

## First Faith-Based Prison Dedicated By Gov. Bush

Lawtey, FL – Gov. Jeb Bush dedicated what is being called the nation's first faith-based prison yesterday, telling its nearly 800 inmates that religion can help keep them from landing in jail again.

In addition to prayer sessions, the Lawtey Correctional Institution will offer religious studies, choir practice, religious counseling and other spiritual activities seven days a week. Participation is voluntary, and inmates are free to transfer out.

Bush lauded the inmates from 26 faiths for committing themselves "to a higher authority."

"This is not just fluffy policy, this is serious policy," he told the crowd. "For the people who are skeptical about this initiative, I am proud that Florida is the home to the first faith-based prison in the United States."

## Home Buyer Education Seminar Monday, January 26, 2004

Your New Home Realty and Washington Mutual Home Loans will host a free home buyer education seminar on Monday, January 26th, at 6:30 p.m. The seminar will be held in the Park Lane Hotel Cherry Blossom Room. Topics to be covered include understanding the home buying process, how to purchase a home with no money down, the advantages of getting pre-qualified, understanding your credit, how debt to income ratios affect how much home you can afford, and the advantages of working with a Realtor as your Buyers Agent.

Register early and receive two complimentary tickets for the Watchful Network's 9th annual Black History Month Business Exp, call Tyrone at 336-988-7689 before 4 p.m. January 26.

## LOOKING BACK; LOOKING FORWARD

### 24th Annual Noon Hour Commemoration Dr. Martin Luther King's 75th Birthday

12 noon - Monday, January 19, 2004  
M. C. Benton Convention Center  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

### Keynote Speaker: Rev. Claude R. Alexander, Jr.

University Park Baptist Church  
Charlotte, NC

2004 MLK "Dared to Make a Difference" Awardees  
• Dr. Charlie B. Hauser  
• Dr. H. Rembert Malloy

2004 = 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka  
Music and More

Sponsors: WAAA — "980 Triple A"  
Winston-Salem Chapter NAACP  
Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission

## Sometimes Babies And Boyfriends Don't Mix

Dear Editor:

Mothers beware! Wake up and realize that the man you profess to love does not necessarily share the same emotion for your child. This is not a package deal. I appeal to your common sense and the protective instinct that is innate within all mothers.

Let us take a lesson from the animal kingdom. Males have little or nothing to do with the direct rearing of their offspring. After copulation, most males are off to do what is instinctive, to mate with other females. Females give birth to their offspring and go through great lengths to provide and to protect them from harm.

Many fathers play a pivotal role in the raising of their children, even when they don't reside in the same household. Men serve as role models who ensure that their children become self-sufficient citizens of society. Fathers are bestowed with the dubious task of being the breadwinners and the protectors of their families.

Mothers have the distinct responsibility of conceiving and giving birth to a baby who is totally dependent upon her for food, shelter, comfort and safety. Mothers already have a jump on fathers; they bond with their baby for nine months. This phenomenon, coupled with their inherent motherly instincts, prepares most mothers for the arduous task of patiently dealing with the baby's never ending cries and need for reassurance and constant attention.

Mothers, this message is coming to you from a male who also happens to be a law enforcement officer who works on a daily basis with infants and children abused at the hands of their mother's boyfriends: **DON'T PLACE YOUR BABIES AT THE MERCY OF YOUR BOYFRIEND!**

All men don't abuse babies, but you can no longer afford to arbitrarily allow adult men to baby-sit infants who are not their own. It's a package deal that most men only tolerate just to spend time with you.

A man needs to, first, have love for or a sincere interest in your baby. The others have to be taught to have patience and taught the proper mechanics involved in nurturing and comforting an infant. All boyfriends and fathers should be monitored during interaction with your babies. Trust your instincts. Which category does your boyfriend fall into?

*Shawn Kennedy*

"I have a  
dream . . .

Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929-1968



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