

# Church

## Church News

By Mary Wilson  
Church Reporter



The Pastor's Aid of the Community Baptist Church will have a program Sunday, November 4 at 3 p.m. Special guests will be Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church pastor Rev. M. Hardman, Goodwill Church of God in Christ pastor Elder Murry, and Evangelist Pat Williams. Be there! Be there!

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The film "Stuck In a Nightmare" will be shown at the Hallelujah Fellowship on Friday, October 26th at 7:30 p.m. The film tells the story of Sean Sellers, who at age 16 killed a convenience store clerk and his own parents. It was found out that he was a self-proclaimed satanist. This film will inform you and make you aware about satanism, and show you how to receive freedom. The Hallelujah Fellowship is located at 800 N. Rancho Dr., 1/2 blocks north of the expressway. Admission is free and there will be a nursery provided.

## Al-Islam, The Religion

(Continued from Page 4)

Islamic Pillars. This act of worship involves visiting the Ka'ba (the Holy House of Allah in Mecca), built by Abraham (Ibrahim) and his son Ishmael. To visit the Ka'ba is incumbent upon every Muslim who is physically and materially (financially) capable at least once in a lifetime. The institution of Hajj represents another democratic aspect of the Islamic faith. Every year Muslims from different ethnic origins, countries, cultural backgrounds, outlooks, and political and social climates assemble at Mecca and Arafat to offer their individual and collective prayers to Almighty God Allah. He, Allah, says in Quran: "And pilgrimage to the House is a duty unto Allah for mankind — for those who can find a way there." 3:97.

The Five (5) Pillars we have discussed thus far are things that we as believing Muslims practice. They are rituals that can generally be observed physically. We can observe and hear a person take (1) Shahada-tain/Confession, (2) offer Salat/Prayer, (3) Saum/Fast, (4) pay Zakat/Alms, Poor Due, (5) make Hajj/Pilgrimage.

The Five (5) Pillars are the standards that determine one being a Muslim. The prophet of God (Allah) Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Islam is built on 5 Pillars:

- (1) The belief in One Good Allah and Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger
- (2) Salat/Prayer
- (3) Zakat/Alms-Giving
- (4) Saum/Fasting
- (5) Hajj/Pilgrimage

So, what does Islam mean? Islam means submission to

Allah's will, and while it is identified or termed religion, it is better termed "A way of life." Of this way of life, Allah (Most High) says He chose it for us.

In Quran 5:4, Allah says: "This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor unto you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." The standard for excellence, superiority, does not lie in wealth, cultural, social status, political affiliation, skin color, hair texture or ethnic origin. Our excellence actually is in the fact that we are human beings, Allah (Our Lord), says in His Word Quran, 95:6 "Verily, We have indeed created mankind in the best of moulds."

This mankind includes male and female, Europeans, Africans, Chinese, Spanish, Asian, Indian ... all people.

Our superiority as stated earlier does not lie in anything physical, but it is in our character and conduct. Allah says in the Holy

Quran, 49:13, "O mankind! We created you from a single pair of male and female, and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other, (not that ye may despise each other), verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he/she who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted with all things."

Allah shows us in Quran that those who are most honored before Him are the individuals with the best moral conduct ... not ethnic origin, money, cars, education, skin color. Superiority before Allah is in our desire to never spoil our relationship with Him.

We hope to discuss the Principles of Al-Islam in our next articles, Insh-Allah (God Willing). May God (Allah) bless us all with a good heart, good intentions, and a strong desire to do His will. Amen. As-Sallaamu-Alaikum.

## TEENS SPEAK OUT

By Nicole Renee Dangerfield  
Rev. David Murray, Youth Pastor of the Deliverance Thru Faith Powerhouse has been working with the youth in his church on a special project dealing with the problems of teenagers. As a culmination to the project, each member of the teen group was asked to write

an essay answering the following question: "What do you feel is the number one problem facing teens in the future and what can be done to solve the problem?"

Each week the Sentinel-Voice will publish one of the essays written by members of the group.

This is the eighth in the series of essays.

Wake-up fellows citizens and seek knowledge! Are you aware that our city is deteriorating due to rapid increase in gang-related activity? Well! In my opinion the most important problem facing youth today are street gangs. Now-a-days there are a lot of young people who have either

been hurt bodily or are dead from being in street gangs. Even the innocent people are getting hurt for being mistaken for being a gang member. People are running away instead of trying to prevent this problem.

From the moment that a person enters a gang, the gang influences them to sell drugs. So we're not only losing citizens, we're also getting more drugs in our community. The more gangs the more drugs, the more drugs we have the more our population decreases. To prevent these problems people should openly express their fears of gangs because this is what makes gangs feel that they have power over the community.

In conclusion, I feel that people should unite against these different gangs and let them know that they are tired of their drugs selling and gang tactics. Will someone, ever have courage to do this?

By Nicole Renee Dangerfield

## BLACK WOMEN IN THE CHURCH HISTORY STUDY

Temple University's Center for African American History and Culture has received a \$330,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to research and write the nation's first comprehensive history of "Black Women in the Church, 1780-1970."

This pioneering work will trace the historic involvement of African American women in the development of primarily, but not exclusively, Protestant and Catholic churches.

"We will explore fully such issues as the role and status of black women in the church, as well as the historical struggle for ordination," said Dr. Bettye Collier-Thomas, director of the Center and project historian.

During the three year grant

period, Dr. Collier-Thomas will also conduct workshops for young people and deliver talks and speeches at religious and scholarly events.

"The history of African American religionists is very rich," Dr. Collier-Thomas said. "We are especially interested in sharing this information with black youth and women and with the general public."

The Lilly Endowment, Inc., based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is a private charitable foundation that supports the causes of religion, education and community development.

The Center for African American History and Culture is one of the University's cross-disciplinary research and training centers. One of its major purposes is to foster advanced scholarship and research.

As a national research center, it focuses upon the development of research and scholarship in areas of African American history and culture, which have received little or no attention.

The Center will develop data bases for the study of as- (See Study, Page 16)

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