

GOD'S MAN IN TIMBUKTU

by Debra S. Boyd, Ph.D.

Timbuktu, referred to as the City of 333 Saints by Muslim mystics, is the home of a 21st Century apostle of Jesus Christ, Pastor Nouh (pronounced "Nock") Ag Infa Yattara.

During the month of June 2007, while I was on a Fulbright consultancy at the University of Mali, I was finally able to realize my long-time dream to reach Timbuktu (Fr. Tombouctou). The fact that I was received and hosted by Pastor Nouh, who embodies the reality of the living Christ in a region anchored in Islam, was an honor that far surpassed my expectations.

While I had heard stories about Pastor Nouh, his election as a visionary-warrior who spreads the Good News about salvation through Jesus Christ, it was a great moment in my Christian experience to witness the anointing on his life. One would have to be chosen and also have a word from God to establish a church in Timbuktu.



Pastor Nouh Ag Infa Yattara

Mali is classified by the United Nations as one of the poorest countries in the world and lists Timbuktu as one of the most impoverished regions in the country. Pastor

Yattara refers to the region as the "Belt of Misery" and yet, in his ministry he labors to deconstruct the poverty paradigm by modeling through his own life the power of God's grace in the midst of environmental and economic adversity.

To walk with Pastor Nouh around his hometown is to be absorbed in a rich visual and oral narrative of Timbuktu's religious history. He is a professionally trained tour guide. However, what distinguishes him is his ability to underscore the genesis and evolution of Christianity in Timbuktu. Although Catholics were the first to set up a mission in Timbuktu, Pastor Nouh Yattara is the first Timbuktu convert to the mes-

Continued on Page 15

Entertainers, Entrepreneurs and Super Kids Make A Winning Team

By Ninashay



Dedrick Rolison, Theodore Howard, P. Diddy, and Christian Combs

The phenomenon tearing up the turf at Calabasas High School these days isn't the home team Calabasas Cougars, it's a group of talented 9 and 10 year old boys and 1 girl, whose perfect season record of 8-0 led them to the 2008 PYFL (Pacific Youth Football League) Playoffs.

The team Bantam Black, of the Calabasas Raiders, is first seed in the Bantam South-Central Division

covering Ventura and Los Angeles Counties which include Camarillo, Burbank, Thousand Oaks and neighboring cities. Their current record is 9-0, winning their first playoff game and ending the regular season with 8 wins, 4 shutouts and 216 total scoring points. A dynamic and diverse group of kids, they are from the nearby rolling hills of Calabasas, California, home of Hollywood Elite,

Continued on Page 7

Support Center Names Paula McCoy As CEO

The transition of leadership for an organization is usually a time of nervous tension. In the case of the NC Minority Support Center (Support Center) in Durham, NC, the board has confidence in its new CEO, Paula McCoy. McCoy took over the leadership of the Support Center, bringing her more than two decades of experience in community organization management and direction with her.

The Support Center has helped North Carolina's community development credit unions (CDCUs) meet the needs of underserved, low-income people for more than 16 years. Through its technical assistance and critical investment programs, the Support Center has helped credit unions serve nearly 35,000

people. The organization's business loan fund has helped to generate over 1,400 jobs in the state. In the last two years, it has assisted CDCUs in providing over 6,568 loans in the sum of \$71 million for housing and consumer financing to individuals and families whose only other alternative would have been sub-prime lenders.

As the Support Center's new CEO, McCoy will continue to ensure that the mission is carried out and expand its reach as an intermediary for small credit unions. "This mission requires tenacious leadership and compassion to help less fortunate individuals," says Maurice Smith, Support Center Board Chairman. "Paula's background has equipped her with the means to help promote



Paula McCoy

economic development for low-income members and their communities."

McCoy will also serve as CEO of Generations Community

Continued on Page 7

INSIDE...

SASSY SHOE PARTIES -- Get FREE Shoes!.....	2
Start Leading A Healthier Lifestyle	12
Dr. Rehab.....	13
How I Beat Cancer! By John Raye	13
Equal Opportunity Day ..	14
Val's Views by Val Jones.....	19
Top Priority Care and Community Outreach Services, Inc. Goes International and Reaches Out To Jamaica	27