

Michael Peace: Rappin' Evangelist

Take the four spiritual laws, give them rhyme and a beat, and what do you have? Gospel rap.

Brooklyn-bred orphan Michael Peace converts the age-old story of Jesus' love into the idiom of the urban population: rap. Thus he converts renegades, gang members and messed-up youths.

following that eventually elected him President of the Black Student Union.

Peace recites tales of vandalism and covert terrorism carried out during those years as well as secret midnight meetings, tapped phone lines and even rumors of being watched by the F.B.I. as he championed the rights of blacks. But this



Michael Peace

With his first album, RRRock It Right, Peace becomes Reunion Records' first rap artist. His songs fuse raps and rock, capturing the contagious, syn-copated beat familiar on the radio today.

Michael Peace's life story reads like a suspense novel. Peace, who grew up with foster parents in New York City, describes his first neighborhood as "torn up streets with garbage everywhere, (kids) fighting daily after school and a place where roaches and rats made themselves at home."

"I grew up always understanding I would be a second class citizen because we figured black people in the ghetto would always be poor," he continues. As unbelievable as it may seem, Michael never even heard the name "Jesus" until he was sixteen years old. But at that time, Peace was determined that religion would not make a difference in his life.

The early roots of bitterness born in this tragic environment followed him to college where he became a militant leader among black students on campus. His ability to motivate people and charismatic personality soon opened an opportunity for him to become an editor of the school newspaper. From this platform, he built a

downward spiral of events was suddenly put to a stop during his senior year when Michael's search for truth led him to an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. For the first time more than just a word, Peace's new-found belief in Christianity created quite an impact on those around him.

Within weeks of graduation, he was offered a job with a church as a campus evangelist because of his effectiveness. Instead, he began graduate studies in Public and Urban Administration with plans to eventually help inner-city neighborhoods like the one he grew up in. But he soon realized his call was much more personal than that. He knew he was needed on the streets.

Using his favorite and most effective method to communicate, Peace began telling his new story to the urban population with the street language of rap music. Thus began a whole new life as Michael began to travel across America, Europe and Canada with a passion to tell kids about a hope he had never known.

Today, in addition to his frequent travels, 28 year-old Peace serves as both Pastor of Evangelism and Pastor of the College Career Group at his church in Rochester,

ZION UNITED METHODIST HOSTS REVIVAL

The Zion United Methodist Church will host a revival July 19 through 22 featuring the Reverend Doctor Cornelius L. Henderson, Superintendent of Atlanta, Georgia's Emory District United Methodist Church.

Dr. Henderson was called to the ministry some thirty years ago. In addition to acquiring several degrees, including an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary, he was the first recipient of the Denman Evangelism Award presented by the North Georgia United Methodist Conference, to the clergyman who exemplifies responsible evangelism in life and ministry.

In addition to service on various Georgia Boards and other membership affiliations, Dr. Henderson has served as pastor and in other capacities in a number of Georgia's churches. Currently, he pastors the Ben Hill United Methodist Church of Atlanta, whose membership exceeds 3000.

Dr. Henderson shares life in Atlanta with his wife, the former Dorothy Carithers, and their daughter, Leah Dor-Lyn.

The revival will begin each evening at 7 p.m. The Zion United Methodist Church is located at 2801 Revere Street, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Evangelist Rich Wilkerson At Trinity Temple Aug. 2

Rich Wilkerson, internationally known evangelist and speaker to 100,000 teenagers a year at school assemblies, rallies and camps, will be featured at a one-day crusade at Trinity Temple on Sunday, August 2 at 8:15 and 11:00 A.M., and again at 6:00 P.M.

Rich is first cousin and close collaborator of Rev. David Wilkerson, and has a reputation for delivering hard-hitting messages that speak to the issues of current society. For more information call Trinity Temple 734-2223. The church is located at 1000 E. St. Louis Avenue in Las Vegas.

New York.

Whether at home in New York or in some distant city, Michael Peace has an ability to communicate to renegade kids. Because he knows... he's been there... and there is hope.

BLACK GOSPEL HERITAGE CELEBRATED NATIONALLY ON 'AMERICAN GOSPEL ARTS DAY, JUNE 19TH'

"Black Americans have won a great victory by the establishment of American Gospel Arts Day, June 19th," says W.C. Gordon, Chairman of the American Gospel Arts Fund, a non-profit national foundation based in Pasadena, Calif.

"With an act of Congress and Proclamation by the President of the United States, and due to the special efforts of Rep. Mervyn Dymally, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Senator Alan Cranston and Senator Bob Dole, the first annual American Gospel Arts Day made history as Black American Gospel music and heritage was observed with ceremonies and celebrations all over the United States on June 19th," says Gordon. Proclamation ceremonies were held in about 40 cities and state capitals from coast-to-coast, some of them tying in to the "June Teenth"

tradition and others observing that date as a special day for the first time.

"Born in Black American church communities across our country, Gospel music has long been a popular influence, bringing joy to countless people, symbolizing a source of peaceful social change, and affirming the place of Black American culture in our Nation's artistic heritage," said President Reagan. "In recognition of the importance of Gospel music to the history of American music and of the traditional observance of June 19th as a special day of appreciation of the Black American cultural heritage with which Gospel music is so strongly identified... I call upon the people of the United States to observe American Gospel Arts Day."

"If one had to cite an art form that is truly American in origin, Gospel music would be at the top of the list,"

says Congressman Dymally of California. "A product of the fusion between the European and African cultures, Gospel is the forerunner of popular music in America. With its spiritual messages and rich tones, Gospel is a unique testimony to our zest for life and our belief in freedom and dignity for all mankind."

"Gospel — as it is lovingly and popularly known — is more than music," says Senator Alan Cranston. "It is spirituality in art. Gospel music deserves our recognition and celebration. Gospel's richness and its grace is simply unique — an indisputably American contribution."

"I am pleased to be a supporter of the Gospel arts movement in this nation," says Senator Dole. "The Black church is based on, and is at the same time, a founder of the values that

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