

Baptist church leader calls for prison boycott

Denise Rolark Barnes
Washington Informer

The Progressive National Baptist Convention closed its last convention of the century in Washington, D.C. recently with a press conference held outside a D.C. jail.

Its president, the Rev. C. Mackey Daniels, announced the convention's initiative to stop the incarceration and killing of Black youth.

Flanked by ministers from across the country, Daniels declared, "We cannot afford to enter into the new millennium ... worrying

about our sons and our daughters. Today, we are concerned about our children not being educated but rather being incarcerated. There is a mean police force that cares nothing about African-American boys and girls ... [a police force] that will shoot us down in the street even before they question us."

Daniels called upon the convention's 2.5 million members, representing more than 2,000 churches around the globe, to plan marches on their city halls, county governments and state legislatures to demand

an end to a government policy that invests "\$45 million to incarcerate one but not willing to pay \$5,000 a year to educate one."

He also called upon representatives of other religious denominations, fraternities and sororities to join the campaign.

The Revs. Major Jemison, T. DeWitt Smith, Fred Lofton, Tyrone Pitts, Hycel Taylor, Otis Moss, Wallace Charles Smith, Morris Shearin and Trina Winfrey joined Daniels at the press conference.

They were urged to go back to their

respective churches and implement the Training Starter Manual, designed to assist churches in launching the boycott.

"We must march in order to bring [government spending and priorities] back in balance and make sense out of no sense," Daniels said.

Justice Department statistics show that the number of prisoners in America has tripled over the last decade from 500,000 to 1.8 million with minority communities

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Ex-cop's revelations surprise some residents

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Around Rampart, west of downtown Los Angeles, residents said the maze of hills and small streets lined by modest old homes has been getting safer for years.

Crime has dropped since 1992, when Rampart was the most violent of the 18 divisions in the Los Angeles Police Department. Many credit local officers, describing them as polite, professional and quick to answer even minor calls.

"They're pretty good, yes they are," said Jack Macisaac, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1969.

Added Hector Martinez, up early Sunday to wash his car: "A lot of neighborhoods,

you want to be inside by 6 o'clock. But here, if you want to come down to the market after dark and walk back, you can. Here it's a quiet, nice place. A nice neighborhood."

Which made it all the more surprising when a small army of reporters arrived seeking comment on the biggest police scandal to hit Los Angeles in more than 50 years.

Ten officers and a supervisor from the Rampart station have been suspended after allegations that officers lied in court, framed innocent people and shot at least one man, then put a gun in his hand and arrested him for assault.

Javier Francisco Ovando,

who allegedly was handcuffed when he was shot and paralyzed, was released from prison last week. On Sunday, he got to speak by phone for the first time to Destiny, the 2-year-old daughter he never has seen, his lawyers said.

At the heart of the investigation is Rafael Perez, a former narcotics officer who pleaded guilty to stealing eight pounds of cocaine from an evidence room. He made the allegations of wrongdoing in an effort to obtain a lighter punishment when he is sentenced Oct. 22.

"It makes me think less of the police department, by all means," said Jack Williamson, who lives near

the Rampart station. "If you're ever under investigation or stopped for something, who knows what might happen to you?"

Yet several neighbors praised police efforts in the old neighborhood, which has emerged in recent years as one of the more ethnically diverse sections of Los Angeles as immigrants from Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and other countries joined Hispanic and white residents.

"They do a good job, at least out here," Danny Dagdagan said of the police.

Then, gesturing toward the station down the hill, he laughed and added, "I don't know about inside there."

Abernathy jurors investigated

ATLANTA (AP) — Investigators are looking into whether civil rights activists, Coretta Scott King among them, tampered with the jury in the trial of a former state senator accused of cheating the state out of expense money.

The theft case against Ralph D. Abernathy III, the son of a renowned civil rights leader, ended in a mistrial.

However, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has been asked by the trial judge to look into an encounter between jurors and a group of civil rights leaders that included Mrs. King, GBI spokesman John Bankhead said Tuesday.

Mrs. King, New York activist the Rev. Al Sharpton, state Rep. Tyrone Brooks and others intercepted the jurors as they were going to lunch, according to law enforcement personnel.

Abernathy's mother, Juanita, who also was with the group, said the meeting was an accident.

The trial, in which Abernathy was accused of cheating the state out of about \$13,000 in Senate expense money, ended two days later with a hung jury.

Jury foreman Les Hankinson has said the encounter with Mrs. King's group had little bearing on the outcome of the case.



Ms. Senior Nevada, Peggy Livingston will be putting her best effort forward as she represents the state at tonight's national competition held in Las Vegas. Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Ms. Senior Nevada vyes for senior title

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Peggy Livingston, a retired barber, homemaker, and mother who resides in Sparks captured the 14th annual state Ms. Senior Nevada pageant. The great-great-grandmother beat out over 20 other contestants to be crowned queen. "I think this is the first time I've been at a loss for words," said Peggy Livingston about her Ms. Senior Nevada distinction. "I just wanted to have a great time...I never expected to win."

The Ms. Senior Nevada pageant was held at the Carson City Community Center

where participants had to be at least 60 years old to compete. Today, Livingston will be vying for the Ms. Senior America title at the New York, New York Casino on the Las Vegas strip.

Her brother, sisters, and three generations of family poured out to support this woman who bases her philosophy of life on the family.

"I take care of my great-grandchildren and I'm going to adopt them," said Livingston about her one and three year old great-grandchildren. "That's what I based my philosophy of life on."

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To be, or not to be, that is the question.