Religion In Modern Life

Our Savior's Business is about helping the underprivileged

By Eddie King
AFRO Religion Editor

A commitment to what can be is what the Our Savior's Business at 111 W. Lexington Street is about.

There is a recognition by the staff and management of what the poor and underprivileged is going through.

Even carefully researched evaluations have been made pinpointing weaknesses that could become strengths for the low-incomed and impoverished.

So when members of the staff of Our Savior's Business begin calling on local merchants in January, it is with this understanding that they must see the opportunities offered as investments as well as commitments to this city's underprivileged.

Rev. Michael Hendricks, founder of the outfit, says his business is about focusing on what can be done and taking those necessary steps to make sure it is done.

He sees the business likened to the work of his Savior, Jesus Christ; that is, providing aid and hope to those who needed it.

The intent is to raise enough money to be able to serve as some security as well as a start for locally-based entrepreneurs.

The Savior's Business would involve itself with issuing loans for the establishment of small businesses, buying and renovating property for temporary rent-free use during crises, providing matching fund grants for churches, social services, etc. and providing and establishing scholarship funds for students.

Development of such a pot fund from which to work is to begin with a Preferred Discount Card Campaign. Merchants will be encouraged to buy a certain amount of the discount cards to be distributed to potential customers. Customers would be able to buy cards individually and use them with participating businesses.

It is this plan by which staffers of OSB hope to involve the community in its own urban revitalization.

"We just want to make sure community businesses stay stable and grow," said Hendricks. "We feel more attention is needed to the poor, and with this program we want to offer them some assistance.

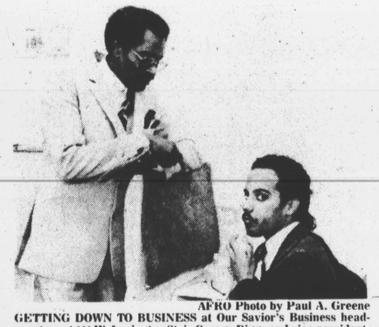
"By buying one of our discount cards, they, in turn, are helping themselves and others in the community. The money they give us is invested into their welfare. How many businesses or agencies do that?"

Hendricks said the more often a cardholder uses the Preferred Discount Card, the greater the chances of achieving self help and self sufficiency is achieved.

One vice president of the organization, Reginald Jordan, said he sees new opportunities for the poor in this venture.

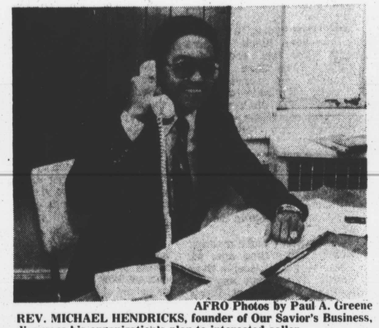
Interested businesses and individuals can call 837-4336 for further information about Our Savior's Business.

"It's worth it," said Jordan. The program is needed. People are suffering, and they are locked in a financial system that is not benefiting them. This program is one answer."



AFRO Photo by Paul A. Greene

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS at Our Savior's Business headquarters at 111 W. Lexington St. is George Diggs and vice-president, Reginald Johnson (seated).



AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene

REV. MICHAEL HENDRICKS, founder of Our Savior's Business, discusses his organization's plan to interested caller.

Popular emcee's birthday serves as reminder of oath to God

By Eddie King
AFRO Religion Editor

When Evangelist Esther Melcher celebrated her 53rd birthday this week, hundreds sent cards, expressed greetings or brought gifts to the lady who had become one of the city's most requested emcees at Christian programs.

There were celebrations at New Psalmist Baptist Church on one day and gifts and praises at home on another.

Several calls to the AFRO prompted immediate interest in the active matriarch who had managed to win the hearts of so many.

But the attention now given to the noted evangelist was not always there nor had it been easy to obtain. It truly had been earned.

Stories can be told from way back about the woman who volunteered her "God-gifted" piano skills to any organization or institution desiring them.

There are even the tales of long hours she spent administering to the sick and aged, activities she acknowledges that still take her out of her home from early morning to late evening and sometimes past midnight.

How does she keep up the pace?

"It's the Lord. Oh, I never get tired. I like what I'm doing. I'm real happy, and I am doing it all for God. He's my inspiration."

A graduate of the old Douglass High School, Evang. Melcher is the mother of four children: Bondalear Price, Adrienne, Emmanuel and James Melcher. She is a member of the We Need Prayer Headquarters pastored by Rev. Antoinette Phillips in the 900 block of Gilmor St.

"Love," as she is commonly called by friends, has become one of the most popular visitors to area churches. Her 15-year emceeing career has taken her to, what some say, more churches than anyone in the city.

She can often be found opening services, delivering prayers or just singing as a member of a sanctified congregation. Her ministry has delivered her to the pulpits of various churches, even sparking visits to the homes of some of gospel's noted celebrities.

"I love the church," comments the overenthusiastic, hyper humanitarian. "I love being involved in the church. You can get to people that way, help them and encourage them. I am concerned about their happiness.

"The church is the way I came. It is all I know. I just have to be active, can't just sit there and do nothing. I am really not trying to get attention. I am just working for the Lord. It is what I have been taught."

And her dedication has not gone unrecognized. The Mayor had presented her three awards, Delegate Larry Young, two awards and dozens of others from numerous area churches.

This birthday (formally December 20) rejuvenates those spirits of Evang. Melcher that has launched her into such a personality. As one minister choose to put it: "She's an asset to the religious community in this city."

Bibles to be given

Five million New Testaments will be given away door-to-door next year by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in a nationwide campaign to evangelize and recruit new members, officials said.

It is the largest Bible distribution program ever undertaken, by the denomination.

"There is a good chance we'll go back for another run of five million next year," said Johnnie Godwin, director of Holman Press, a division of the Sunday School Board.

Plans call for the new Testaments to be sold to local Southern Baptist Churches across the country who distribute them free.

Church members would distribute the books from door-to-door during the week of Oct. 20-26 next year.

The distributions will follow Southern Baptist revivals that are planned nationwide next spring.

The Bibles are being printed by the Kingsport Press in Kingsport, Tenn.

Officials said the printing run began around Nov. 1 and will take 82 press days to complete. A total of 19,000 miles of paper and 25,000 pounds of ink will be used.

The Bibles will be available to churches at cost, about 32 cents each. About 37,000 Southern Baptist Churches nationwide will participate.

AFRO Photo by Paul A. Greene

Christmas and birthday spirits mix for Evang. Esther Melcher who poses for AFRO camera at birthday celebration at New Psalmist Baptist Church.

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
The Clergy
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, D.D., L.H.D., Rector
The Rev. Robert T. Ford, ED.D., Deacon
Mr. Maurice Murphy, Mus.D., Choirmaster-Organist
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1984
9:00 A.M. Family Service—Church School
8:00 A.M. Holy Communion
11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Sermon
The public is cordially invited to attend.

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Lafayette and Madison Aves.
"The People of the Way"
Dr. Marion Curtis Bascom, Minister
James S. Hammond, M. Music
Juanita Hall Davis
Organist

Sunday
December 23, 1984
Preaching 8:00 & 11:00
Rev. Marion C. Bascom

MUSIC
8:00 Anthems—Away in a Manger —arr. Willcocks
'Round de Glory Manger —Willis Laurence James
"He Shall Feed His Flock" "Come Unto Him" (from Messiah) —G. F. Handel
Dorothy Loft Jones, mezzo-soprano; Alma Rothea, soprano
11:00 Anthems
A Great and Mighty Wonder —Healey Willan
Beechey
Angels from the Realms of Glory
Rutter

Metro Church Briefs

Basilica of the Assumption

Noted musician and conductor Fernando Allen of Baltimore will be conducting "Handel's Messiah" at the Basilica of the Assumption, Cathedral and Mulberry, with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on Friday, December 21, 8 p.m.

Mt. Pisgah C.M.E.

A night of miracles will be presented at Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church, 1034 N. Fulton Ave., on Friday, December 21, 7:30 p.m. Pastor Christine Stimpson will be speaking.

Union Baptist

The Senior Choir of Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill Ave., will present its annual Christmas concert on Sun., Dec. 23, 5 p.m. The group will present Christmas music, carols and spirituals.

Ray of Hope Baptist

Rev. Harlie Wilson will be the guest speaker at Ray of

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METROPOLITAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CARROLLTON AVENUE & LANVALE STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1984
8:30 A.M. — The Wesleyan Choir and "The Coming Of The King"
Church School Presentation
11:00 A.M. — "Heaven Rejoices" — K. Parker
Combined Choirs
DR. IRVIN C. LOCKMAN, Minister

THE COMING OF OUR LORD IS NEAR !!!
The Countdown Is On!
You Are Cordially invited to Celebrate
The Birthday of Jesus
We Rejoice About This Forthcoming Day
And Anticipate Your Presence
To Share Our Joy
Special Christmas Music, Scriptures, & Prayers Mark the Occassion.
Where:
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH
Lafayette & Pennsylvania Ave.
When: Dec. 9, 16, & 23 (Advent Services)
7:45 and 11:00 AM
Special Christmas Service 10 AM

Metro church briefs

Continued from Page 14

Hope Baptist, 3000 Parkside Drive, on Sunday, December 23, 4 p.m. Choirs and congregation of Israel Baptist Church will accompany Pastor Wilson.

Faith Baptist

The Women Voices of the Women Convention of the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland will present their second Christmas concert at Faith Baptist Church, Ashland and Bond Sts., on Sunday, December 23, 7 p.m.

Simmons Memorial Baptist

Voices of Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, Pennsylvania Ave. and Cumberland St., will be celebrating their anniversary on December 23, 7:30 p.m.

Providence Baptist

The White Gift Committee of Providence Baptist Church, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., invite you to attend the musical presentation of "A Night of Miracles" by the Young Adult Choir of the church. The program will be sponsored on Sunday, December 23, 7:30 p.m.

St. James United Methodist

Mass Choir's Annual Christmas Concert at St. James United Methodist Church, 1901 W. Lexington St., will be Sunday, December 23, 6 p.m.

Morning Star Baptist Church of Christ

Morning Star Baptist Church of Christ, W. Fayette St., 1063, will present their annual Christmas cantata featuring "Down From His Glory," as composed by John W. Peterson on Sunday, Dec. 23, 3:30 p.m. under the direction of James Peterson.

Faith Baptist

Dr. Walter Paige will be speaking at the Christmas Eve Service, December 24, at Faith Baptist Church, Ashland and Bond St., at 7 p.m.

Howard Park United Methodist

Christmas Community Communion Service will be held at noon, Dec. 25, at Howard Park United Methodist Church, 5020 Gwynn Oak Ave., with Rev. Douglas Sands delivering the message.

Adams Chapel A.M.E.

A joint youth and elderly celebration will be held at Adams Chapel A.M.E. Church, 3809 Egerton Road, on Sunday, December 30. Mother Edith Bryant (Bethel A.M.E.) will be the guest speaker. At 2 p.m., free dinner and gifts will be given; 4 p.m. worship service.

Simmons Memorial Baptist

Gospel Chorus No. One under the direction of Elizabeth Waters will be presented in concert at Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, Pennsylvania Ave. and Cumberland St., on Sunday, December 30, 8 p.m.

St. James United Methodist

St. James United Methodist Church's Children Choir will celebrate their first anniversary on Sun., Dec. 30, 3:30 p.m. The church is located at Lexington and Monroe Sts.

Miss Christian Teen

Registration forms can still be obtained for the second Miss Christian Teen Pageant. For further info. call Gloria Temple, 687-4905.

Gillis Memorial Christian Community

Watch Night at Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church, 4016 Park Heights Ave., will be held December 31 beginning at 8 p.m. Communion will be served at 11 p.m. Dr. Theodore Jackson, Jr., pastor, will be preaching.

Mt. Lebanon Baptist

Rev. Robert Farrow (Mt. Calvary Freewill Baptist) and congregation will be at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Reisterstown Rd., on Sunday, January 6, 3:30 p.m.

St. John A.M.E.

St. John A.M.E. Church, 810 Carrollton Ave., will be the site for the Provident Hospital high blood pressure project featuring activist and nutritionist Dick Gregory. The lecture and health seminar will be held at 3 p.m., January 12. 85. For further info. call Russell Johnson, 235-2125.

Huber Memorial United Church of Christ

Second Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast will be held Sunday, January 13 at Huber Memorial United Church of Christ, Alameda and 29th St., 8 a.m. For further info. call Jackie Shields, 366-1383.

Liberation Theology

Clergy, laity concerned and the education committee of the Progressive Economic Development Corporation will present a seminar-panel discussion on liberation theology as it concerns women, blacks and third world countries. The event will take place on Sat., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. For further info. call Father Fred Ruof, 467-3212.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION FROM GENERAL MOTORS

HOW TO TALK TO TEENAGERS ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING.

KEEPING OUT OF HARM'S WAY.

Teenagers can get into a lot of trouble with alcohol. Even teenagers who don't drink. Often they aren't aware of the facts.

A new view of the statistics shows where part of the problem lies, and can lead to a better communication between adults and teenagers.

Teenagers are in the high-risk group. People between the ages of 16 and 24 represent only 20 percent of the licensed drivers of our country. But that same group is involved in 42 percent of all the alcohol-related fatal crashes. When you think about that, two tragic things are revealed:

First, not all teenagers killed in such accidents are themselves drunk at the time. Often they have had nothing to drink at all, but are passengers in cars driven by teenagers who have been drinking.

Second, teenagers are often on the roads late at night, especially on weekends, when most crashes involving alcohol occur. They are targets for cars driven by people who have had too much to drink.

Some facts about alcohol you might want to discuss with teenagers are often surprising to adults:

• One can of beer, as well as one eight-ounce glass of wine, and one 1½-ounce drink of 86-proof liquor are all equally intoxicating. The risk is the same regardless of what you've been drinking.

• The legal definition of intoxication is based on "Blood Alcohol Concentration" or "BAC." If you have a BAC of .10, you are legally drunk in most states. But for drivers or drinkers who are less experienced, a BAC of .05, or sometimes lower, can be dangerous.

• Even relatively low levels of alcohol can reduce your tolerance to injury, increasing the danger in an accident.

Arm your teenagers with the facts and give them time to reflect on them.

If expected to show good judgment, teenagers are more likely to live up to it.

Please discuss the problem of drinking and driving with your teenagers now, and if you think this advertisement will help, ask them to read it.

And keep in mind, that the best way to teach young people—as they may tell you—is by example.

The people of General Motors care, and urge teenagers, and their parents, to give serious thought to the dangers of drinking and driving. It's something we all can do.

This advertisement is part of our continuing effort to give customers useful information about their cars and trucks and the company that builds them.

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* WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (Work Related Injuries No Recovery - No Fee
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* DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED CASES
* COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS
* CRIMINAL CASES (District Courts, Circuit Court Jury and Non-Jury Trials)
* COMMERCIAL AND PERSONAL CONTRACTS

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WE TAKE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN EACH CLIENT

Every case recieves individualized handling and care by Mr. Engerman and Mr. Collins

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