

Black Churches to Aid in High Blood Pressure Screening and Education

High blood pressure is a major cause of heart attack, kidney failure, and stroke and is particularly prevalent among blacks. That's why black churches around the country are organizing

"Church High Blood Pressure Sunday" on April 24 — to inform their members of the problems associated with high blood pressure and what they can do about it.

"Five million blacks suffer from hypertension," says Neil Shulman, an Emory University professor of medicine and chairman of the board of the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks. The effort is part of a continuing campaign by the National High Blood Pressure Information Center/National Institutes of Health to use pulpits as a means to educate church goers about high blood pressure.

A study by Emory University and Fort Valley State College in Georgia showed that the small, close knit congregations of black churches are particularly effective in carrying the life preserving message. The pilot study is one of a number of examples from around the country employing houses of worship as a conduit for information and a source of screening.

With preaching from the pulpit and choirs singing the "Church High Blood Pres-

sure Song," ministers in pilot churches steered their congregations into screening, monitoring, referral and education programs, all mapped out in a free book from N.I.H., *Churches as an Avenue to High Blood Pressure Control*.

Church members learned the signs of hypertension, how to take their own blood pressure, and how to control hypertension through low-salt diet, weight reduction and medication, if necessary. Many of the churches in the pilot study followed their services with a Sunday dinner demonstrating how traditional foods could be cooked in a more healthful way.

In conjunction with the third annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on High Blood Pressure in Blacks (co-hosted by Howard University and the University of Maryland April 21-24 in Baltimore), congregations of 100 churches will gather in the Baltimore Armory on April 24 for a massive "Church High Blood Pressure Sunday" Service. That Sunday, doctors and nurses will be visiting about 200 churches in Baltimore and Washington.

"We're counting on the churches," says Emory's Dr. Shulman. "This major effort on April 24 may be the only way some people will learn how to save their own lives."

Hail Passage of Bill That Overturns Grove City

by Chester A. Higgins, Jr.

Veteran Congressman Augustus Hawkins hailed House passage of a civil rights bill that would overturn the 1984 Supreme Court decision in *Grove City College v. Bell*, as the most important to occur in the past 20 years.

The House passed the measure by a vote of 315 to 98, with only 94 Republicans voting against it. Just four Democrats opposed passage. The Senate on January 18 this year had passed the same bill by a 75-14 margin. Thus, Congress is assured of the necessary two-thirds majority votes to overturn President Reagan's threatened veto.

The *Grove City College v. Bell* decision has been a hair shirt to civil rights organizations and leaders since it was rendered. For this Supreme Court decision limits the scope of Title IX of the Education Act and other civil rights measures as well, in-


cluding the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

In short, the *Grove City* decision cut a wide swath, undercutting laws barring discrimination by declaring these laws are limited within an institution to the specific programs or activities receiving federal funds. The ruling involving a small Pennsylvania college had sweeping ramifications for hard-fought civil rights gains, dismayed civil rights leaders declared. For under that ruling the government could take action for example against a college's education department if it received federal funds and was found to be unlawfully discriminating. But if that same college's chemistry department received no federal funds, it could discriminate as much as it pleased, with impunity.

Congressman Hawkins, who is chairman of the House Education and Labor Com-

American Gospel Music

by Hilary Clay Hicks
The American Gospel Arts News Service



Look Out! The Winans Are Everywhere!

Did you hear the one about the Gospel singer who decided to change his last name to Winans so he could get a record deal? Actually, the idea is not terribly far-fetched. At this time, there are ten Winans recording and performing, every one of the brothers and sisters of a remarkable family from Detroit.

The most famous musical unit named Winans is the group, **The Winans**, consisting of brothers **Ronald, 31; twins Marvin and Carvin, 29; and Michael, 28.**

This is the quartet whose album "Decisions" on **Quincy Jones' Qwest Records** is currently number one on the nation's Gospel music charts; whose single "Ain't No Need To Worry" with **Anita Baker** reached number 15 on the Black Contemporary charts; and which has a new single coming out featuring hitster **Michael McDonald.**

Their previous album, "Let My People Go" sold about half a million copies (a huge number for Gospel), paving the way for the current successes. It included the single "Very Real Way" which reached number 41 on the Black contemporary charts.

The Winans toured through the end of last year and will go on the road again in February performing all over the nation. They expect to play England in March or April.

This is serious business for a Gospel group. But that's not all. **Marvin Winans** is considered by many to be the most dynamic man in Gospel music today. Among his many projects is an amazing enterprise called "Don't Get God Started," not just another Gospel stage musical but a Broadway show. Marvin wrote the words and music for it, which stars Gospel's **Vanessa Bell Armstrong** and **Glynn Turman, Ernie Banks, Be Be Winans, Chip Fields** and Marvin himself, which represents a master stroke of scheduling considering how busy he is with just concert commitments.

Winans manager **Barry Hankerson** co-authored the play with writer-director **Ron Miller**, award-winning playwright of Broadway shows such as "What The Wine Sellers Buy" and "Who's Got His Own." **Ronald Winans** is music consultant. It opened to rave reviews in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. early last

summer and then moved immediately to Broadway. In March through May of 1988, it will play in Baltimore, Washington, Atlanta, Chicago and Detroit.

Marvin's wife, **Vickie Winans**, is also a recording artist with a solo album on a different label featuring many of Marvin's songs. She also has a demanding concert touring schedule, although they often arrange to see each other by taking bookings together. They have two sons, **Mario, 13, and Marvin, 8.**

"It's a wonder we ever see each other," says Marvin. "However, by the time people read this, we should be relaxing for a week together in Hawaii before we head in different directions."

Meanwhile, brother **Carvin Winans** is producing an instrumental album of Gospel tunes with **The Winans Band** and **Ronald Winans** is producing an album with a city-wide youth choir in Detroit. Other Winans in the business with other record companies are successes **Be Be and Ce Ce Winans**, whose group features younger sisters **Debbie and Angie Winans**; and solo artist **Daniel Winans.**

Marvin, Carvin and Ronald are also preachers and regularly speak in the church at which they are associate ministers in Detroit—when they are in Detroit, which is where their homes are...

What are these Winans trying to do?

Speaking for all the Winans, Marvin says, "We believe that God has called us to what we do. Our purpose is to reach the unreachable, the untouchable, the unchurched, the unsaved who have not heard God's Word through music.

"We are trying to bring Gospel to the forefront of America's music and to cause people to take notice of Gospel and its message. Gospel has a lot to give and we Winans are giving it all we've got."

....And Jesus is still the King of Glory and worthy to be praised!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churches are urged to send their services and program announcements, typewritten, to the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Church Reporter, Mary Wilson, at 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Articles must be mailed or delivered to the above location no later than Monday noon of each week.

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mittee, and one of the strong forces behind passage of this house measure, shrugged off some Republican charges that the bill was too broad. He declared that any organization that receives federal money should be prepared to play by the rules.

He added: "Anyone who dips his hand in the public till should not mind if a little democracy sticks to their fingers."

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