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Community Forum Town Meeting

ST. PETERSBURG — Sunshine City Elks Lodge #255 invites the public to attend a forum of mayoral candidates David Fischer and Bill Klein from 4 to 5:30 pm and councilmen candidates David Welch and Frank Peterman from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on March 16 at 1331 18th Ave. S.

Summer Youth Intern Program

ST. PETERSBURG — Career Options of Pinellas, Inc. is recruiting applicants for the city's summer youth intern program. Applicants must be residents of St. Petersburg and be between 14 and 23 years old. Family income will determine eligibility.

For the 6th consecutive year, the city will make almost 200 positions available for low to moderate income young adults who are residents of the city. This year's program runs from June 16 to Aug. 8. Participants

Welfare Reform & Fed Policy on Collision Course

by Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.

Welfare reform, which has an unstated but underlying premise of full employment and federal reserve policy, whose stated purpose is full employment and price stability, are on a collision course. Why? Because the Fed is dominated by those who protect financial interests first. Thus, fighting inflation wins out over full employment.

In fact, if the economy really begins to grow and unemployment begins to recede below 5%—in the 1960s and '70s it was 3%—Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board raise interest rates to slow the economy and reduce job creation. They will say the economy is overheating. So just as the jobs begin to flow down, so those on welfare can go to work, Mr. Greenspan shuts off the spigot. The course is set for a collision between the stated goals of federal welfare reform (welfare-to-work) and the Fed.

In the past, when the national economy slowed, unemployment rose and hard times set in, the less fortunate could at least turn to welfare as a last resort. Under the new welfare reform policy they can no longer be assured of that. The federal floor under the poor for the past 60 years has been removed.

Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed into law the welfare reform bill in 1996. It changed the entire structure of welfare. Recipients can be on welfare only two years continuously and then they are legally guaranteed to be off. The federal government will guarantee paying for a cumulative five years of welfare benefits lifetime and no more.

There is not a similar federal guarantee that when you are forced off of welfare that a job will be available through the private or public sectors. Thus, today's welfare recipients are left only with the mandate of a 1950s song, "Get A Job!" It's easier to get tough on poor people who don't vote than it is to get serious about full employment.

Underlying welfare reform is the moral principle that every person who can work, should work. That is morally sound, but it has no economic support. Government leaders and the nation should not impose the cultural standard of the Protestant work ethic on welfare recipients and the unemployed on the one hand unless they have a real policy and an actual program of full employment on the other.

Logically because of welfare reform, the government must now become the employer, not of last resort, but of first resort. That is, the first priority of the government's fiscal and monetary policies and programs must be to achieve full employment and balanced economic growth. If full employment cannot be achieved in the private sector alone, then the government should guarantee every able-bodied person

who wants to work a socially useful job doing meaningful work, making a livable wage. Only then does the nation, the government and its leaders have the moral right to even suggest that every able-bodied person be trained to work and get a job.

Currently, there is an abstract policy (Humphrey-Hawkins), but no actual government policies or programs to achieve full employment. Since the Great Depression, despite a rhetoric which emphasizes the work ethic, the nation's and the government's leaders real commitment has been to be far more willing to establish entitlements to welfare or income transfer programs than to establish a full employment peace-time economy.

There is great concern among many politicians that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) be accurate. Of course, the CPI should be accurate, but the politics of CPI appear to be more a bipartisan conservative Democratic concern about reducing the budget deficit in exchange for certain tax cuts for the Republicans on the road to getting a budget agreement, than accuracy.

There is no similar concern that the unemployment rate be accurate. While the official unemployment rate is 5.3% (7.5 million people who receive unemployment compensation but do not have a job), the actual number of unemployed (and underemployed) people is closer to 15-20 million Americans who are unemployed, underemployed, working part time when they want to be working full time, have never had a job or gave up looking for one (so that they are not even counted among the unemployed) or, with corporate and government downsizing, workers are worried that they may soon be in one of those categories. That's a more accurate picture and the reason there is so much economic anxiety in the land.

When Alan Greenspan testified before the domestic and international monetary policy subcommittee and gave his usual classic presentation or "reserved optimistic pessimism" that caused the markets to tremble and react to every intonation of every syllable of every word. One reason he speaks in such obtuse terms is to obscure this collision course, a verbal commitment to full employment (he's testifying under the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment act), while really pursuing a policy of fighting inflation.

What Mr. Greenspan ought to recommend is a comprehensive and sound plan of government finance. It would move from our current obsession with debt and deficits to creative use of fiscal and monetary policies to promote economic stabilization and renewal, through a more progressive tax structure, a level of taxation adequate to meet national needs, fiscal balance at a real full employment level and large-scale public investment to reduce our social, environmental, human capital and other accumulated damaging deficits.

Owens Keynotes Club Program

ST. PETERSBURG — Stephanie AnnSherrie Owens, will be the featured speaker at the Ambassador Club's 43rd anniversary program at 4 pm on Sunday, March 16 at McCabe UM Church, 2800 26th Avenue S.

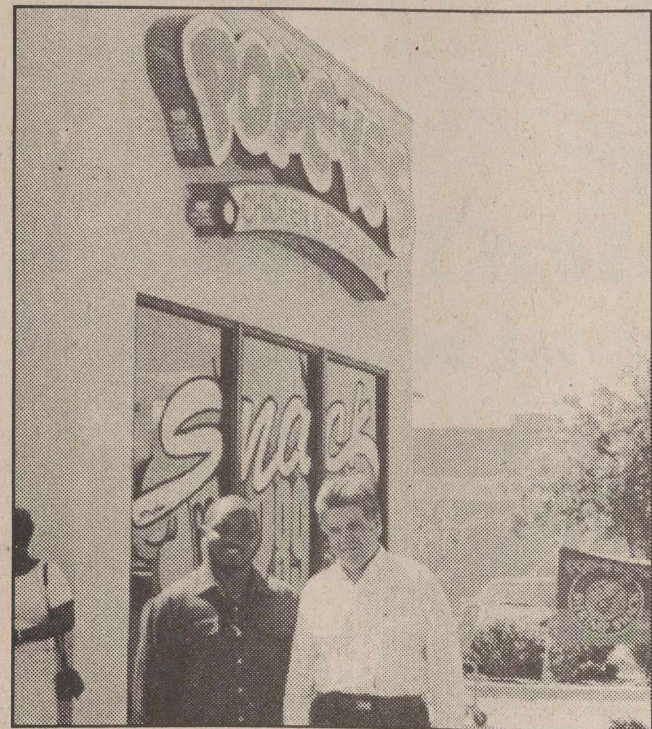
Owens serves as the federal coordinator on the Inter-agency Task Force on St. Petersburg, which was created by President Clinton to provide federal assistance to address current economic problems in the city.

The theme is "Community Awareness and Cooperation." Program co-chairs are Jack L. Highsmith, Emanuel Stewart and Ernest Fillyau. Admission is free to the public.



Stephanie AnnSherrie Owens

Photo by ERNEST FILLIAU



L-R: Vernon Dixon, franchise owner, and Jasen Montgomery, assistant manager.

Photos by BILL THOMAS

by Jeanie Blue

ST. PETERSBURG — Under a big tent, rows of tables draped in red and white checkered tablecloths provided the support needed to finish off a two-piece chicken special that included a free record or CD which local radio station

WRXB personalities gave away at the grand opening of the new Popeye's Chicken (3210 Central Avenue) last Saturday, March 8.

The owner of this newly opened Popeye's franchise, Vernon Dixon II, is not affiliated with the Popeye's pre-

viously located at the corner of Dr. M.L. King and 22nd Avenue S, according to Dixon's general manager Jasen Montgomery.

"The group that owns this franchise is locally based and is committed to putting back into this community," Montgomery said. "This is a different group than the previous store owners located on Martin Luther King Street."

In addition to offering fresh distinctive New Orleans flavored chicken and other menu items, Montgomery indicated that good customer service will be a major part of the business.

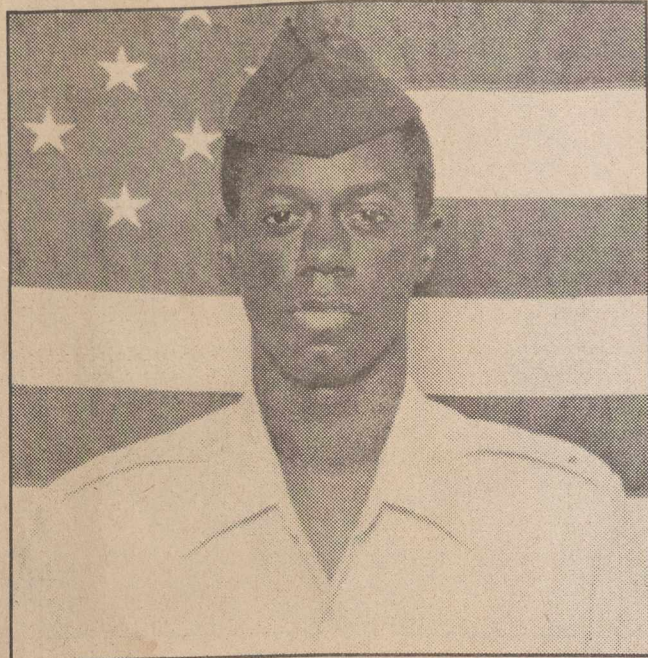
"Our biggest thing is customer service," he said. "We want feedback from the community about different menu items and about the service they receive."

Several in the crowd attending the grand opening and sampling the food had comments about the food and the service. Dixon's grandmother Deloris Williams came with other family members from Ft. Pierce to join the celebration.

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**DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE MARCH 25th**

Basic Training Graduate



Jaaron C. Myles

Air Force Airman Jaaron C. Myles has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

Myles is the son of Chappell

G. Meredith of 6000 7th Street S and James E. Myles of 5651 5th Street S, St. Petersburg. He is a 1993 graduate of St. Petersburg High School.

Caregiver Support Group

ST. PETERSBURG — You are invited to be part of the caregiver support group sponsored by Senior Support Services. The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of

each month from 1 to 3 pm at the Enoch D. Davis Center, 1111 18th Avenue S. For further information, contact Nancy Skirchak at 327-7656, ext. 271.

Get Re-Acquainted Social

ST. PETERSBURG — The Gibbs High Alumni Association will host a get re-acquainted social at 7 pm on Saturday, March 15 at Coquina Keys

Arms S clubhouse. All members of the class of '72 are invited to come to meet and greet classmates.

Annual Coronation Ball

ST. PETERSBURG — The City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs will host its annual Coronation Ball on March 29 from 9 pm to 1 am at the Knights of Columbus

Hall on Central Avenue. The public is invited to share a night of fun and dancing. Music by Rifleman. Beatrice Williams, president; Anne Killen and Dorothy Brown, co-chairs.

Nutrition Classes

ST. PETERSBURG — Two free nutrition and weight management classes are being offered during through May.

The first one is held at the Free Clinic/Elder Care, 2335 22nd Avenue S, Tuesdays from 10 to 11:15 am.

The second one meets at the

Pinellas County Health Department 3rd floor conference room, 500 7th Avenue S, on Tuesdays from 1 to 2 pm.

Learn how to eat better, feel good and have fun. No reservations are necessary. Call 824-6900, ext. 2404 for more information.

"We keep saying Johnny can't read because he's deprived, because he's hungry, because he's discriminated against. We say Johnny can't read because his daddy is not in the home. Well, Johnny learns to play basketball without daddy. We do best what we do most, and for many of our children, that's playing ball. One of the reasons Johnny does not read is that Johnny doesn't practice reading."

Jesse Jackson

**DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE MARCH 25th**

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Volunteers Needed For Senior Support Services

ST. PETERSBURG — Senior Support Services of Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc. needs volunteers to provide services to the frail elderly. These services are essential for these

clients to continue living independently in their own home.

Anyone who can volunteer one or two hours a week or who wants more information is urged to contact Nancy Skirchak at 327-7656.

Black Friends Of Bill Klein Host Reception

ST. PETERSBURG — African-American friends of Bill Klein, mayoral candidate, are hosting a Meet Bill Klein reception on Friday, March 14, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Back

Stage Club at 34th Street and 18th Avenue S. Free food and entertainment will be provided. Everyone is invited to come out and meet Bill Klein and his wife Lynsey.

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NNPA FEATURE CHILD WATCH

BY
MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

It's Not the Size of the Church

With all the national recognition she gets as a writer, scholar, minister and public speaker, Dr. Renita Weems has never forgotten that it all began for her at a tiny Pentecostal church in Georgia where at age 11 she was the Sunday school secretary.

"The church was very, very small but everything there was painted with grand strokes," says Dr. Weems, a professor of Old Testament studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Tennessee. "We had a larger than life deacon board, choir and pastor, who knew how to spank and hug at the same time without offending you too much. To me, church was like the land of Oz."

The church is where she overcame her shyness, learned the importance of being prepared and saw her work appreciated by the loving adults who surrounded her. Today, as one of only a few black women professors in her field, Dr. Weems has dedicated her life to preparing others for ministry in the classroom and behind the pulpit. In addition to being a respected scholar, she is a wonderful writer and gifted speaker. She was one of six great preachers to participate in the 1996 summer institute for child advocacy ministry at the former Alex Haley farm in Clinton, TN during the third week of July. Her written works include a scholarly study of marriage, sex and violence in the prophetic books of the Bible titled *Battered Love*.

By the time she left Princeton in 1987, she had earned a master's of divinity degree and made major strides toward completing her PhD. She completed her doctorate in Old Testament studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School while teaching there in 1989. "There was something about the storytelling and drama of the Old Testament that appealed to me even though there were no other black women and only a few black men studying it," she says.

But thanks to extraordinary women like Renita Weems, there are now a number of black women earning graduate divinity degrees, several of whom are PhD candidates.

Why is it important to have women leaders in the church? "Because there are women in the pews and throughout the church, a good number of those seeking pastoral advice and guidance are women and because women are part of the human race. Women have always played an important role in the church. That work may not have always been in an official capacity, but it always has been important, the kind of work that has kept the church going. Traditionally, women have taken straw and made brick."

Renita Weems is married to the Rev. Martin L. Espinosa, pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Nashville. On Sunday morning, both sit in the pulpit and together they are raising another little girl to appreciate the church, their four-year-old daughter Savannah Nia. "She recognizes that the church is a safe place," Dr. Weems says. "She knows that the people around her love her and protect her. But most important, she won't grow up with a sense of women not being able to do anything."

Schools That Teach Skills Make Pocketbook Sense

(NU) - Traditional college freshmen start in the autumn with high hopes and nearly one-third of them wind up the year in high anxiety. They have made a wrong educational choice, they know it and they will be among those who will not graduate.

To forestall this kind of painful and costly error, many thousands of students are finding that their personal key to success lies in attending a private career college or school.

Also, millions of traditional four-year university graduates are realizing that their professional dreams are considerably brighter and more achievable if they return to school to acquire skill-specific training at a career college.

Nina Reece, a vice president of sales for John Paul Mitchell Systems, a major player in the cosmetology industry, entered a four-year college and in her first year understood that it was not for her. She followed her dream to beauty school and in 1987 graduated with top honors from the Pottomac School of Hair Design in Falls Church, VA. Today she is responsible for a multi-million dollar budget and oversees the company's marketing, training and merchandising.

A similar story is told by Mark Kirke, who graduated from the Scottsdale (AZ) Culinary Institute.

"From a young age," he says, "I was expected to go

by George Wilson

One of the privileges of being president of the US is being able to select those who will serve in your cabinet. Regardless of the hot rhetoric that is spewed between the two major parties, the president generally gets his way in choosing who he wants to serve. This rule applied until Alexis Herman was nominated to head the Department of Labor. Herman's nomination has attracted closer scrutiny from the Republican controlled Senate. In fact, the confirmation hearing has been put off for at least a month while the senators examine sev-

eral questions about Herman they consider troubling. Among them are: Did Herman accept consulting fees from those who received grants during the Carter administration? Herman was employed at the Labor Department during that time. How did Herman come to own property in downtown Washington, DC without putting up any of her own money and what was her role in directing a working group on how to get more African Americans to vote Democratic?

The items that are allegedly holding up the nomination may or may not

have merit. However, few if any other nominees come to high ranking position without something in their backgrounds that could be considered questionable. The slow political torture of Alexis Herman suggests that perhaps she is not really the person that the president wants to have in this particular job.

Some would argue that the president has publicly stated that he wants hearings to take place on the nomination. But excuse me, if the president was strongly advocating this, all he would have to do is pick up a telephone and call Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) and

strongly suggest that he wants the matter to be taken care of. Those with real power in the world of politics don't spend a lot of time writing letters.

However, in Herman's case, Clinton waited until he met with presidents of African-American colleges and universities to express his support for the nomination. That is exactly the scenario that accompanied his nomination of Lani Guinier to be assistant attorney general for civil rights.

As Alexis Herman twists in the political wind, there are groups who are coming to her defense. I suspect that the credibility

and clout of these groups are also being tested. So far there have been press conferences and meetings but not movement on the nomination. Apparently, members of the Senate and the president feel that they can weather the storm and continue to do business as usual.

In my opinion, the political carrot has been dangled in front of Herman and her supporters for too long, it is only fair that the process go forward without further delay.

The fact that there has been very little outcry from those who could be described as the grassroots indicates that some of the

groups and persons who are advocating for Herman need to change their strategy. What is going on in order to fill the last position in the cabinet is shameful. It is the same as asking someone to join you for dinner and when they accept the invitation, telling them you don't have enough food.

Herman deserves her chance to be heard by the Senate. Anything less is a slap in the face to those who support Herman and the process of democracy. Both sides have reason to be concerned.

Building A Better Future

(NU) - As we approach a new millennium, consider all the changes in the world in just the past decade:

- The fall of communism and the end of the Soviet Union.

- The resulting reunification of East and West Germany, dramatized by the globally televised destruction of the Berlin Wall.

- In South Africa, the long-awaited end of the racially divisive apartheid system.

In other hot spots, from the Middle East to the Korean to Northern Ireland, there has been an intensified effort to find peaceful solutions to long-time problems. With the advent of an uneasy peace, the importance of international peacekeepers has become paramount.

So, what happens now?

In some thoughtful corners of the planet, the coming of a new century has triggered a call for constructive action, the creation of a new generation of peacemakers for a new millennium.

Who will help create these new peacemakers? One organization, Legacy International, has been bringing young people together to promote international understanding and cooperation on a global scale for almost two decades.

Legacy's founder, J.E. Rash, expressed a personal vision to "transform the legacy of prejudice, fear, confusion and misunderstanding into one of hope, and to help future generations to realize their capabilities."

Legacy's programs put emphasis on five general areas:

- Helping youths build bridges of cross-cultural understanding.

- Helping them see themselves as an important social force and to prepare for an active role in creating the future.

- Increasing environmental awareness through action projects.

- Offering leadership training to develop skills in communication, decision-making and conflict resolution.

- Fostering personal development to create cooperative environments where participants can develop qualities of generosity, tolerance and patience.

"When our young people return home, they're different," says Legacy spokesperson Mary Helmig. "They are stronger, more confident global citizens with an understanding of the legacy they've inherited and a sense of responsibility toward the legacy they leave behind."

Legacy's program takes the form of a summer camp, with young people from around the world coming to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in rural Virginia for three weeks of lessons in global citizenship — along with more familiar camp activities such as sports and crafts. Since 1979, more than 1,700 young people from 83 nations have participated. "They become part of a global community of friends," Helmig says.

Legacy programs are designed for young people between 11 and 18 years of age. A limited number of spaces are available for young people from the United States. For more information, call (540) 297-5982. Legacy's Internet home page is at www.legacyintl.org.

Encourage Your Children to Love Themselves

by Junious Ricardo Stanton

Over the last few years, I have experienced the pleasure of dealing directly with some of our young people by going into the elementary and middle schools speaking with them on various topics. Contrary to predominant media portrayals, all our children are not ignoramuses, sociopaths and degenerates. I've found most of them to be bright, articulate and energetic. They are however under immense pressure. Many of them are racked with fear for their personal safety, of the times in which we live and they are anxious about their futures. A significant number of them have actually contemplated suicide! Imagine 11, 12 or 13 year olds viewing life as so awful they've actually considered ending it all!

Recently I went to one school to speak to several classes about self-esteem. In one class I asked them to be candid and truthful with me. I asked the children to close their eyes so they couldn't see anyone else and not to peek. Then I told them to raise their hands if they really liked themselves or thought well of themselves. Only about half the class raised their hands. In the next class it was about 70

percent and in the third about 80 percent.

Herein lies the root cause of much of our communities woes, low self-esteem. The fact is no one is born not liking oneself with a negative self-image. The one thing I attempted to impress upon the young people was that self-esteem is an internal process. I asked the youngsters what factors they thought contributed to low self-esteem and a poor self-image. They responded: Parents, teachers, peers making fun of them, talking down to them or not liking them. They also indicated not having the things others considered fashionable or stylish as another reason.

I explained to them that many adults don't like themselves and we discussed possible behavioral consequences of low self-esteem and lack of self-confidence. They knew the answers, stating them in their own terms and they made sense. Essentially they said people with low self-esteem engage in self-destructive behavior, make the wrong choices of friends and acquaintances, bow to negative peer pressure and don't develop their full potential.

Our children are very bright. They know the deal on a con-

scious level. Our challenge is to encourage them to like and love themselves despite the overwhelming negative influences in their lives. I shared with them the importance of telling themselves they are lovely, lovable and intelligent. I also emphasized the importance of monitoring the thoughts, ideas and images that flashed into their minds and the importance of making choices. Choosing what they think about, talk about, what they think is important and most of all choosing to like themselves.

When I spoke about stress, the children in one 7th grade class shared the things that stress them out and make them anxious. When I tied in stress and health and described what goes on in your body when you are under distress they were very knowledgeable and could relate well to it. There is hope. They know all that. Now we have to get them to implement positive habits and practices into their daily routines. That's where you come in. While their peers are important, the first role models they see are the adults in their lives. What type of example are you setting? Are you drinking and drugging? Are you abusive? Do you like

yourself and conduct yourself in a manner that indicates you have high self-esteem, a good self-image and self-respect?

If you are like most adults in America, you probably don't like yourself or have a good self-image. Your children will mirror your reactions to life, how you carry yourself and how you react to life's ups and downs. Many of the children were painfully aware that people who were abused as children turned around and abused their children. We have to set a better tone in our communities. It will not happen overnight and it is a long term process. But it can and must be done if we are going to turn things around.

Tell your children you love them, demonstrate your love. Encourage them to do their best. Let them see you doing and being your best. Set a good example. Our children are too precious not to invest the time, energy and effort in leaving a better world for them. Look in the mirror. We all can do better. The first and most important step is to genuinely like who you are and be determined to be the best you can be. Do it and encourage your children and those you come in contact with to do the same. Let's start today.

Seeking African Solutions to Governance Woes

A two-day summit on democracy was held in Botswana in late February. African heads of state and government met to explore how the African Commonwealth can live up to universal standards of democracy. Their brief includes examining proposals worked out at a Feb. 24-25 preparatory meeting. However, their meeting could hardly be said to have come up with a set of innovative ideas even though the fact that it brought together government and opposition politicians from 16 countries was in itself an achievement noted some politicians and academics in attendance at the preparatory conference.

Delegates agreed to propose to the heads of government that they establish constitutional frameworks and state structures that would facilitate democratic practice in their countries. They also concluded that universal tenets such as the people's right to elect their political leaders, freedom of association and freedom of expression should be entrenched in constitutions and respected. A democratic culture should be established in their various countries, they said.

The oft-repeated maxim that democracy goes beyond periodic elections was also highlighted. "An efficient election management body

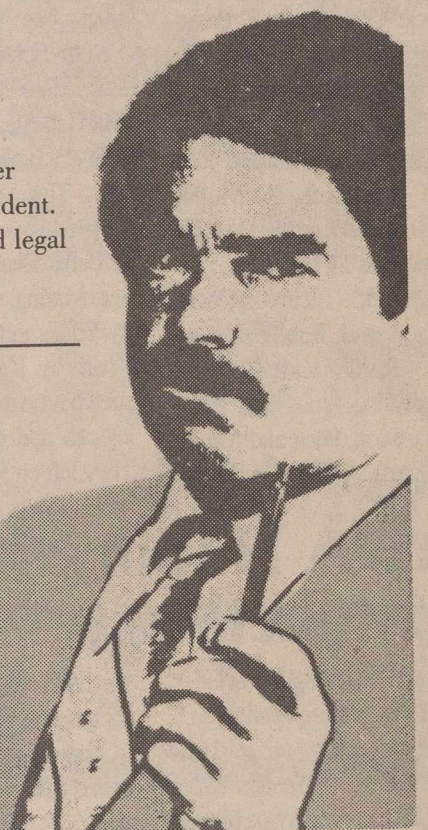
and successful election do not add up to a successful democracy," said an academic at the prepcom. The 16 countries participating in the roundtable

of commonwealth heads of state and government on democracy and good governance in Africa have varying records in these areas.

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Couples Honored For Long Marriages from pg. 1



entertained the gathering with a medley of his favorite tunes.

Only two couples, Freeman and Lisa Reese of St. Petersburg and Rev. Joseph and Marie Collins of St. Petersburg were unable to attend.

The other couples were Willie and Laura Brantley, Louis and Essie Burton, Ross and Margaret McMullin, Ezell and Dorothy Boykins, Jessie and Annie Byrd, Sylvester and Thelma Reeves, Wilson and Eunice Robertson, Rufus and Christine Hardwick, Amos and Rosemary Scott, Peter and Minnie Williams, William and Janie

Butler, Donald and Irma Wheat, Anthony and Ruth Harris, Arthur and Altonia Nelson, David and Daisy Williams, David and Dorothy Williams.

Ruth Eckerd Hall donated the great room for the banquet, Outback Steakhouse donated over 80 chicken and steak dinners. The Seminole Indians donated a weekend getaway to Bahia Beach Island Resort and Marina, which was won by Willie and Laura Brantley. Kash 'n Karry donated a stretch limo to drive the Brantleys to and from the resort. They left on Friday and came

back on Sunday and said they had a marvelous time in their suite.

Empress Cruise Lines donated tickets to two couples to take a cruise out of John's Pass and Family Dollar donated 48 frames to put the certificates and proclamations into.

St. Petersburg, Tampa and Clearwater mayors honored the couple by proclaiming March 5, 1997 A Tribute to Marriage Day. Each couple received its own proclamation from its respective mayor.

Hubert McCloud of McCloud & Associates public

relations agency donated the printed program and he also provided the band, which was geared to the honorees' taste.

Powell said she would like to continue doing something like this and get more ordinary people involved because that is what God uses the most and that is who most of us are. "We would like to honor our African-American honor roll students, single parents who have raised their children and put them through college," said Powell. She can be reached at 864-4577.

AKA Honors Maria Mitchell from pg. 1

ies and "teaching the wonders of art expression to children."

Maria and her husband Patrick, a graphic arts editor, are the parents of two children, Eric, a student at Howard University, and Deatra, a high school student.

AKA member Phyllis Lee, chair of the Miss Teenage Tampa appreciation committee, announces that the 10 Miss Teenage Tampa contestants will be presented at the

luncheon when Maria Mitchell is honored.

Chapter president Marsha Lewis Brown says, "Our chapter is fortunate to have a member with the talents, creativity, direction and enthusiasm Maria Mitchell brings to the Ivy AKAdeemy and to our Miss Teenage Tampa Pageant stage settings. We hope the public will join us at the luncheon." For ticket information, phone 978-1470.

She's 'Gotta Dance' from pg. 1

dancers with each dancer demonstrating why they've gotta dance. The ensemble performs in the New York tri-state area of the public school system for the purpose of educating students about the importance of art in society.

When time permits, Briana

also does benefit performances at the Alvin Ailey School of Dance, choreographed by Earl.

Briana is the daughter of Deloris Albritton Graves, a local teacher, and Rudolph Reed, a local roofing contractor.

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Grand Opening Of Popeyes from pg. 1



"I think the setup is very nice and the chicken is delicious," Williams said. "It's very nice for a young black man coming up today to do something like this. I feel very proud of my

grandson."

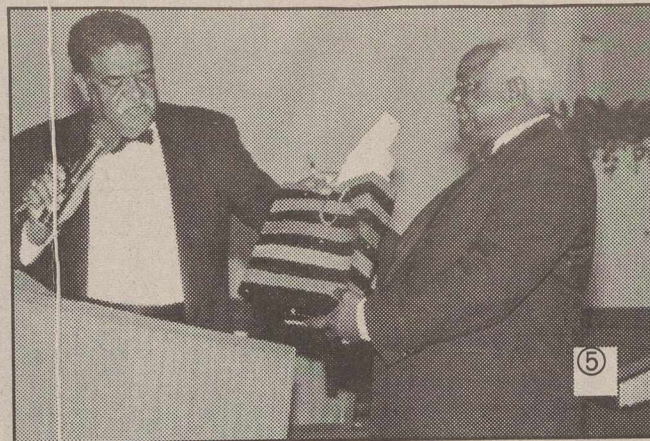
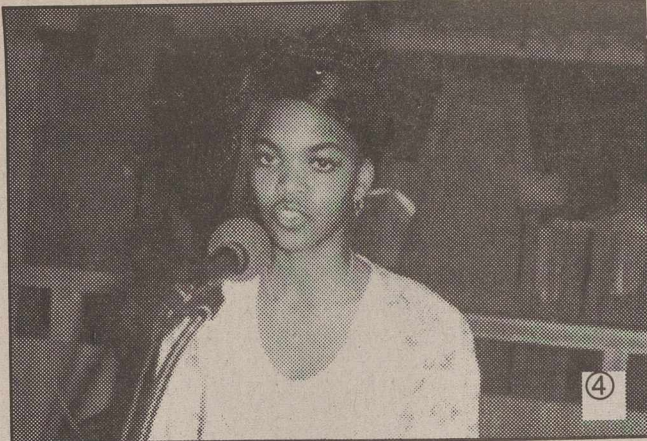
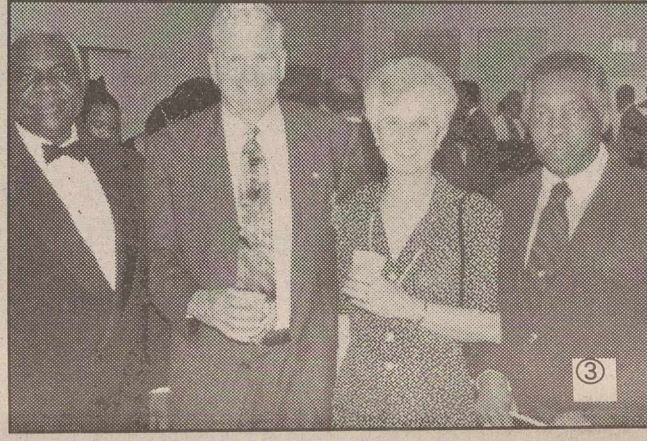
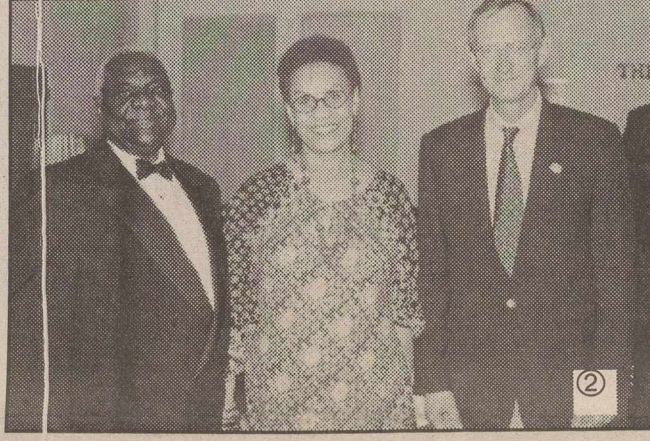
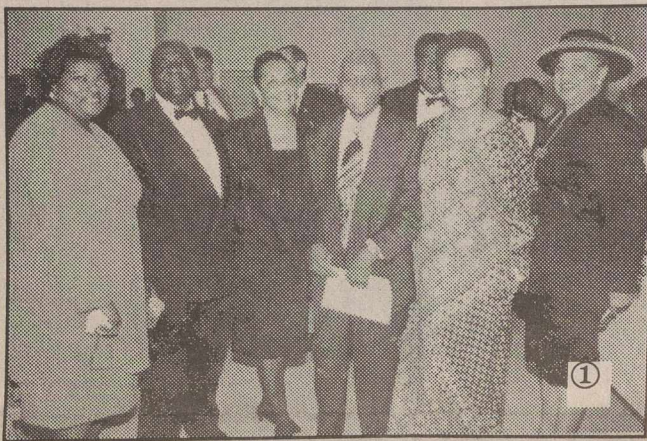
While some kids enjoyed getting their face painted by the clowns parading at the opening, some parents complained that the chicken parts were too small, especially the wings, and the prices were too high.

"I think the wings are too small and the prices are too high," Lashun Bacon commented. Bacon, 27, attended the affair with her two young kids and complained about paying almost \$10 for five pieces of chicken.

This feedback should prove very useful as Dixon plans to build three more franchises in Pinellas County by the year 1999. Dixon, originally from Ft. Pierce, moved to St. Petersburg three years ago and plans to obtain the city's rights to Popeye's franchises.

"I would like to thank the St. Petersburg community for all its support since we initially opened on 10/10/96," Dixon said. "We plan to open three more units by 1999 with the next scheduled opening set for August 1997."

Dandy Thrills Ebony Scholars Audience



ST. PETERSBURG — On March 2, former resident William Dandy thrilled an audience of approximately 350 people at Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church. Dandy performed a sterling rendition of Negro spirituals that included He'll Understand, Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen and Sweet Little Jesus Boy. Rhonda Snead Collins, a longtime friend, accompanied him on the piano.

Catherine Fleming of Fleming Music Studio in Orlando performed a musical prelude. Fleming is the sister of Ebony Scholar member Francis Williams.

Enjoying the concert were high school and college classmates of Dandy's, former educators, local politicians and music lovers from the community.

The beautiful edifice of Bethel Metropolitan was a

perfect setting for this event which was supported by parents of the Ebony Scholars.

1. Catherine Fuller of Ft. Lauderdale, Bill and his wife Carolyn Dandy, Al Downing, Rose Peck and Evelyn Chance-Smith of Ft. Lauderdale.

2. Bill Dandy, Rose Peck and Mayor David Fischer

3. Dandy, mayoral candidate Bill Klein and his wife Lynsey and Attorney I.W. Williams

4. Latisha Roberts, Ebony Scholars president, introduces guest artist.

5. Vyrle Davis, ESC president, presents a gift to Bill Dandy.

6. Ebony Scholars Lorenzo Dickens, Lashun Nesbitt, Kirk Nugent, Chris Lee, Lonnie Daniels, Antonio Wright, Jerome Brown and Dontrell Wright

7. Ebony Scholars parents who sponsored the program

8. Ralph James, a founding member of Ebony, is introduced to the audience.

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Mega Garage Sale

ST. PETERSBURG — A mega garage sale, sponsored by Palmetto Park Neighborhood Association and other community organizations, will be held on Saturday, March 29 from 8

am to 4 pm at the Palmetto Tot Lot at 4th Avenue S and 27th Street. For more information, contact president Kevin Johnson at 327-0028.

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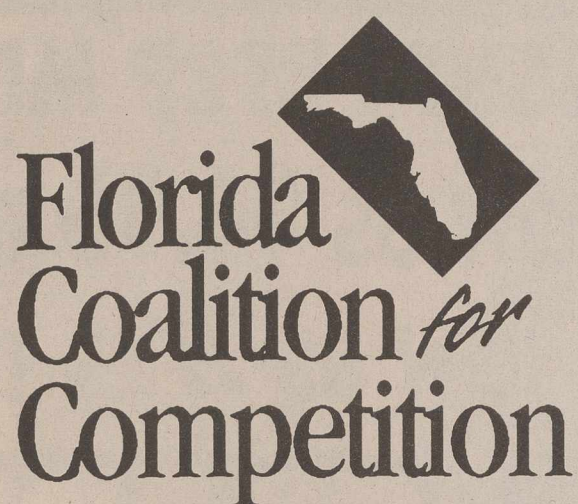
It's because local companies like GTE, Centel and United charge too much for access to their phone lines. And the cost gets passed on to YOU.

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Gibbs Class Of '68 Pays Tribute To Community Organizations

ST. PETERSBURG — As part of the Gibbs class of 1968's yearly recognition of organizations which have made a dramatic impact upon the quality of life for the citizens of St. Petersburg, the following organizations have been selected as the 1997 recipients of You Have Made A Difference award as well as a monetary contribution:

Hospice of the Florida Suncoast (Don Wood)

Community Lupus Support Group (Josephine Morris)

Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation local chapter (Mary Murph)

Operation Attack (Phyllis Bloomfield)

Southside Boys and Girls Club (Herb Murphy)

Enoch Davis Center (Wanda Mitchell)

Girls, Inc. (Doris Williams)

On hand for this year's presentations were several members of the above organizations as well as supporters and friends of the class of 68.



Photos by ERNEST FILLIAU



Rambling With Charles Howard

"Yesterday has gone, forget it.
Today is here, use it.
Tomorrow may not come,
So don't wait on it."
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More Unique Ways to Make Money

Scrap Craft. Unique, imaginative knickknacks, wall decorations, toys—even jewelry—can be made wholly of materials that cost you nothing. For instance, you can make colorful necklace beads of rolled paper; pebble animals and people that would cost \$5 in a gift store; trees, turtles and birds from pine cones and nut and sea shells; string wound around discarded tin cans for one-of-a-kind pencil holders or no-cost mosaics from borken flowerpots and tiles or bits of windshield glass.

Raw materials for these projects can be found in the woods, at the beach, in any trash pike or junkyard, and often, simply by talking to the manager of a retail store or factory. A printer might give you paper scraps, an upholsterer has odds and ends of cloth, foam rubber and webbing. Tile shops and garden shops will provide you with mosaic makings. Just use your ingenuity to ferret out a host of free materials to fire your creative talents.

For further information: *Art from Scrap*, Carl Reed and Joseph Orzie, Davis Publications, Worcester, MA, 1960.

Happy Birthday

Today, March 6: Dorothy Coleman, Charles Smith Jr and Mary Harper; March 7-12: Lee Harvey, Daisy Henry, Dave Vamer Sr, Yancy Thomas, Jordan Bell, Barbara Stewart, Otisha Wilson, Clementine Mells, Aisha F. Richardson, Tina Farris Battle, Deborah Postell, Diane Potter, Alice Highsmith, Charlene Hill, Justin Stewart

The class of '52 met on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Pinellas Point S home of Raiford (Leroy) and Toni Barton. The class addressed business at hand. First on the agenda was their upcoming annual spring dance on March 15 to be held at the Knights of Columbus hall, 1720 Central Avenue. Also the class is planning its 45th reunion the week of July 24-27 at the Marina Days Inn, 34th Street S. The group is busy getting out letters to classmates all over the country and making plans to have a successful reunion. Rosena Ashwood Sr. is president and Willene Mack is the vice.

Recuperating

After a bout of illness, Ann Quinn Gore of Graham apartments is recuperating. She was confined in Bayfront Medical Center for a couple of weeks. We are praying for a full recovery. Ann's granddaughter informed me that she has been moved to South Heritage nursing center. Mr. Gore has been a resident there for over a year. Here's hoping that the both of you are fine and you are in our prayers.

There are two...basic groups of people: the wishful thinkers who throw coins in fountains and the realists who fish them out. Until next week, jump to it!

True Gift To The Community



James McKenzie

ST. PETERSBURG — Do you remember where you were on Feb. 5, 1957? Jim "Mac" McKenzie does. He can state very proudly that it was his first day of work for the St. Petersburg Sanitation Department. Yes, this is not a misprint. It was 1957! And yes, all 40 years have been with the sanitation department. You can be assured Jim can tell you plenty of entertaining stories about his early years in "garbage" and his part in the sanitation department's disaster relief team.

The Sanitation Department is very proud of its employees

and their willingness to help others. Jim, along with a group of fellow sanitation employees, was a member of a relief team sent to help with the massive cleanup of Miami after Hurricane Andrew devastated the area and to Pinellas Park and Largo after a tornado tore through the communities.

Through his years of service to the city, Jim has held various positions in the department. For the last 7-1/2 years he has been a sanitation technician in the environmental division. As a professional sanitation technician, his duties require him to collect

and dispose of solid waste to assure a sanitary and healthy environment for all of us.

Jim is the proud father of four grown children and 12 grandchildren. His eldest son works for GTE; his youngest son works for an auto shop; his eldest daughter is a nurse in a physicians office and his youngest daughter works for the Urban League.

Sunday mornings, he can be found at the 20th Street Church of Christ.

When Jim is not behind the wheel of a giant payloador or an 18-wheel tractor trailer at work, he most probably will be found behind another wheel. As a member of the Night Riders Van Club for the last 12 years, he has traveled all over the US. Besides doing a lot of "trucking," the club does volunteer work within the community.

One of Jim's greatest pleasures is pursuing one of his favorite hobbies, fresh water fishing. He often travels around the state to find the perfect fishing spot.

When asked about retirement, Jim stated that was a long way off for him. And when he does retire, he doesn't plan on staying home for very long, the open road will be calling him to take off in his van or in his boat!

Help Keon's Family

ST. PETERSBURG — Keon Jovante Hooks was diagnosed with a rare blood disease in 1995 and needed a bone marrow transplant. His quest for a donor through various bone marrow drives failed. This factor led him to his mother Stacey Hooks. Although Stacy was an imperfect match for her only son, she gave what she could. The doctors require a donor to match 100%, Stacey was only half. Despite the efforts by doctors and nurses and two additional trans-

plants given by his mother, Keon's disease became fatal. He spent the first of the year traveling to and from the hospital until he was critically admitted. While in the hospital, his struggle for survival ended in a peaceful moment with his mother watching over him. Keon died on Feb. 21, 1997, short of his 8th birthday (March 8). Although the need for a bone marrow transplant is not rare, as an African American demand exceeds supply. As a community let us unite

and aid Keon's family through gifts of prayers and offering to defray the funeral expense. The Keon Hooks Memorial Fund has been established by Republic Bank. Donations can be made at any Republic Bank branch near you.

Also, continue to show your support and help finish the fight for Keon. For further information, contact the Marrow Donor program at 327-0618, ext. 136.

Family Health Fair

CLEARWATER — Children may receive free immunizations, eye exams, hearing screenings, dental exams and spinal exams at the 4th annual Highlight on Health family health fair Sunday, March 22

from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Long Center, 1501 Belcher Road N, Clearwater.

Other services offered include lead content screenings, fingerprinting/video identification and school physicals.

The event will also feature clowns, the Disney Muppets, police dogs, magicians and games. Thousands of professionals from businesses, community service organizations and the medical field volunteer to make this day possible.

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North Central Florida



A MOMENT IN AFRICAN- AMERICAN HISTORY

by Nadine L. Lewis



Can you name the African-American female educator who was appointed to serve three different presidents?

Mary Jane McLeod Bethune was appointed by President Herbert Hoover to the White House conference on child health in 1930. She became the first black female to head a federal office when President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her as his director of Negro affairs in the National Youth Administration. She also served as the personal representative of President Harry S. Truman at the Liberian government's inauguration ceremonies.

The daughter of slaves, Bethune described her mother as having queen-like dignity throughout all of her bitter years of slavery. She said of her mother, "Mother was of royal African blood, of a tribe ruled by matriarchs." Mary was the only one of her parents' 17 children to be born free from the chains of slavery.

Although born and raised in the humblest surroundings, Bethune was one of the most respected and admired women of any color in American history. Similar to other African-American heroines like Ida Wells Barnett, Bessie Coleman, Madam C.J. Walker and Fannie Lou Hamer, Mary McLeod Bethune set the stage for many of the prominent African-American leaders of today.

She had a strong desire to learn and once said, "The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read." After studying at North Carolina's Scotia Seminary, she went on to study in Chicago at Moody Bible Institute and later accepted a teaching position. During that time she also met and married Albertus Bethune and the couple raised one son.

Devoted to young African Americans and determined to educate them, Bethune eventually opened a school for black children. It is widely told that she founded her school, the Daytona School for Girls, with only \$1.50 and a burning desire to help her people. The school's first tuition was 50 cents a week.

Bethune later changed the name of the school to the Bethune School for Girls and then merged the Cookman Institute to become Bethune-Cookman College. B-CC has prospered to a student body of about 600 studying in more than a dozen modern buildings on a beautiful 32-acre mortgage free campus now valued at over \$1 million.

Mary McLeod Bethune shares a moment in African-American history.

Speakers Promote Job Based Training

PRIDE of Florida (Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc.) provides expert speakers to business meetings and organizations to increase awareness among Floridians about this innovative not-for-profit corporation which operates and manages the state's prison industries. PRIDE speakers address a variety of topics

including how the corporation has been working for over a decade to promote alternatives to crime in Florida through critical job training, education and job placement to inmates in 21 Florida prisons. PRIDE speakers can share their highly successful management and training techniques that have made them the leading prison industry

organization in the country. PRIDE's efforts have earned the corporation national and international recognition for developing work programs that serve as positive alternatives to crime. Organizations interested in inviting a PRIDE speaker to their meeting should contact Annette Plavisch at 813-572-1987.

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LIGHT OF THE WORLD

BY DANIEL BANKS

Lilies Of The Field

"Consider the lilies how they grow; they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

"If then God so clothes the grass, which is today in the field and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will He clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after and your Father knows that ye have need of these things.

"But rather seek ye the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:27-32)

As spiritual lilies of the field (see also Matthew 6:28), we can be dressed in the beauty and the glory of God's vast and precious love. We can be

arrayed with the blessed assurance that God will meet our needs and vanquish all our foes!

Dressing up on the outside with fashionable suits, garments, hats and accessories is a very temporal matter. Being properly dressed, spiritually, can win for us an eternal weight of glory. (See II Corinthians 4:17.)

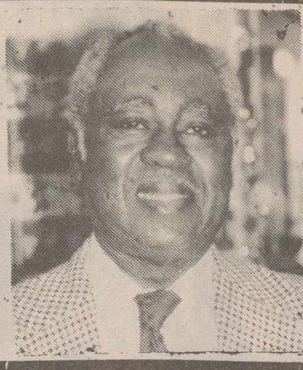
During this sacred and hallowed Easter season as we reflect on the pain and the passion of our Lord and Sovereign, Who ransomed His life for us, let us remember He said, "Take no thought!" Don't worry about tomorrow. Let us "launch out into the deep" with our "nets" and extend our existing faith. (See Luke 5:4-9.) Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (See Hebrews 11:6.)

The lilies of the field don't toil. Neither do they spin about! They grow and they reach up to heaven, all the while becoming ever increasingly more beautiful, as we should be inwardly!

Happy Easter and may the death-defying power of Jesus Christ be yours both now and throughout the eternal ages, world without end. Amen.

Ocala News

by James Thorpe



Musical Programs

The Federation of Brothers in Christ will hold their annual monthly singing program at 7 pm on Sunday, March 16 at Greater Hopewell. The public is invited.

A musical program will be held at 3 pm on Sunday, March 16 at Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church. Featured performers are Welcome Stranger Male Chorus and Sensations 5 of Daytona Beach.

Missionary Day

Greater Hopewell recently held its Missionary Day observance. This occasion was a weekend of activities. The theme was "Raising A Standard: Reaching Others for Christ."

A retreat was held on Saturday, March 8. Attendees participated in a large selection of relevant topics during the morning followed by a complimentary lunch. Rev. Bruce Chatmon of Covenant Baptist

Church was the afternoon motivational speaker. A very entertaining skit was also presented under the direction of Hester Throver. Revetta Lowe served as retreat chair. The retreat was the idea of first lady Vivian Lee.

On Sunday morning the YWAs and Matrons sponsored a prayer breakfast. Barbara Tuggerson of Mt. Zion AME was the speaker. Music was provided by Lachetta Snowden of New Zion and a praise dance by Kimberly Pompey of Pure Vision.

Sunday afternoon, Kimberly Lee of Beulah Baptist of Atlanta, GA was the keynote speaker. Kimberly is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. George W. Lee.

Cora Thorpe is Missionary Society president and Sandra Brown served as Missionary Day chair.

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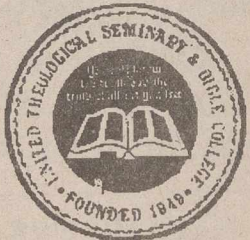
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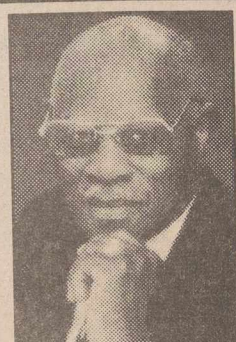


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Society In Ocala

by
Florence Williams Ray

107th Anniversary

On Sunday, March 16, New Zion MB Church, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. E.F. Broxton, will celebrate its 107th anniversary. The 11 am service will be conducted by Rev. Philips Samuel and the 4 pm service by Rev. Karl Flagg and Mt. Tabor of Palatka.

Important milestones for New Zion: The church was organized in 1890 in the home of Deacon Jackson and Matilda Vaughn with Rev. J.B. Lake as advisor. The first pastor was Rev. Isiah Glimp. Other pastors were Rev. V.S. Summers, H. Hammon, Charlie Holly, A.W. Tucker, McDuffie, J.B. Sharperson, T.B. Williams, Frank Rutland, R.F. Gary, F.W. Williams, A.R. Howell, W.W. Woods, W.B. Burner, C.L. Thornton, Marion Tindal, W.F. Cunningham and the present pastor, Rev. Broxton.

Rev. Marion Tindal was the first full-time pastor. This dream became a reality the first Sunday in May 1974. Under his pastorate, the idea was born to construct a new edifice. He served nine years until ill health resulted in early retirement. Rev. W.F. Cunningham was inspired by God to construct the present church. Construction began in 1980 and was

completed in April 1981.

The present pastor came in November 1984 with much energy and dedication. The church has experienced continuous growth under Rev. Broxton's leadership. The public is invited to join in the celebration.

Installation Program

On Feb. 23, the Son of David Lodge #21 F&AAY Masons held their installation service at New Zion MB Church in Ocala. Henry A. Tyler Jr. is worshipful master of the lodge.

Floyd Gipson was master of ceremonies. The program included a procession by the Masonic family, selections by New Zion Gospel Choir, devotion by Henry Brown, welcome and occasion by Horace Barnes, installation service conducted by Grand Master L.B. Nelson. Speaker for the occasion was Dr. Broxton.

Officers are Henry Tyler Jr., worshipful master; Raymond Weathers, senior warden; William Duncan, junior warden; Gary Majors, senior deacon; William Vernon, junior deacon; Floyd Gipson, secretary; Lorenzo Washington, treasurer; Johnny Davis, chaplain; Miquell Mack, junior steward; Ronald Carpenter, senior steward and Jason Sims, tyler.

Members are Jerry McGill, James McCullen, Horace Barnes, Rickey Smith, Virgil Robinson, Lewetha Grimes, Ricardo Hawkins, Hubert Turner, Shelly Bothwell Jr., Guss Clemones and Ivan Richards.

Senior Center Re-Opens

Ocala Recreation and Parks announces that the 8th Avenue Senior Center re-opened on March 1. The 60-year-old center at 830 NE 8th Avenue was closed after an electrical fire on Jan. 11, 1996, causing considerable damage. Activities will resume at the regularly scheduled times.

Drug-Free Fun Day

The Ocala Police Department, in conjunction with Weed & Seed and Parks and Recreation will host a Spring Break Drug-Free Fun Day on Wednesday, April 2, 10 am to 2 pm, at Lillian Bryant Park in Ocala.

There will be softball, basketball and volleyball games. The police department Explorers will be fingerprinting and the K-9 unit, bike unit and mounted patrol unit will also be present. There will be food, drinks and games for everyone. For more information, call Lynn Cyprian at 629-8554, Tina Greene at 620-7600 or Wanda Walker at 629-8251.

Community Fair

The Ocala/Marion County community awareness fair will be held on April 12 at Lillian Bryant Park, 2200 NW 17th Place, Ocala. Marion/Citrus Mental Health and Ocala Weed & Seed office will host the fair.

Agencies/organizations in

Ocala and Marion County will set up booths at the park to inform the residents of what services are available to the community. For more information, call 620-7600.

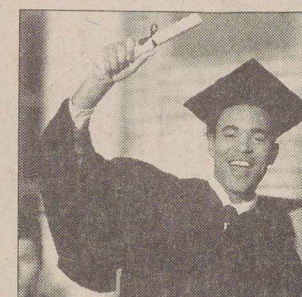
It's Spring: Know Your Rites

It has been said by writers and romantics throughout the ages that the world's favorite season is spring, and after a long, cold winter nothing is more mentally and physically reviving.

Here are some rejuvenating beauty rites of spring from the folks at Rembrandt Oral Care Products:

- Go au naturel. Trade in winter's heavy makeup for lighter shades or the "barely there" look of rosy cheeks and clear lip gloss. Chose a lighter or oil-free moisturizer to bring out your skin's natural glow.
- Smile with confidence. If your smile lacks the old sparkle, try a bleaching toothpaste such as Rembrandt's Dazzling White that can get teeth up to five shades brighter in just a few weeks. So make sure to start early.
- Let your hair down. Keep it well conditioned. The months of sun ahead will bring dry, brittle hair if it is not well maintained from the start.
- Wiggle your toes. Give yourself a pedicure with warm water and bath oil, then use a pumice stone to soften your soles. Push back cuticles with a towel and add a bit a color to your nails.

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PCUL Receives \$20,000 Donation



ST. PETERSBURG — At the league's last board meeting, Gordon Johnson, senior vice president and Pinellas County's senior banking executive for NationsBank, presented a \$20,000 check to

James O. Simmons, Pinellas County Urban League president/CEO, and attorney David Linesch, PCUL board chair.

This donation is part of a national cooperative agreement between NationsBank and the National Urban League whereby in areas where there is an UL affiliate

as well as a NationsBank presence, NationsBank is contracting with the local league affiliate to provide housing assistance to the community.

From several options available, the league selected housing counseling as its area of service to assist low-income individuals prepare for home ownership. In preparation for implementing this new service, Marjorie Stevens, director of programs for the PCUL, completed a four-day intensive training program conducted by NationsBank officials in Charlotte, NC.

The local Urban League affiliate will offer this service throughout the 1997 calendar year. Anyone wishing to discuss home ownership preparation should contact Stevens at 327-2081.

IT'S TIME TO HEAL The Racial Division in Our City.



Bill Klein is committed to the healing process—with personal hands-on involvement and leadership. "Our City must be One City. Our African-American citizens must be full and equal participants in the political, cultural and economic life of Our City."

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KLEIN FOR MAYOR

Paid political advertisement by the Committee to Elect Bill Klein Mayor, Joe Lucas Treasurer

Urban League Awards Contest Winners

ST. PETERSBURG — The Pinellas County Urban League's black-on-black crime prevention program hosted its 6th annual Black History Month essay contest awards ceremony on Saturday, March 1 in the St. Petersburg Times auditorium.

The essay contest, co-sponsored by the league and the Pinellas County school district's center for multicultural education, was open to students attending any school in Pinellas County. Approximately 250 entries were received, responding to the contest theme "What person of African American heritage has made the most impact on how you live your life today?"

Kenneth Jones, league crime prevention specialist, said, "In addition to recognizing Black History Month, this contest strives to increase awareness of the many contributions made by African Americans and the impact of those contributions on individuals and the community."

Awards were presented to the top three entries from elementary, middle and high school. In addition to trophies, first place winners received a portable am/fm radio cassette player and a \$20 gift certificate; second place winners received a Walkman am/fm radio cassette player and a \$10 gift certificate and third place winners received \$5 gift certificates. Gift certificates are redeemable at Tyrone Square.

Elementary school winners are Patricia Murtaugh, first place, Belleair Elementary; Nathan Reid, 2nd, Ridgecrest Elementary and Jenelle McKee, 3rd, Tyrone Elementary.

Middle school winners are Jessica Johnson, 1st, Tarpon Springs MS; 2nd, Jemier Jenkins, Riviera MS and 3rd, Kourtney Hutchins, Joseph Carwise MS.

High school winners are



Twanna Lake, 1st, Country-side; 2nd, Fatoumata Bakayoko, Boca Ciega; 3rd, Angie Clifford, Largo High.

In addition to the winners reading their essays, other program highlights included a message by Bill Maxwell, *St. Petersburg Times* columnist.

In his closing remarks, Jones said, "Contrary to what is being portrayed in the media, a huge majority of today's youth are crime and drug free, listening to their parents and doing positive things." The fact was demonstrated by the content of the essays. Jones thanked the co-sponsors and other contest supporters: Circuit City, Mercantile Bank, Northern Trust Bank, Publix and the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Heritage Banquet

TAMPA — An African-American heritage banquet was held on Feb. 28 at MacDill AFB.

Cloe Cabrera served as mistress of ceremonies. Other program participants included Lt. Faith Alcantara, MacDill Honor Guard, SSgt. Terri Flores-Payne, Thallas Lumpkins, Ann Madison, Gloria Anthony, guest speaker Dr. Israel Tibble Jr, Brig. Gen. John D. Becker and Katie Garnett. Belinda and Kool Reflections provided music.

Dr. Tibble is currently chair of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and president and CEO of the Florida Education Fund. Dr. Tibble comes to these positions with a wide range of experience in higher education, business and public service.



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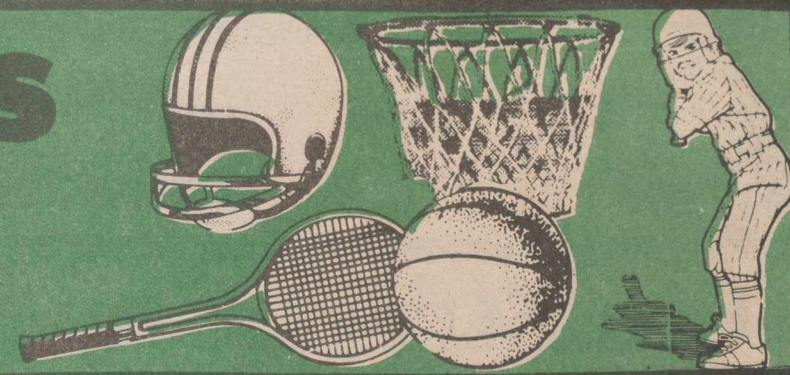
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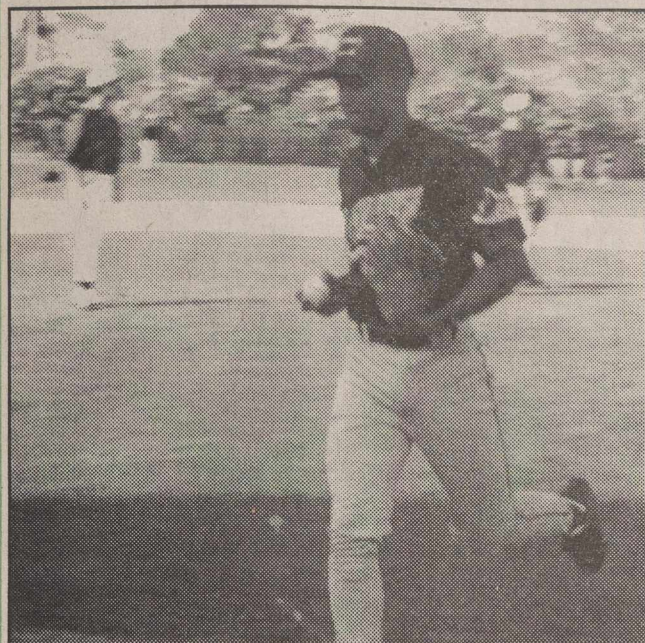
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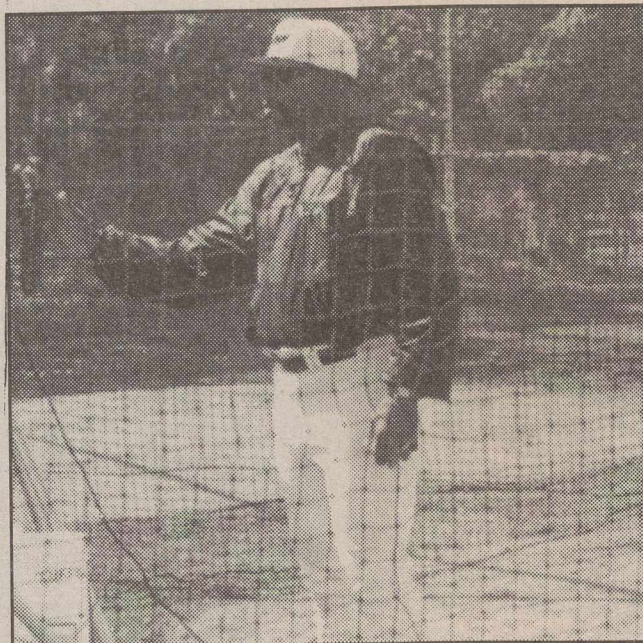
CHALLENGER SPORTS



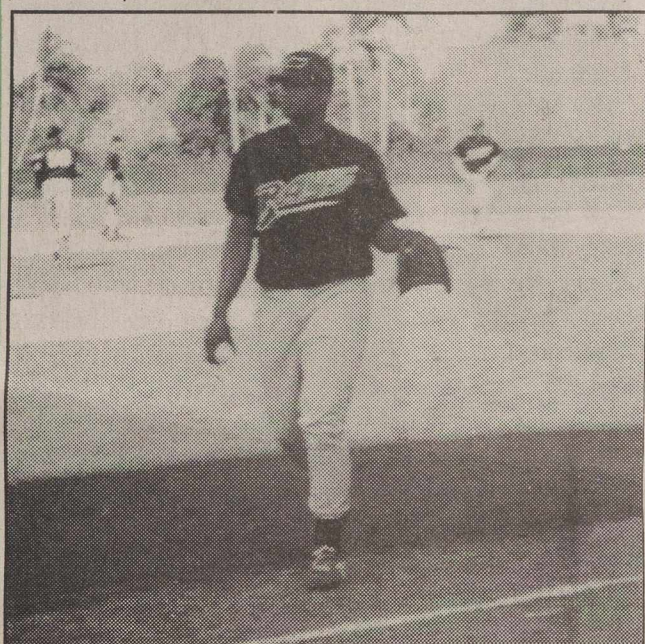
Spring Training 1997



Julio Aquino runs off field at spring training for the Tampa Bay Rays. PHOTO CREDIT: H.L.P.



Billy Hacher, batting coach for Tampa Bay Rays baseball team. PHOTO CREDIT: H.L.P.



Robin Cope is training for the Tampa Bay Rays at the spring training complex in St. Petersburg. PHOTO CREDIT: H.L.P.



Steve Henderson, batting coach for Tampa Bay Rays baseball team. PHOTO CREDIT: H.L.P.

by Norman E. Jane Jr.

(HIP)—March means spring training in Florida. The Tampa Bay area has more spring training history than anywhere else in America. St. Petersburg has more spring training history than other Florida city.

Next year, this city will make even more history as the new Tampa Bay Devil Rays will open their initial spring training facilities in Busch complex on the far northside of the city. Next year, the Devil Rays will make major league history when they play their home game in the Grapefruit League at historic Al Lang

Stadium. That will make them the only team in baseball history to have their spring training headquarters and their regular season home in the same city in the history of spring training.

Baseball in the spring came to St. Petersburg in 1914 when the St. Louis Browns came to town. They only trained in the city for that year. They were followed by the Philadelphia Phillies, Boston Braves, New York Yankees, New York Giants, New York Mets, Baltimore Orioles and the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Cardinals, who have trained in St. Petersburg every year since 1938, were here

before the invention of the television, VCR or the Internet. A five course dinner cost 65 cents. A couple could travel to Havana for less than \$75. This is their final March in St. Petersburg. The next time the Cardinals come to St. Pete, they will be the visiting team.

The Cards will be training in Jupiter next year. They spent 57 springs in St. Pete. The team will play its final game at Al Lang on March 25, 7 pm.

The Devil Rays will host a celebration of the baseball fans in the bay area on Sunday, March 9 at Al Lang. The event is designed to attract fans for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and to celebrate the first

university of baseball coming to St. Petersburg. It marked the end of a 20-year effort for the Pinellas County Sports Authority.

Baseball did not come easy for the city, especially for the residents of the African-American community. "We not only lost our community to build the stadium, we lost all of the culture of grandparents and parents," said a former resident of the Gas Plant area. "We don't have any jobs or service contracts at the dome."

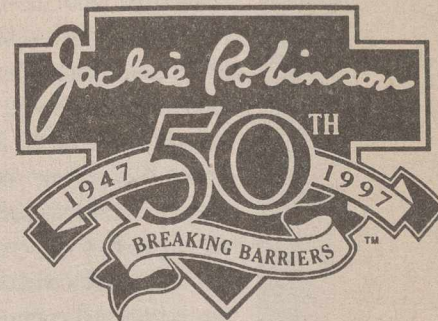
There are no African Americans in administrative positions for the Rays.

Devil Rays Launch Essay Contest

ST. PETERSBURG — Mayor League Baseball's Tampa Bay Devil Rays are sponsoring an essay contest for middle school students in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's historic debut in the major leagues.

In 500 words or less, middle school students will have the opportunity to express their view on how Jackie Robinson's heroics influenced the game of baseball.

For each county, the Devil Rays will award first, second and third place prizes to the



students and their schools. First place winners from each county will receive a \$250 savings bond, four tickets to a game in the inaugural season plus two tickets for their teacher, a Devil Rays t-shirt, a special pre-game tour of field and clubhouse and an auto-

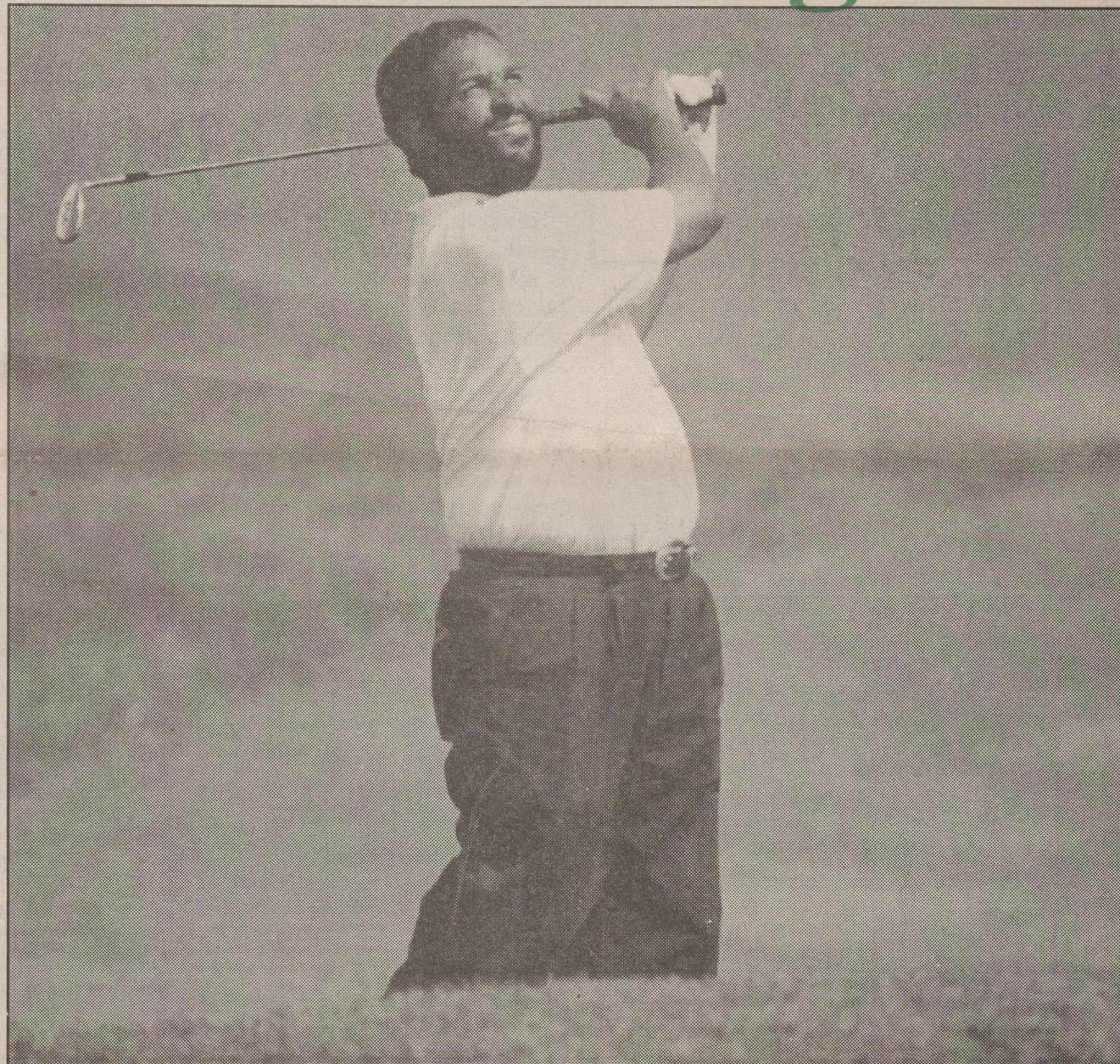
graphed ball from the 1998 Devil Rays. Second place winners receive a \$100 savings bond, four tickets to a game in the inaugural season plus two tickets for their teacher, a Devil Rays t-shirt and an autographed ball from the 1998 Devil Rays. Third

place finishers will receive a \$50 savings bond, four tickets to a game in the inaugural season plus two tickets for their teacher and a Devil Rays t-shirt.

The student's school will receive \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 respectively plus assistance from the Devil Rays on school fundraising efforts.

First place winners will be introduced and receive their awards at their schools on April 15, exactly 50 years to the date Jackie Robinson made his major league debut.

In The Swing



Bryant Gumbel

Bryant Gumbel is in the swing during the 8th annual Bryant Gumbel/Walt Disney World Celebrity Golf Tournament at Walt Disney World

Resort. The charity event earned \$650,000 for United Negro College Fund scholarships. Gumbel, veteran TV news and sports host, presided over

the weekend of golf activities that included a two-day celebrity/amen won by former NBA player Happy Hairston. Gumbel and Hairston were among

more than 70 celebrities, including 24 hall of famers, who participated. Copyright 1997. The Walt Disney Company

MLB Family Celebration

ST. PETERSBURG — Tampa Bay area families and baseball fans of all ages are invited to enjoy an evening with the families of major league baseball including current Cincinnati Reds second baseman Bret Boone and his father Bob Boone (former Phillies and Royals catcher). The celebration will take place from 5-7 pm on Sunday, March 9 at Al Lang Stadium and will include a two-inning father-son game, a second year birthday celebration for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, a mascot competition and father-son homerun derby. Admission is free and donations will be collected to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Suncoast and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay.

The major league baseball

family celebration is part of MLB's march to opening day, a series of spring training events designed to reach out and engage new fans by involving them in the celebra-

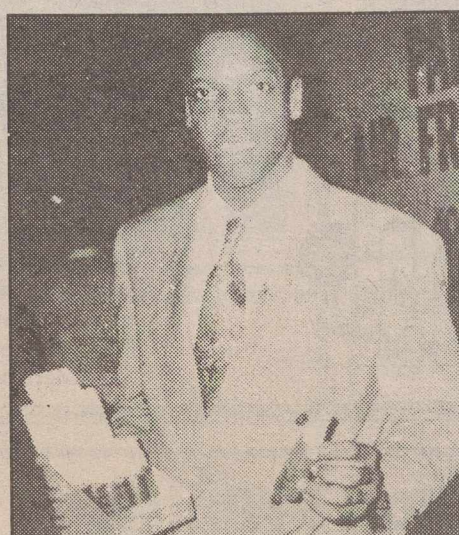
tion of major league baseball. Other families who will participate in the MLB family celebration include umpiring brothers John and Mark Hirschbeck; Philadelphia

Phillies broadcasters Harry Kalas and his son Todd and many more.

For more information, contact Tony Flores or Steven Cohen at 822-3384.

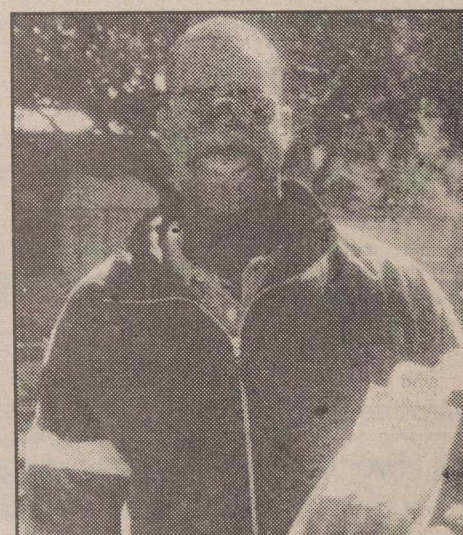
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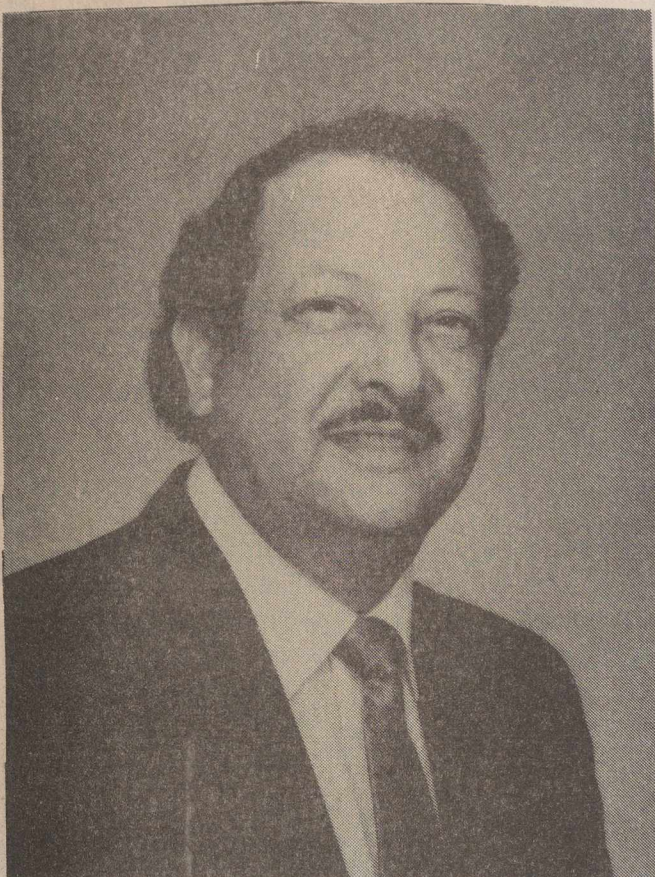
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CHURCH NEWS



10th Street Church Of God Revival



Rev. Eubanks

10th Street Church of God, 207 10th Street N., will hold revival services Monday-Wednesday, March 16-19 at 7:30 pm each evening with Rev. James Curtis Eubanks as evangelist. Rev. Eubanks received

CNBC Launches \$12 Million Initiative

God's call to the ministry in October 1979 and has been widely used by the Lord in various capacities in the Church of God movement. He is the pastor and founder of the Community Church of God in Ft. Lauderdale. He is also very active in the Florida State Association of the Church of God presently serving as first vice chair. He also chairs and serves on various boards and communities at the state level.

Rev. Eubanks was ordained in June 1986 and is totally dedicated to preaching the truth according to holy Scriptures without compromise or deviation. He is a retired commissioned officer with over 21 years of service in the USA and overseas, including a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Rev. Eubanks is a native of St. Augustine where he met and married the former Diana O. James. They have four grown children and 10 grandchildren.

The Congress of National Black Churches (CNBC) recently launched its church rebuilding and arson prevention initiative at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

At the cost of \$12 million, the initiative aims to rebuild and restore burned churches, prevent future arson and promote future ecumenical and multi-racial inclusiveness. Thirteen states including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Missouri, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana will see implementation of this aggressive initiative over the next three years.

CNBC received \$6 million in funding from the Lilly Foundation, Inc. for the initiative.

Together with HUD and the National Council of Churches, CNBC is part of the national rebuilding initiative established by President Clinton to ensure that burned churches receive rebuilding support quickly and efficiently.

During the press conference, the leaders of CNBC, chair Bishop L.H. Winbush of the Church of God in Christ and founder and chair emeritus Bishop John Hurst Adams of the AME church, applauded the initiative's goals of creating long-term commitments to restore communities and rebuild churches.

"This initiative signifies CNBC's long-term commitment to have our churches restored and communities healed," said Bishop Win-

bush. "The goal of the program is arson prevention and reduction. CNBC moved to develop a process to make the appropriate response. We also want to address the underlying causes by working at the local level to establish community coalitions that will remain in place long after the physical edifice has been restored."

In addition, since an overwhelming number of church arsons have been committed by young people, a special focus will be placed on educating youths. Primary and secondary school students will be encouraged to express their feelings about the burnings through essays and art which will be read and displayed prominently throughout the affected areas.

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

The education committee invites the public to its annual fellowship hour at 3 pm on Sunday, March 16. The theme is "Inspired by God Unto Good Works."

Minister Corey Hodges of Bethel Metropolitan will be

the guest speaker. Music will be provided by the Friendship MB Church Choir.

President Betty Jenkins and committee members encourage the members to support this annual fellowship hour.

Stewart-Isom Memorial CME

The women of Stewart-Isom invite the community to their annual Women's Day on Sunday, March 16. The theme is "Christian Women Working in the Community through Ministry and Worship." The 11 am speaker is Rev. Mary Campbell McKinney, the wife of Rev. Roscoe McKinney, pastor of Williams Memorial CME, Ft. Lauderdale.

Rev. McKinney is a graduate of North Dade Junior Senior High and Bethune-Cookman College. She recently completed a master of divinity degree at the Phillip School of Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA with honors and concentrated in missiology and world religions. In 1994 during a meeting of the college of bishops of the CME church, a historic decision was made after nearly 100 years absence, the denomination's first African-

American minister was sent to Africa as a missionary. At that time, Rev. McKinney, an ordained elder in full connection, began her assignment in Eket of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, West Africa. Well trained and equipped, she will represent the affairs of the church in this historic undertaking. She has 20 years experience with the Florida Dept. of Labor and Employment Security and has trained with several pastors.

Her recent completion of clinical pastoral education at the University Medical Center, Jacksonville, has equipped her to begin a development of a chaplain program at the 40 bed Bishop P.R. Shy Hospital in Eket. A healing ministry will be developed to provide pastoral care to staff patients and their families as they struggle with theological issues arising from their crises experiences.

The family that prays together, stays together.

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist

The Adrilla Cail Women's Service League's annual Tea is scheduled for Sunday, March 16 from 1 to 3 pm. The women's service league is in its 37th year at Bethel.

Pastor Henry J. Lyons and members invite you to Sunday services at 8 and 11 am. This week the Praise Team, Concord Choir and male usher board will serve.

Supt. Howard and the Sun-

day school department's 1997 enrollment campaign prayers are being answered tremendously. We have reached 80% of our prayerful goal of 500 by March 30.

You are encouraged to attend the Wednesday night AWANA, NBC, Bible study and prayer meeting at 7 pm for a clearer understanding of the Word. The March devotional leader is the steward-

ship committee. Transportation is provided.

Thursdays, Bible study, 12 noon; Saturday, mid-day prayer hour, noon to 1 pm.

Our licensed before/after school and tutorial programs are open Monday-Friday. Tutorial hours Monday/Tuesday are 4-6 pm; Wednesday/Thursday, 4-7 pm. Certified teachers are available each day to assist students with aca-

demic needs. Transportation is available to school in the mornings and from school to this site in the afternoon. Call director Pearl Anthony for further details at 328-2409 or 327-0554.

March 23, deaconess anniversary

March 29, Easter egg hunt
March 30, Easter program,
Circle #7 bake sale

THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE MARCH 25th

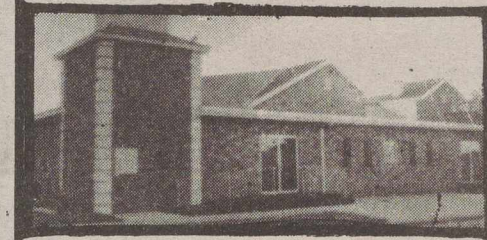
NOTICE ALL CHURCH NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4 PM ON MONDAY, OR IT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL THE NEXT EDITION OF THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER.

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church

2550 9th Avenue S.

St. Petersburg, FL

Rev. Joseph Gordon, Pastor



Early Morning Worship 7:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 4:30 p.m.
Communion 7:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"

Bethel Community Baptist Church



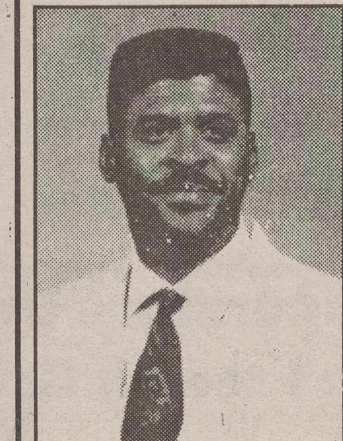
1045 - 16th Street S., St. Pete, FL 33712

PHONE: 896-6722

Rev. Manuel L. Sykes

Services

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Prayer Services Wed., 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study Wed., 7:30 p.m.



St. Joseph Church

2101 - 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg
Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg



Masses: Saturday 5:15 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. Gospel Choir
11 a.m. Traditional Choir
Order of Service from the
African-American Catholic Hymnal

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

505 - 35th Street S. • St. Petersburg, FL • 327-3186

Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Service Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Couples Ministry (3rd Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

Come join us at the Church where everyone is Welcome!



Rev. Earnest Jones, Pastor

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

3455 - 26th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL

33711

(813) 327-0554

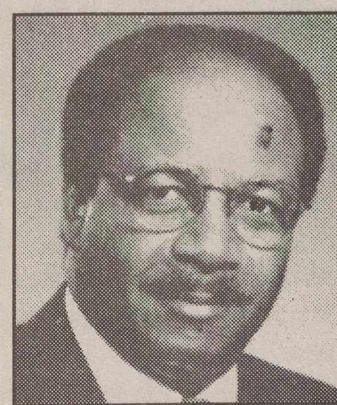
"Church of The Open Door"

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Wed. NBC/AWANA/Bible Study/Praise & Prayer
7:00 p.m.

Thurs. Midday Bible Study 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Sat. Noon Day Prayer Hour 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

DR. HENRY J. LYONS, PASTOR



Bealsville Church Of God

2006 Hollomon Road, Plant City, FL (So. of Hwy. 60)
Between Smith Ryals and Holloman Roads
Elder Martin Rainey, Pastor
1-737-1746

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Service: 11:30 a.m.
Mid-Week Tues. Night: 7:30 p.m.
Counseling and Bible Teaching
For transportation: Call 866-2589



STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1820 Walton Street S., St. Pete, FL 33712

(813) 327-0593

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

"To God Be The Glory"



Rev. Calvin Hopkins

The Holy Ghost Church of God Purchased With His Blood

2901 Fifth Avenue S. St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Bishop W.D. Holcy, Pastor

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.
Y.P.W.W. 6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Bible Band 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Prayer & Worship Service 7:30 p.m.

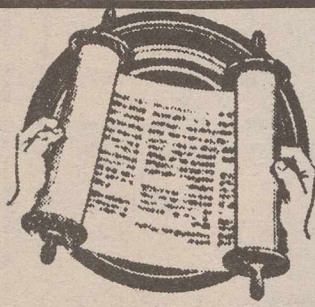
Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church

3700 22nd Avenue S. • 321-0020

Elder Clarence L. Warren, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

The church where everyone is welcome & the Spirit of Christ lives.





CHURCH NEWS



Dynamic Youth Choir Releases Third Album



TM Mass Youth Choir

Intersound, an Atlanta-based record label, announces the release of the TM Mass Youth Choir's *He's Been Good*. The new album from Truth Ministries Mass Youth Choir is as energetic and powerful as it is uplifting and spiritual with a message for all ages.

Originally formed in 1990, the choir's captivating sound

enthralled the attention of Gospel music lovers around the US and their 1993 release *Send Your Anointing*, climbed Billboard's Gospel chart for 36 weeks, featuring the ever-popular "Rock of Ages."

The Indianapolis-based choir has performed on both coasts with Gospel giants like Kirk Franklin, Yolanda Adams, John P. Kee, Rev.

Milton Brunson and many more. The choir continues today with some of the church's most explosive and anointed youths ministering at their annual youth camps.

He's Been Good, dedicated to the TM youth camp staff members and campers who share in the ministry, features something not frequently done in Gospel music—an

extended re-mix of a couple of selections from *He's Been Good* titled "Skate Mix." This 8-minute mix of "They That Wait" and "What A Friend" is especially designed for the skaters on the rink and aerobic dancers. It's one fiery dance mix filled with the message of God. *He's Been Good* is in stores now.

Conference President Speaks At Elim

Elder R.R. Brown, president of the southeastern conference of Seventh-Day Adventists will be the guest speaker at 11 am on Saturday, March 15 at Elim. Elder Brown oversees 112 churches from Miami to S Georgia with a membership of over 23,000 members including several Spanish and French churches. Brown has been conference president for the past six years with headquarters in Altamonte Springs.

Dr. Lewis T. Edwards, pastor and members invite you to worship at Elim, 801 6th Ave. S, every Saturday beginning with 9 am Sabbath school, divine worship at 11 am and Adventist youth service at 5:30 pm. Come and receive a mid-week blessing at the Wednesday night prayer

meeting at 7:30. Then on Friday at 7 pm, let's get together as a church family and spend the beginning of the Sabbath together.

March 22, Community Guest Day and Easter Cantata; March 23-29, revival week, Pastor C. Robinson

Inquiries regarding these program as well as transportation will be answered at 894-5246. Betty Hayward, reporter

NOTICE
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NEWS MUST BE
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ON MONDAY, OR IT
WILL NOT BE PUB-
LISHED UNTIL THE
NEXT EDITION OF
THE WEEKLY
CHALLENGER

PRAYER HELPS

Greater Mt. Zion AME Church

Pastor Robinson and members invite the public to Sunday services at 7:30 and 11 am and church school at 9:30. Music for the day will be provided by the Male Chorus and Sounds of Zion.

In preparation for the Easter concert, all choir members will have rehearsal on Saturday, March 22 at 1 pm.

The women's Bible ministry will sponsor a workshop on Saturday, March 22 with speakers Rev. and Mrs. Dwight Rodgers.

The O.L. Nicks women's missionary society is sponsoring a queen contest.

Stewardship board #3 invites you to join them in service on Friday, March 21 at 7:30 pm.



Faith is a gift bestowed by the Lord, joyfully illuminating your path in a way no other light can. It enables you to overcome obstacles, to endure hardships and to persevere until you reach your goal. Would you like to walk by faith? God is eager to grant His priceless gift to you, if you will only ask for it.

Moore's Chapel AME

Rev. M. Mason Walker and members welcome everyone to services on Sunday, March 10 at 8 and 11 am and church school at 9:30.

Geraldine Gray will preach at 8 am and Rev. Walker at 11 am. Music will be provided by the African Freedom Singers directed and accompanied by Michael Melvin. The stewardship and usher boards will serve.

The lay organization meeting will be held at 7 pm on Monday, March 17.

Sister to sister Bible class meets on Saturdays from 8 to 10 am. You are invited to experience a new beginning.

Wednesdays, 12 noon prayer service and 7 pm prayer service/Bible study

March 22, Pastor's Aide board meeting, 4 pm

March 27, breast cancer

awareness forum. All women are invited.

March 29, church school

Easter egg hunt, 3:30 pm

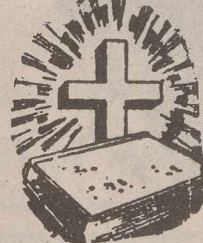
March 30, Easter sunrise service, 5:30 am; Easter program, 9:30 am; Daisy Pierce/Fannie Williams Missionary Society will sponsor breakfast following sunrise service.

Prayer Tower Church Of God In Christ

1135 37th Street South, St. Pete, FL

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Service 11:30 a.m.
YPWW 5:30 p.m. Sunday
Church Service 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Night Services 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday Services 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Bible Band, Thursday 7:30 p.m.



Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

1800 18th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL

Reg. Bragg L. Turner, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Membership Training 5 p.m.
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Tuesday 7 p.m.



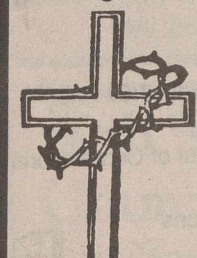
"The Church That's Moving Forward Together"

Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

532 33rd Street S., St. Petersburg, FL

Rev. Dr. J.L. Holloway

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Tuesday Night
General Bible Study
Thursday Night Prayer Meeting & Teachers Meeting
We welcome you at all times.

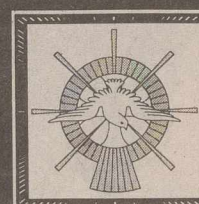


Bibleway Church Of God In Christ

3774 19th Avenue S., St. Pete, FL

Elder Sylvester Reeves, Pastor

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Noon Service 12 noon
YPWW 6:30 p.m.
Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.
Weekly Service begins at 7:30 p.m.
Bible Band, Tuesdays, Tarry Service, Wednesdays
"Where the Lord's Spirit and Blessings Flow Gently."



New Philadelphia Community Church

The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

2335 - 22nd Avenue South

P. O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Wisdom School 9:50 AM • Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)

Deacon Ministry Deacon Edward Nesbitt
Finance Ministry James Robinson
Children & Youth Ministry Joyce Robinson
Clerk Ministry Wyonna McGee

"A Church With Passion For God and Compassion For People"



St. John Missionary Baptist Church

1500 N. Pennsylvania Avenue

Clearwater, Florida 33516

Church Phone: 443-1945 Parsonage: 446-6056

Rev. Fleming Tarver, Pastor

Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Weekly Services

Bible Class Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

The church where everybody is somebody and Christ is all.

FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

PHONE: 323-7518

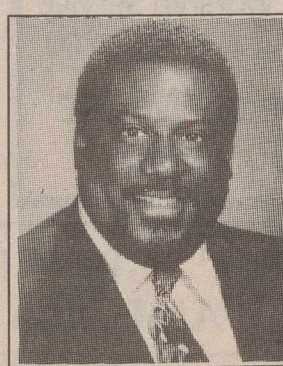
REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

COME WORSHIP WITH

THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY



Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

955 20th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone: 894-4311

Sunday School: 8:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 7:00 a.m. * 9:00 a.m. * 11:15 a.m.
New Membership Class: Sunday, 8:00 a.m.;
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.
(Adult and Youth)



Rev. Wilkins Garrett, Jr.,
Pastor

Also offering tutoring, free lunch, mentoring, day care, after school care, boy scouts, private school.

TRAVELERS REST

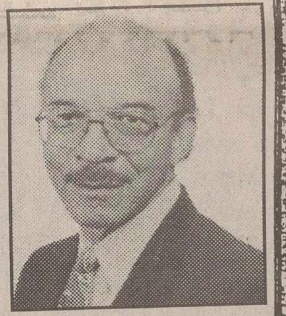
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2183 22nd Avenue South, St. Pete, FL 33712

Church Phone: 822-4869

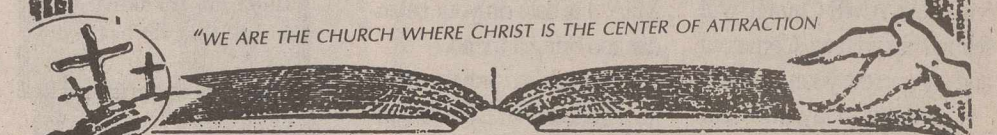
Residence: 894-5094

Mid-Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Prayer/Praise Service (Wednesday) 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Every 2nd & 4th Sunday) 6:00 p.m.



Rev. Donald F. Browne

"WE ARE THE CHURCH WHERE CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION"



New Faith

Free Methodist Church

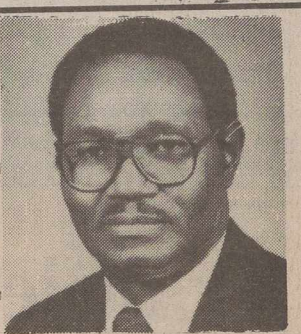
2427 Irving Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL

Phone: 824-2814, Pastor • 323-1290, Church

THEME: Looking Upward, Searching Inward, Striving Onward

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM
YOUTH BIBLE STUDY WED. 6:30 PM
ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER SERVICE WED. 7:00 PM



Rev. Curtiss L. Long, Pastor

GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Rev. Charles Robinson, Pastor

Early Morning Worship 7:30 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. • All Male Bible Study Tues. 6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Bible Study and Luncheon Wed. 11:00 a.m.

Co-ed and Adult Bible Study Thurs. 6:30 p.m.

Support Group Every Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Live Broadcast WRXB (Every Sunday 8:30 a.m.)

DIAL-A-DEVOTION (24 Hours) 822-1936 • Tape Ministry • Bus Ministry

Need a tape of a service or transportation - Dial 894-1393

("The church with a heart in the heart of the city")



Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

912 - 3rd Avenue North • Phone: 822-2089

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Prayer Service/Bible Study Tues. 7:00 p.m.
Junior Church Fellowship Thurs. 6:00 p.m.
Tutoring Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-6:30 p.m.



The Rev. Harry L.
Dawkins, M. Div., Pastor

Welcome... This church opens wide the door -
and in the name of Christ and Our Lord says: "COME!"

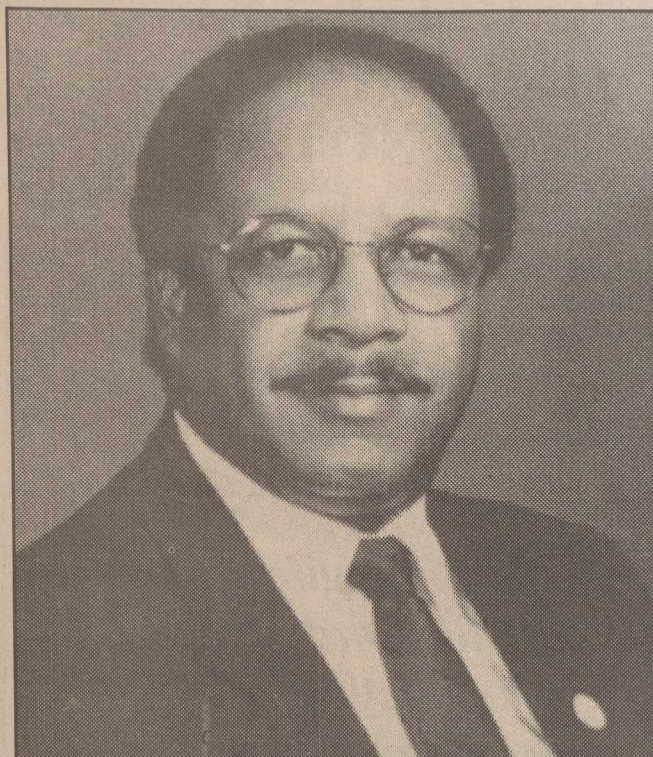
TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE



CHURCH NEWS



St. John MB Hosts Convention



Dr. Henry J. Lyons

CLEARWATER — St. John MB Church will serve as the host for the 83rd annual session of the Progressive Missionary & Educational

Baptist State Convention. The convention will meet in Clearwater March 17-21. Special programs and services for the more than 300

The Sweetness Of Peace

*After the clouds, the sunshine, After the winter, the spring
After the shower, the rainbow, For life is a changeable thing*

*After the night, the morning, Bidding all darkness cease;
After life's cares and sorrows, The comfort and sweetness of peace.*

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal

Rev. Harry L. Dawkins and members invite everyone to Sunday, March 16 services: 9 am Sunday school and 10:30 am worship hour.

The Acolyte Induction service will be held at 4 pm. The Rev. Charles Robinson and Mt. Zion AME Church will fellowship with us. Come out and support the young people.

Founder's Day/mid-year will be held on March 13, 14, 15 in Jacksonville.

The stewardess board cordially invites you to attend their Tea on Sunday, March 16 following the 10:30 am

worship service in William-Harris fellowship hall.

Big news! Annual Lay Day will be held April 20 during the 10:30 am worship service. Dr. Lynette Pennington, noted educator and speaker, will bring the morning message. Mark this date on your calendar and bring a friend.

Wednesdays, prayer meeting at noon with the Missionary Society.

Youth church will meet at 6 pm on Thursdays. Come and bring your children. The community is invited. For more information, call 822-2089.

members attending will be held at the downtown Clearwater Harborview Center. Area churches will house the week-long auxiliary group meetings.

National Baptist Convention of America President E. Edward Jones of Shreveport, LA and National Baptist Convention USA President Henry J. Lyons of St. Petersburg will be the special guest speakers during the week. Dr. J.C. Wise, president of the Florida General Baptist Convention will also appear on the program. State and local political officials as well as community leaders will greet the convention on Tuesday night at the musical program.

St. John MB Church is located at 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Clearwater, Rev. Fleming Tarver, pastor. Dr. N.S. Sanders of Lakeland is convention president.

All Nations Church

The Adult Choir of All Nations will hold its pre-Easter program at 7:30 pm on Thursday, March 27 at the church, 3034 4th Avenue S. The theme is "Resurrecting the Family." Pastors James and Johnnie L. Williams

How wonderful are the works of the Lord, especially His creation, mankind. The miracle of birth...the look of awe on a child's face...the beauty of enduring love...these are all revelations of that Spirit which created each and every one of us. How often do you think of thanking God for all that He has given you?

St. John Missionary Baptist Church

Members are preparing to celebrate their church's 35th anniversary and Pastor Steve Thomas' 29th anniversary. The theme is "Empower Us, Lord, as We Endeavor to Work Together in Love."

Several activities have been planned including:

Women in White at 6 pm on Sunday, March 16; guest speaker, Vernell Carter of Mt.

Zion Progressive

Spaghetti dinner, Friday, March 21, 5 pm

Church family day, Saturday, March 29, 11 am-4 pm, Campbell Park, 5th Avenue S pavilion

Program nights are scheduled for the week of April 7-11 and the anniversary celebration will end with a day of worship on April 13. Deliver-

ing the 11 am family and friends day message will be the Rev. John Chance of Mt. Zion Progressive. Rev. Joe L. Holloway of St. Paul MB Church will deliver the 3 pm message.

We look forward to a spiritually uplifting celebration and ask for the prayers and support of the church family and friends.

For Teens In Trouble, Help Is A Hotline Away

by Father Val Peter
For News USA

(NU) - The phone rings late at night at our Boys Town National Hotline. Ashley, a 13-year-old girl, is calling from New Jersey where she and her alcoholic mother recently moved from San Diego.

Ashley is in the 8th grade at middle school. She is very lonely and very angry at her father for abusing and abandoning her. Now she's starting to experiment with alcohol and drugs.

A referee at a skating rink near her new home talked her into having sex with him every week for a month. She is so ashamed because this 20-year-old "doesn't really love me." He introduced her to drugs. She is calling from her friend's house. Life seems worthless. And she indicates a plan to hurt herself.

Thank goodness she called. Thank goodness we could reach out to help her.

Ashley is not a pretty sight. But she is one of God's children, and she is in need.

She trusted us enough to make the call, so we arranged for her to come and live with us. She is one of those kids who — if we were not there

for her — would possibly be just another teen-age suicide in the death notices of the local paper.

Abused kids like Ashley are six times more likely to get involved in drugs and alcohol. They are 11 times more likely to be involved in promiscuity. The suicide rate among them is very high ... unless someone intervenes.

That's where you and I come in.

There is someone in your own family, in your own community, hurting right now. The first thing they do not need is a long lecture on morality. That all can come later. And, of course, it should. For without moral fiber, life is nasty and brutish.

What they first need is warmth, welcome and the assurance that we will help them. Even if you only listen to them. That's help. Tell them to call our Hotline at 1-800-448-3000. It's amazing what each one of us can do when we simply go a little out of our way.

Let the cold March wind outside remind you of the warmth and light you have to give. March is a great month

NOTICE
ALL CHURCH
NEWS MUST BE
RECEIVED BY 4 PM
ON MONDAY, OR IT
WILL NOT BE PUB-
LISHED UNTIL THE
NEXT EDITION OF
THE WEEKLY
CHALLENGER.

Greater St. Paul MBC

Everyone is welcome to worship with Pastor Joe L. Holloway and members as they celebrate their 67th anniversary. Sunday school is at 9:30 am and morning worship at 10:45.

The Mass Choir will sing under the direction of Pauline Blasingame, assisted by director Bradley Thurman and

organist Joe Thomas. Usher Board #2 will serve.

The community is invited to the 4 pm service on Sunday, March 16. Rev. Fleming Tarver and St. John Baptist of Clearwater will be guests.

For information or transportation to any service, call 327-7107. Sara Nash, reporter

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

— Psalms 32:1-2



Traveler's Rest

Rev. Browne and members invite everyone to Sunday services. The Mass Choir and male ushers will serve.

Thursday, March 13, mid-day Bible study, 11 am; Mass Choir rehearsal, 7 pm; Pulpit Aide meeting, 6 pm

Saturday, March 15, CYA Choir rehearsal, 10 am; Chris-

tian education ministry and evangelism ministry, 11 am Wednesday, March 19, prayer and praise service will be conducted by the Tommie Engerville Circle beginning at 7 pm.

If anyone needs transportation to any worship service, call the church at 822-4869.

First. Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

1121 22nd Street So., St. Petersburg, FL
Rev. Wallace Elliott, Pastor

Church Services

8:00 a.m. Morning Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. B.T.U.

"THE LITTLE CHURCH WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY"

ELIM Seventh-Day Adventist Church

801 - 6th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

(813) 894-5246 / 823-1619

SATURDAYS

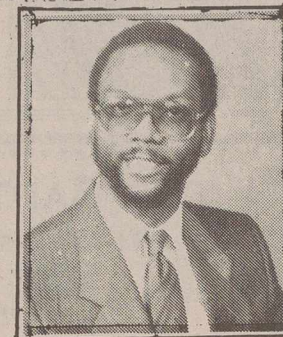
Sabbath School: 9 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Youth Hour: 1 Hour Before Sunset

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Meeting: 7:30 PM

LEWIS W. EDWARDS
M.A., M.DIV., D. Min.
Pastor-Counselor

ELIM Junior Academy & Day Care Center



Friendship

Missionary Baptist
2315 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL



CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays 8 AM and 11 AM Worship
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Baptist Training Union 4:30 PM
Prayer Meeting Thursday 7:30 PM

"Where strangers meet with friends and sinners find their God."

Good Samaritan Baptist Fellowship

Meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church
4201 6th Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida

Sunday Worship Service: 8:45 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 P.M.

• Wholistic Ministry (Physical, Mental, and Emotional)

• Bible Based Fellowship Considering the Biblical Commands in Light of Contemporary Problems

• Promoting the Self-Worth and Equality of All Persons

• Non-Sexist Participation • Youth Ministry

NATHANIEL W. TINDALL, II, PASTOR



Moore's Chapel AME Church

Rev. M. Mason Walker, Pastor
321-3545

3037 Fairfield Avenue St. Petersburg, FL

Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Grand Central Progressive Baptist Church

1401 - 18th Ave. S. • St. Pete, FL 33705
Rev. Clark Hazley, Sr., Pastor • 896-6843

Sunday School 10 a.m. / Morning Worship Service 11 a.m.

Weekly Activities

Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Choir No. 1, Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Rehearsal, Saturday Evening 4:30 p.m.

"The Church where God is Love and you are Loved."

Visitors Welcome

GREATER LIGHT AME Zion Church Inc.

1400 - 9th (MLK) Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701 • (813) 823-3611

Pastor: Rev. Harry Jones

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Friday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

"EVERYONE IS WELCOME"

AND REMEMBER THAT JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!



FIRST MT. PILGRIM EVANGELIST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

2700 - 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL

Reverend L.P. Davis, Pastor

Home Phone: 345-3121

Sunday Worship

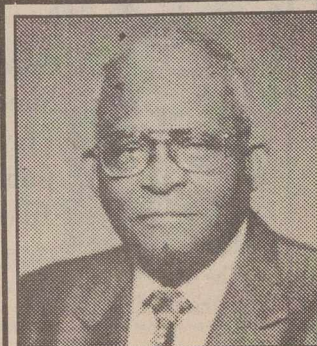
Sunday School 10:00 am Baptist Training Union 4:30 pm

Morning Worship 11:30 am Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7:00 pm

Friday Evening - Youth Meeting 6:30 pm

The Church That Welcomes Everyone!



Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

2361 Seventh Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida
Rev. John Copeland, Pastor

Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Mid-Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Class Wed. 7:00 p.m.

Communion is observed quarterly the first Sunday after every 5th Sunday.

For transportation to the church, call 327-8196 or 327-2391.

The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome





CHURCH NEWS



Trials And Tribulations Are A Part Of Living

by Junious Ricardo Stanton

During the course of our lives, each one of us will encounter a myriad of circumstances and situations which will severely test our mettle. It is one thing for things to unravel because we failed to adequately plan or to consider the consequences of our actions, but it is something else to be forced to grapple with circumstances beyond our control. Often we ask "why me?" as if we are the only one on planet earth who is going through difficulty.

A wise teacher once said, "In this world you will have tribulation..." He advised his listeners to "be of good courage." When we are facing tragedy or going through the fires of life, it is often difficult to be of good courage if we think we are all alone or ill equipped to handle the vicissitudes of life. Therein lies the key to dealing with life confidently and optimistically. Knowing you are not alone and that you are fully equipped by the Creator to deal effectively with whatever comes your way. This is not to say everything will be pleasant, but you will be able to cope because you are not alone!

While it may appear that others rarely experience the pain and suffering you encounter, no human is immune to the storms of life. All of us will experience our share of

disappointment, heartache, loss of loved ones or the failure of plans or dreams to turn out the way we want. Each time you are faced with such a situation, you have to make a crucial decision. You will have to decide how you will view and respond to it. Will you choose to see it as an overwhelming defeat, a problem that you are incapable of handling? Or will you view it as a temporary condition, a lesson along life's way, one that will not destroy you or cripple you? Will you look at the situation as a catalyst to develop your ingenuity and competence? Will you ask yourself: "What lessons can I learn from this experience? What can I discover about myself?"

The good news is that you are never alone in any situation. Divine intelligence and power are ever present in your midst, ready, willing and able to come to your aid and assistance. To contact the divinity within, simply turn your consciousness inward. Get quiet, still your mind, close out the outside world. Listen in the stillness for Divine Wisdom to speak to your deepest needs. The strength, resolve and courage you need to transcend whatever crisis is before you, are within you. The wisdom, guidance and intelligence you need to sustain you is closer than your skin. The resourcefulness you need to

find a solution or make a way out of nowhere is within you.

The solutions you need may come to you in a dream or as a flash of insight, a hunch or an idea that seems to pop into your consciousness out of nowhere. The right person or persons may come into your life at just the right time to provide the needed services, support or help. These things will not be coincidences, they will be the channels Omneity uses to meet your needs, answer your prayers and help you solve your problems.

Keep an open and receptive mind. Expect things to work out for your highest good and for the good of all concerned. Give thanks, even in the midst of adversity for this is an opportunity for personal growth, expansion and maturity. Turn the situation completely over to the omnipotent and omniscient spirit that dwells within you. Keep in mind that faith is not passive. It requires confidence and courage. It takes courage to remain patient in the face of seeming disaster. It takes strong faith to remain confident when the outward signs point to defeat or humiliation. It takes a powerful will not to cave in in the midst of agony or suffering.

Muster your inner resources, never give up on yourself. Be prepared to do whatever it takes to resolve the situation. Follow your hunches and

flashes of intuition. They are guideposts along life's way. Life can be difficult, but there is a way. Be of good courage. The Divine I Am in the midst of you is mighty.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE MARCH 25th

Pleasant Grove

The church anniversary observance continues nightly at 7:30 and concludes at 3:30 pm on Sunday, March 16.

New Philadelphia

Children/youth will lead worship for the 5th Sunday in Lent. The continuing focus is observance of Women's History Month. Youth will share various perspectives both past and present on the impact of women from a Biblical point of view. All members are urged to support the children/youth by their presence.

The trustees will meet at the conclusion of mid-morning worship hour. All trustees are requested to attend. Information vital to the financial progress of the church will be discussed.

A ministry of prayer and

fasting will be initiated by the male leadership of the church. This prayer chain will include ordained leaders and laity. All prayer requests will be channeled through the missionary ministry. All interested members may contact Rev. Mary Wheeler-Jones or Pastor Gaskin.

Plans are being finalized for the annual spring retreat of children/youth. The youth ministry will sponsor an activity-filled weekend of counseling, instruction, fun and games. Parents will be provided permission slips prior to the event.

NOTICE ALL CHURCH NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4 PM ON MONDAY, OR IT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL THE NEXT EDITION OF THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER.

Shepherd Men's Basketball Ministry

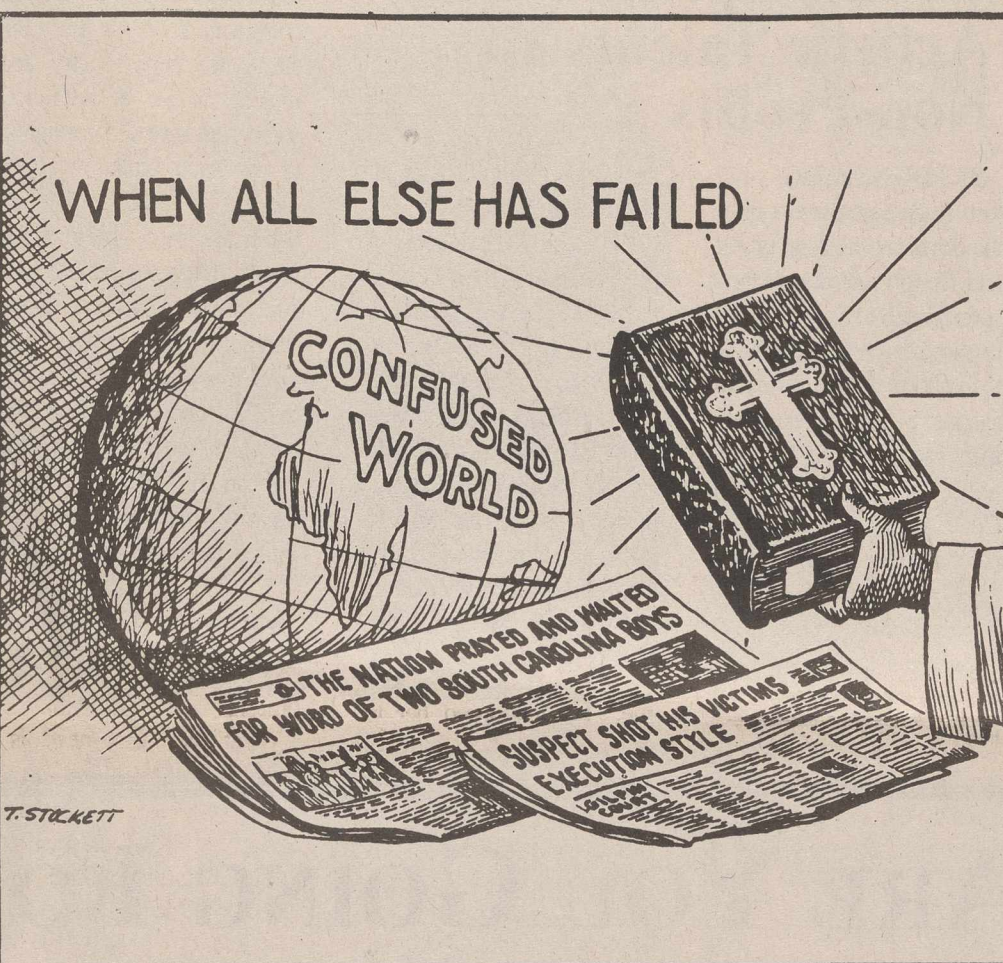
The ministry is now entering its 7th week of league play at Lakewood High and invites the public to come out and help support the ministry by cheering on your favorite church team. There is no admission charge.

Mayor David Fischer has been invited to speak to the ministry at 6 pm on Saturday, March 15. Hope to see you there.

Week 7 Schedule

12 noon, Bethel Community vs Pentecostal Temple/Prayer Tower
1 pm, New Mt. Zion Tampa vs Greater Mt. Zion AME

2 pm, McCabe vs Police Department
3 pm, Trinity vs Mt. Moriah & Traveler's Rest
4 pm, Northwest Church of Christ vs Great St. Paul/Armour of God
5 pm, New Mt. Olive vs Southside Tabernacle
6 pm, Stewart Isom vs Fire Department
7 pm, St. John Clearwater vs Galilee/Gethsemane
8 pm, Mt. Zion Progressive vs Fifth Avenue COC
9 pm, Pleasant Grove vs Elim
Bye, Friendship/First Baptist vs Southside COC



Things We Cannot Understand

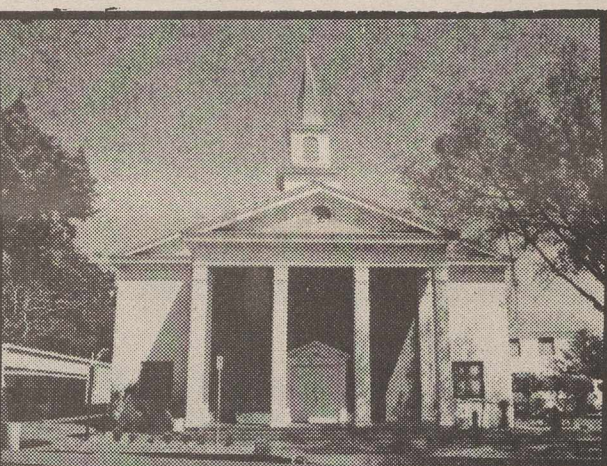
There are many things in life that we cannot understand, But we must trust God's judgment and be guided by His hand, And all who have God's blessings can rest safely in His care, For He promises safe passage on the wings of faith and prayer!

10th Street Church Of God

207 10th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting/
Bible Study 7:15 p.m.
Evening Worship (1st & 3rd Sunday) . . 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Chester L. James, Jr. - Pastor
International Headquarters, Anderson, Indiana



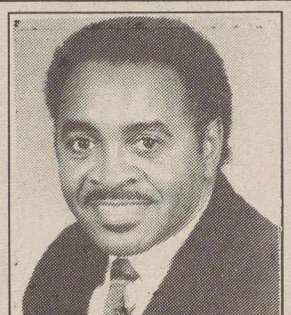
ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2025 W. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32805
ORDER OF SERVICE
Sun. Early Morning Service 7:30 AM
Sun. Sunday School & Orientation Class 9:30 AM
Sun. Morning Service 11:00 AM
Sun. Communion Service (1st Sunday) 1:00 PM
Sun. B.T.U. 4:45 PM
Tues. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM
I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1
REV. FRED L. MAXWELL, PASTOR

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

2120 19th St. S., St. Pete • 896-5228

10:30 AM PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY
9:00 AM CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY
5:00 PM FELLOWSHIP & DINNER TUESDAY
7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY
6:00 PM PRAYER SERVICES TUESDAY
7:30 PM MASS CHOIR REHEARSAL THURSDAY

Join us for any of our services where you will always find "JESUS BEING PREACHED AND TAUGHT"



Rev. Alvin Moore, Pastor

Bible Holiness Church of God in Christ

419 5th St. S., St. Pete, FL 33701
Church: 898-3838 • Res: 821-9501

Pastor: Elder B.O. Walker

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Mid-Week Service Friday 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Tuesday Morning 9 a.m.
"Everyone Is Welcome"

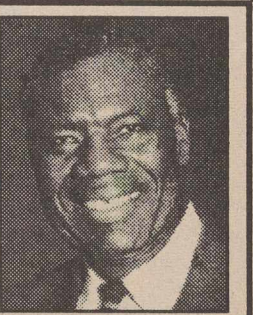


TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2830 - 22nd Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
(813) 327-8560

9:00 AM Prayer Time
9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
12:30 PM After Service Fellowship
Wednesday 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

You are invited to share spiritual nurturing, preaching of the Gospel and a Christian community for everyone



Dr. Frederick D. Terry

All Nations Church of God By Faith

3000 - 4th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL

327-6866 • 327-2656

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Night Worship 7 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Class 8 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 8 p.m.
Friday Tarry Service 8 p.m.
Saturday Sabbath School 11 a.m.

Rev. Johnnie Lee Williams, Pastor

St. John Missionary Baptist

3200 5th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL

Rev. Steve Thomas, Pastor

EARLY MORNING WORSHIP 8 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.

LATE MORNING WORSHIP 11 A.M.

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER MEETING WED. 7 P.M.

Come join us each Sunday for any or all of these services.

You are welcome.



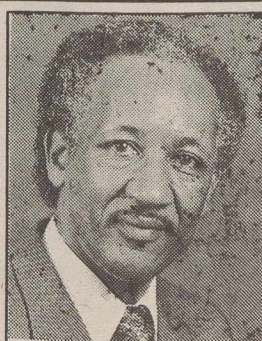
20th Street Church Of Christ

820 20th Street South
St. Pete, FL

Home: 896-8006

Minister Robert Clemons

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.



ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

Thursday 7 p.m.



Rev. Brian Brown

"One week from church makes one weak."

New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church

3001 18th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Church: (813) 327-9904 Office: (813) 321-3898
Elder Carl Rhodes, Jr., Pastor

Early Morning Worship 8 a.m. (2nd thru 5th Sundays)
Church School 9:30 a.m. • Mid-Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion Service 5 p.m. (1st Sundays)
Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. (Tuesdays)
Christian Education School 7 p.m. (Wednesdays)

"Oh, Come Let Us Praise The Lord!"



Unity Temple Of Truth Church

511 Prescott St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
The Church of the "Daily Word"

Sunday Morning Service . . . 11:00 a.m.-12 Noon
Sunday School and Youth Education . 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Adult Class 9:30 a.m.

(813) 898-2457

Prayer Line 1-800-308PUSH

affiliated with Unity School of Christianity,
Unity Village, Missouri



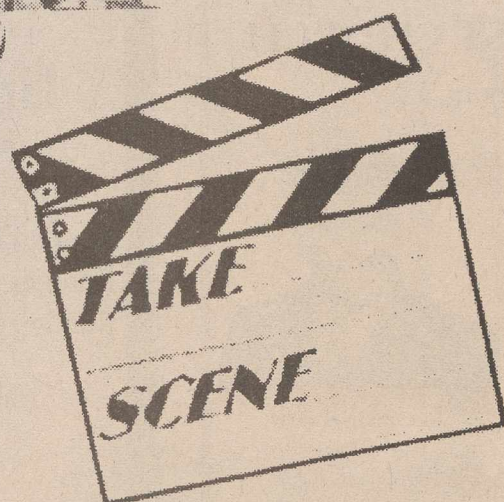
Rev. Melvera Hinton Brown

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Watch the Academy Awards March 24 on ABC
www.lovejones.com



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A Tribute

TAMPA — On Saturday, March 1, a tribute to Queenie Easter Chester was held at King High. Tenisha Reed, Angelique Harris and Adrienne Harris served as mistresses of ceremonies. Music was provided by King Tri-Music Honor Society Strings, Ebony Cunningham, Eamestine Richardson, Naomi Raskin and others. Mimes performed. The program ended with remarks by Nuri Ayres, King High principal.



Mix 96 Career Day

TAMPA — Looking for a better position, new career, more money? Bring your resume and meet decision makers hiring now for leading Tampa Bay businesses during this one-day event on March 26, 10 am-7 pm, at the Tampa Convention Center. Free admission, plenty of parking. Call Mix 96 for more details. In Tampa, 961-9600; in Pinellas, 536-9600.

Hires

We make a living by what we know; we make our lives by the way we grow.

If we want to get a good look at the person standing in our way, just look in the mirror. Gossip may seem like a small harmless seed, but the harvest of consequences is beyond measure.

We should not be unfair to strangers because we ourselves were once a stranger.

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The Gantt Report

by Lucius Gantt

Recently every morning I've been waking up to the new Amos and Andy Show! Some people call it the Tom Joyner Morning Show.

I call it Amos and Andy because it perpetuates all of the negative images that whites have about the black community.

In order to get on radio or television, you have to be a clown, you have to be a fool, you have to disparage black people and you have to lampoon the black community.

The TJMS always try to make fun of black suffering and circumstance, to always try to cut down and ridicule black leaders and black heroes. The TJMS, to me, always seem to try to perpetuate negative black stereotypes.

Don't take my word for it, Gantt may be crazy. Tom Joyner may be a good role model for all journalists. Why make

fun of O.J. Simpson and be afraid to make fun of racist cops? Why talk negatively about black women and be afraid to talk the same way about white girls? Why laugh about Ebonics and be afraid to talk about "rednecks" like upa yonder?

I don't care if TJMS crack a joke every now and then but sometimes you have to be serious. The black communities of America are in serious trouble and we need some serious solutions to some serious problems.

If I ever get some kind of show on TV or radio, I'm going to be fair. I'm going to talk about black people but I'm also going to talk about everybody else.

There is good and bad in everyone and in everything. Just tell the truth if you are a journalist. The truth will set you free. Don't punk out and say just what your wicked boss

wants you to say. Don't sell your people down the red sea. Tell that evil pharaoh to let your people go.

No, sometimes black people want to hear something on the radio that will encourage us, something that will inspire us and something that will motivate us.

Sometimes we want to hear Gospel music, sometimes jazz, sometimes soul and sometimes I want to pop in some John Lee Hooker or something by Da Brat!

If a journalist is merely going to parrot what his modern day slavemaster wants him to parrot, tell the people the truth.

If you don't tell the truth, you won't be the world's hardest working deejay. You'll be the world's hardest working slave.

Uncle Tom, quit bad mouthing your brothers and sisters in the field all the time and low rate Mass Charlie a little bit.

Addressing The Drug Problem In Pinellas County

PINELLAS PARK — A forum to share community concerns regarding drug use among Pinellas County youth will be held on Thursday, March 13 from 7 to 8 pm at the Clearwater Library Country-

side branch, 2741 SR 580, Clearwater. Brian Goff, Fox 13, WTVT and Weekly Planet reporter, will moderate the evening's discussion. Panel members include representatives from the Pinellas County

Sheriff's department, the state attorney's office, juvenile court, Operation PAR, Juvenile Welfare Board, Pinellas County schools and youth. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

RED'S

(GOURMET FAST FOOD)

Black History Month Special

Leg, Fry & 12 oz. soda **\$1.29**

Little Red Hamburger & 12 oz. soda **\$1.29**

BURGER SPECIALS!!!!

• Little Red Hamburger **99¢**
Cheese - 25¢ extra
Made from fresh ground beef!

LUNCH SPECIAL

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Small F.Fries **\$2.79**
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2 pc. Dark & F.Fries **\$1.99**

10 pcs. Dark & 4 Rolls **\$4.99**

10 pcs. Mixed & 5 Rolls **\$6.99**

New Product At RED'S: Fried Okra!

Saturday Special 10:30 AM to 7 PM

8 pcs. Dark, 1 Small F.Fry, 1 small Okra, 4 dinner rolls

and 2 - 16 oz. sodas (your choice)

Feed The Family For \$5.99!

All specials ends at 11 pm except where otherwise stated.

No substitutions on any specials.

Our Burgers Are Famous & Our Chicken is Legendary!

Leg or Thigh w/Fries **99¢**

At RED's we serve fast food cooked fresh!

1701 16th Street South, St. Pete

Open 10:30 a.m. until 3 a.m. in the morning



SEND US NEWS!

If you have information that might make a good article for this paper, send it in, and we'll try to use it in an upcoming issue.



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Revlon — T.C.B. — Bantu

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I was having bad luck, miserable and it seemed like everything was against me. Just a few visits to Rev. Mother Superior Williams and now I'm doing fine with a good home and good man who loves me.
— Hillary Williams

She will tell you just what you want to know about friends, enemies or rivals; Whether husband, wife or sweetheart is true or false; How to gain the love you most desire, control or influence the action of anyone, even though miles away. Tell you of lucky numbers. She has helped thousands through all walks of life. She will advise on love, marriage, business, health, divorces, lawsuits, luck, alcoholics, happiness, spells, success and evil influences of all kinds. Tells who your friends and enemies are. Guarantees to remove all evil and bad luck! WHY SUFFER when you can be helped and freed from all your troubles?

Don't fail to call or write to her today.

Rev. Mother Superior Williams

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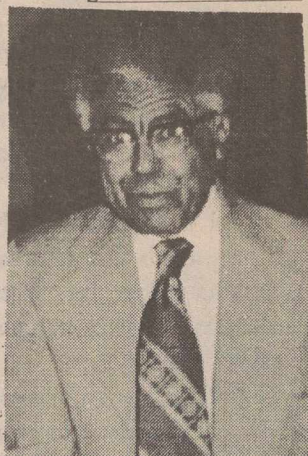
St. Pete Final Rites

BELL, TOMMY Parker, died Feb. 18. Survivors include his wife Thelma, St. Petersburg; sons Anthony Bell and wife Sharon, Hawaii; Gregory Bell and Jerome Pricaster of St. Petersburg; daughters Veronica Wilson, Regina Bell, Phyllis Fooks and husband Craig, Debbie Johnson, all of St. Petersburg; a brother Cephus Bell Jr. of Atlanta; sisters Lola Lee Wooten and Mary Watley of Atlanta, Ruth Owensby of Dayton, OH and Susie Mae Goode of Roanoke, VA. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

daughters Keeyma Mitchell-Wells of Delaware, Nichole Mitchell of St. Petersburg; a brother Willie McKinney and wife Barbara of St. Petersburg; sisters Diane and husband Artis Killers, St. Petersburg, Dolores and husband Philip Robinson of Rochester, NY; three grandchildren. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

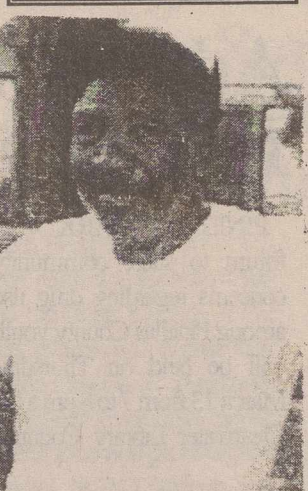


and wife Patrice; mother-in-law Roberta Smart; father-in-law Louis Ross. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

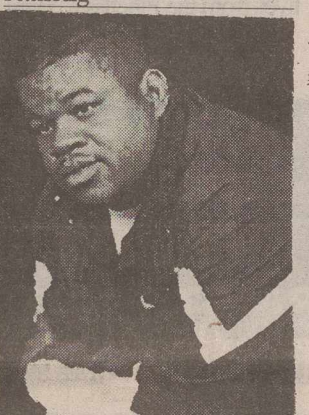


WILLIAMS, LOUIE St. Final rites were held March 8 at Bethel Metropolitan. Survivors include his wife Beatrice; sons Louie Jr. and wife Lanita, Willie and wife Brenda; daughters Glenda and husband George Harris and Carolyn Winton; five sisters-in-law; 11 grandchildren, 9 great grands and 3 great great grands. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

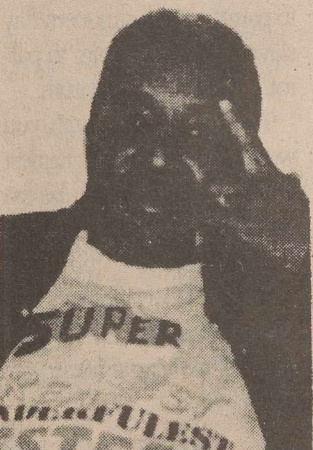
Clearwater Final Rites



SULLIVAN, WILL, died Feb. 23. Survivors include his wife Idella of Clearwater; sons Will Jr. of Crestville, John and wife Pam of Evanston, IL and Eddie of Clearwater; daughters Geraldine Carey of Safety Harbor and Patricia Raines of Clearwater; a brother Jim of Clearwater; sisters Jessie Davis and Dorothy Cambell of Safety Harbor and Freddie Owens of Clearwater; 17 grandchildren and 7 great grands. Young's Funeral Home, Clearwater.



STREET, GERARD, died March 2. Survivors include his wife Alicia; daughter Victoria; sons Timothy, Devanis, Javaris and Christopher; mother and stepfather Lena and Larry Miller; brother Bruce Street.



FLEMING, RALPH (Pedro). Final rites were held on March 10 at Earth Mission. Survivors include his sister Connie Fuller of St. Petersburg; step-sister Josephine Stoval of Pittsburgh; step-granddaughter Kelona. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

JOHNSON, PEARL, died March 4. Survivors include her daughters Cynthia Thomas of Gulfport and Janet Burnett of St. Petersburg; her mother Rachel Johnson of St. Petersburg; granddaughter Nicole Thomas of Gulfport. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



MITCHELL, BLAZY, died March 8. Survivors include his

Gainesville Final Rites

LEWIS, ISALIAH, died Feb. 14. Survivors include his sisters Nellie Gibson of Gainesville, Lillie Richardson of Orlando, Gertie Williams of Orange Heights, Mary Scott of Gainesville, Bessie Bryant of Orange Heights; brothers Claude Lewis of Gainesville, Robert Lewis of Orange Heights, Nathaniel Lewis of Lakeland and James Lewis of Campville; sister-in-law Alice Lewis of Orange Heights; brother-in-law Dan Gibson. Chestnut Funeral Home, Gainesville.

Ocala Final Rites



FIGGS, MARILYN McGraw, died Feb. 25. Survivors include her sons Julian Taylor of San Jose, CA, Jessie Figgs Jr. of Bellevue; sisters Johnny Perry of Summerfield and Cheryl Stevenson of Georgia; brother Jessie McGraw of Ocala; two grandchildren. Summers Funeral Home, Ocala.

JOHNSON, CYRUS, died March 4. Survivors include his sister Susie Johnson; daughters Elenor Joseph of St. Petersburg, Renee and husband Steve Kinder of Ocala, Tamala and husband David McCoy of Cocoa; stepdaughters Lauretta Eason of Atlanta, Kremolia Eason of Ocala and Velma Brown of Daytona Beach; son Larry Williams of Orlando; stepsons Willie Eason of Orlando, Dalton Eason of New York, Alvin Eason of Georgia, Edward Jones of Ocala, Rev. Arnold Jones of Tallahassee; several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Summers Funeral Home, Ocala.

STEVENSON, HELEN. Final rites were held on March 10 at Emmanuel Pentecostal. Survivors include her brother Monroe Hardy and wife Ola of Ocala; sisters-in-law Florence Hardy of Philadelphia and



Sarah Hardy-Burke of Statesville, NC. Summers Funeral Home, Ocala.

The Joy of Unselfish Giving

Time is not measured by the years that you live
But by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give —
And each day as it comes brings a chance to each one
To love to the fullest, leaving nothing undone
That would brighten the life or lighten the load
Of some weary traveler lost on Life's Road —
So what does it matter how long we may live
If as long as we live we unselfishly give.

Helen Steiner Rice

TO LIVE THE LIFE

Be no cause of grief to anyone... Be kind to all people and love them with a pure spirit... Should opposition or injury happen to us bear it; be as kind as ever we can be, and through all, love the people... Should calamity exist in the greatest degree, rejoice, for these things are the gifts and favors of God... Be silent concerning the faults of others; pray for them, and help them, through kindness, to correct their faults... Look always at the good and not at the bad... If a man has 10 good qualities and one bad one, look at the 10 and forget the one... And if a man has 10 bad qualities and one good one, look at the one and forget the 10... Never allow ourselves to speak one unkind word about another, even though that other be our enemy... Do all our deeds in kindness... Cut our hearts from ourselves and from the world... Be humble... Be servants of each other, and know that we are less than any one else... Be as one soul in many bodies; for the more we love each other, the nearer we shall be to God; but know our love, our unity, our obedience must not be by confession, but reality... Act with cautiousness and wisdom... Be truthful... Be hospitable... Be reverent... Be a cause of healing for every sick one, a comforter for every sorrowful one, a pleasant water for every thirsty one, a heavenly table for every hungry one, a star to every horizon, a light for every lamp, a herald to everyone who yearns for the kingdom of God.

'Abdu'l-Baha'



Faith is a gift bestowed by the Lord, joyfully illuminating your path in a way no other light can. It enables you to overcome obstacles, to endure hardships and to persevere until you reach your goal. Would you like to walk by faith? God is eager to grant His priceless gift to you, if you will only ask for it.

We welcome your letters to the editor.

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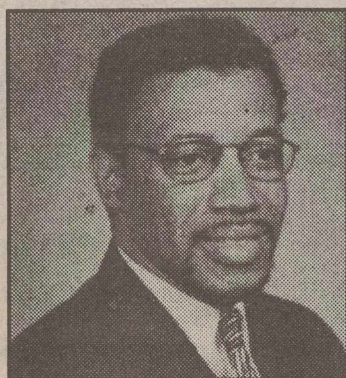
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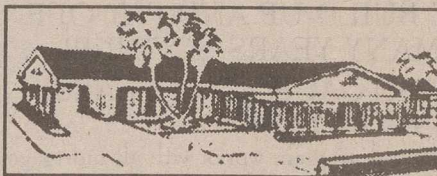
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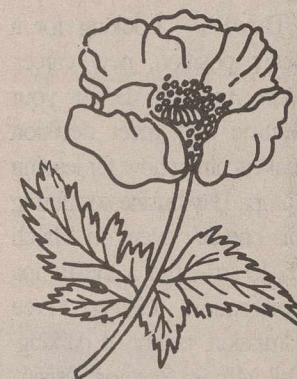
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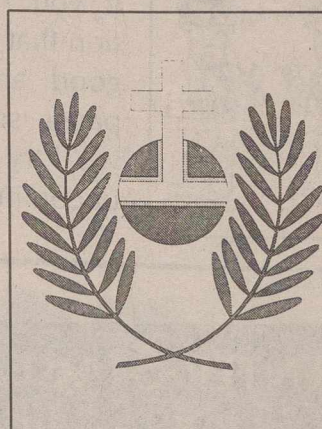
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- Lee Davis Center, 22nd Street
- Tampa Urban League, Tampa Park Plaza
- Bar-B-Q King on Main Street
- B-Beautiful Beauty Salon, 3222 34th Street N., 248-5683
- Cicily's Beauty Supply, 2301 Hillsborough Ave., 238-0351
- Manilla Lounge, 7th Avenue
- Grace's Lounge, Albany Avenue
- Boogie's Lounge, Main St. & Howard Ave.
- Tampa Housing Offices, College Hill
- Howard's Barber Shop on Main Street
- Best Bros. Grocery & Deli, Howard Avenue & Chestnut Street
- Amoco Gas Station on Nebraska & 7th Street
- Orient Meats on Orient Road
- Continental IGA Food, 22nd Causeway Blvd.
- Kilbride Insurance on Nebraska
- Cicily's Beauty Supplies, Palm River Plaza
- Rent Club, Palm River Plaza
- Pal's Pre-School, Palm River Plaza
- Tampa Hair on North Florida
- Golden Comb on Main Street
- Johnnie's Barber Shop, Main Street
- 7-11, Temple Terrace Highway

IN CLEARWATER

- Charles's Barber Shop, 1405B N. Myrtle Ave.
 - B&T Dept. Store, 1841 Highland Ave. N.
 - A&A Cafeteria, Greenwood and Carlton
 - C&C Market, corner of Greenwood & Seminole
 - Delric's Seafood, 1616 N. Ft. Harrison Ave.
 - Eva's Beauty Box, corner of Greenwood & Carlton Street
 - John's Barber Shop, 1400 N. Greenwood Ave.
 - Nick's Econo Mart (S. Missouri Ave. & Woodlawn)
 - Ozzie's Palace of Beauty
 - Grande Monde, 1841 Highland Ave. N., Suite 3
 - Ebony City, 1841 Highland Ave. N., Suite 1
 - MVJ, 1409 N. Betty Lane
 - Wendy's Palace, 1411 N. Betty Lane
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 - C&C Hair Design, 702 Greenwood
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- Baskin Cleaner, 1317 Baskin Dr.
 - Hair Is It, 11447 Urmerton Rd.
 - Helen Hair & Beauty Supplies, 11461 Urmerton Rd.
 - Baskin Cafe, Baskin Drive
 - Helm & Sons Cafe
 - Rudy's Rib Shack
 - Handy Corner Foods, 2325 119th St. N.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, 1345 Park Street, Clearwater, Florida 34616 until 3:00pm on Tuesday, April 8, 1997 and publicly opened and read at that hour and place for:

SHELTER FOR CHIP
CLEARWATER HOMELESS INTERVENTION PROJECT, INC.

The work for which proposals are invited consists of furnishing all labor, materials and tools required for an approximate 8,000 square foot single story building including masonry, concrete work, wood trusses, shingle roof, interior work, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and site work.

Copies of the Contract Documents, all bound together, are on file and available on Monday, March 17, 1997 for the bidders at the office of Myers Plisko Architects, P.A., AIA, 800 Drew Street, Clearwater, FL 34615. Three (3) sets of documents may be obtained by depositing a check in the amount of \$150.00 made payable to Myers Plisko Architects. Such deposit will be refunded to each person submitting a bonafide bid who returns the documents in good condition within fourteen (14) calendar days after bid opening. Additional sets may be purchased at \$35.00 per Project Manual and \$20.00 per set of drawings and is non-refundable. The plans for the proposed shelter are copyrighted and shall not be used by the selected General Contractor for any other purpose.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the St. Vincent de Paul, 1345 Park Street, Clearwater, at 1:30pm, Wednesday, March 26, 1997. A representative of all firms submitting proposals must attend.

The bidder agrees to secure all necessary licenses and permits and agrees to comply with all state laws, county and local ordinances and regulations in any manner affecting the work described in this invitation.

This is a COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT project, Grant No. B95-UC-12-0005, funded through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Therefore, Federal regulations including, but not limited to the following apply. Federal labor Standards per 29 CFR parts 3 and 5. Procurement Procedures per Part 86 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Affirmative Action to achieve Equal Employment Opportunity per 41 CFR 60-4 and Section 3 provisions per 24 CFR 135, Section 306 of the Clean Water Act per 42 USC 1857(h). Section 508 of the Clean Air Act per 33 UWC 1366, Executive Order 11738 and Environmental protection Agency regulations per 40 CFR part 15. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish and pay for a satisfactory one hundred percent (100%) contract performance and payment bond. Surety companies executing these bonds must appear in the US Treasury Department's most current list (Circular 570, as amended), and be authorized to transact business in the State of Florida. Details regarding these and other Federal Requirements are included in contract documents. Minority and female contractors are encouraged to apply. If clarification or additional information is needed, please contact the Pinellas County Community Development Department at (813) 464-4851.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding/event, should call 813/464-4062 (voice/tdd) fax 813/464-4157, not later than seven days prior to the proceeding.

Bids must be accompanied by Certified Check, Bid Bond, Cashier's Check or Cash Payment, made payable to the CHIP, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the base bid. Such bid security shall be attached to the outside of the proposal envelope in a separate envelope. No bids may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of ninety (90) days. A 100% Labor and Material Bond and Performance Bond will be required for the project as stated above.

All proposals shall be submitted as indicated in instructions to Bidders, AIA Document 701, 1987 Edition. The right is reserved by the Owner to waive informalities in the bid and to reject any or all bids.

Myers Plisko Architects, P.A.

Jay F. Myers, AIA

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Your Horoscope



Aries

March 21 to April 19

This week begins with a bang, as energizing stars enter your chart on the 15th, renewing your zest for life and bringing travel opportunities. Have champagne ready on the 18th and 19th when the Moon in Leo creates romance.



Taurus

April 20 to May 20

Brilliant stars in your career zone are helping you make strides at work—just don't burn the candle at both ends. While Mars' splendid aspect ignites your passions, you could be tempted to escape for the weekend with your mate.



Gemini

May 21 to June 21

You'll notice a definite upswing in your social life after the 15th, when your planetary ruler, Mercury, enters dynamic Aries. Unexpected visitors may catch you off-guard; make them feel at home with your inimitable charm.



Cancer

June 22 to July 22

While the Sun, Mercury, Saturn and Neptune are firing your career ambitions and readying you to make important strides on the job, continue to exercise your diplomatic skills. A long-cherished dream could come to fruition.



Leo

July 23 to August 22

You may finally jet off for that dream vacation you've been yearning for, as both the Sun and Mercury light up your travel zone. And with brilliant aspects in your chart's money sector, you'll be able to splurge on some charming souvenirs.



Virgo

August 23 to September 22

With Mars in your sign stirring ambitions, you'll be wise to ask yourself what you really want. Remember, there are some things money can't buy. Under prosperous stars, the value of a jointly-held property or an inheritance could double.



Libra

September 23 to October 22

With Venus in Pisces helping you look and feel your best, you'll glow with a special inner beauty. Bright stars shining in your marriage zone highlight your favorite subject—relationships—and make you and your mate inseparable.



Scorpio

October 23 to November 21

Thanks to uplifting aspects, you'll be strolling on the sunny side of the street. Chiron in Scorpio plus three planets in Aries are urging you to shape up and improve your health; a book on dieting or a visit to a nutritionist could help.



Sagittarius

November 22 to December 21

With Pluto retrograding in your sign, stay alert to new career possibilities; you'll have the energy and verve it takes to be a winner. Harmonious aspects are smoothing over any rough spots at home, assuring a happy environment.



Capricorn

December 22 to January 19

Good news concerning your family will put you in a sensational mood on the 15th. Your astute judgment may be gaining you a reputation as a wise woman, thanks to Neptune's power opening your mind and heart to the cares of others.



Aquarius

January 20 to February 18

While the Sun and Mercury light up your chart with optimism, you'll be able to plan exciting projects months in advance. Your extra creativity could prompt you to seek out a new outlet for your ideas; a computer could be the answer.



Pisces

February 19 to March 20

Venus in Pisces is boosting your self-esteem, making you feel vibrant and sexy. After the 20th, favorable aspects in your money sector recommend visiting a financial planner. Cautious stars are cheering on efforts to save for the future.



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