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Focus On Religion

Gospel workshop heightens awareness

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Rev. Isaac Douglas, a name synonymous with contemporary and traditional gospel music, has remained a firm believer in the power above and he lets others know it through uplifting song and an humble testimony. Last week, amateurs, professionals and students of gospel music from all over the United States gathered at the Ambassadors for Christ Cathedral for the fourth annual Interdenominational Gospel Fellowship Summer Workshop to learn from Douglas and other high-caliber musicians and singers of the music they say is still deserving of recognition in Winston-Salem.

David Allen, minister of music at Ambassadors for Christ and who has just released his own album featuring the David Allen Singers, is the workshop's founder and president. The only other gospel music workshop in the South is the one hosted by James Cleveland in Atlanta.

"The exposure of gospel music isn't at the level it should be," says Allen. "What we're trying to do is bring in the best talent gospel music has to offer together. This workshop is the best we've had. There's been a lot of enthusiasm generated by the artists we have this year."

Douglas, a native of Richmond, Va., has recorded numerous albums since his tenure in the gospel music industry. It was he who put the contemporary in gospel music, says Allen and Jeffrey LeValley, pianist for Tramine Hawkins and minister of music at New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Flint, Mich.

LeValley, the workshop's choir director, dotes on the opportunity he's had to work with Douglas. The two spent Thursday evening together collaborating on a new song Douglas had him scribble out on a scratch pad. "No Telling Where I Would Be" serves as his testimonial, says Douglas.

He recently recovered from a heart attack and an amputated leg that now confines his once strong and tall frame to a wheel chair. But nothing can stop him from teaching others about the word of God through song, he says.

"I was here when the workshop started," he says in a weakened voice, which regains full strength during the mass choir rehearsal.

"I am a part of gospel. I will continue to come to Winston-Salem because gospel music is slow here.

"They need some fire here and by the time we get through, they're going to have to call the fire department. We're going to set this building on fire."

LeValley, a musician in his own right, served as the fuel for the fire Douglas had intended on sparking at the workshop. The mass choir, which consisted of gospel music singers from basses to altos from every church and denomination thinkable, was at his mercy.

He demands excellence and the undivided attention of all when he is at the helm. "Honey, let me tell you," LeValley says reprimanding a soprano, "you cannot sing

"I am a part of gospel. ..."

-- The Rev. Isaac Douglas

with your arms folded."

Embarrassment is a teaching tool he uses cautiously to get his point across. After going over Douglas' new song note by note, he's still not satisfied with the soprano section. Individually, each one of them must sing his or her part to satisfy the teacher and he makes them stand an extra five minutes to add to the punishment.

"Gospel music has more of a message than Michael Jackson or Boy George," says LeValley, who opted to make gospel a career instead of using his journalism degree from Penn State University. "Their message is of sex and violence. You know it's a shame our kids can break dance better than they can spell the word of God.

"Put us on the cover of *People* magazine. Put us in 'Entertainment Tonight.' If gospel music was given the exposure that 'Thriller' got, just imagine where we could



Jeffrey LeValley -- musician, composer and crusader for God -- directs the Interdenominational Fellowship Mass Choir at a recent gospel workshop (photo by James Parker).

be."

Not only is the emphasis of the workshop to spread the word about gospel music and God, says LeValley, but its purpose is also to teach the young about its importance, expose them to the people who make the music and sharpen their music skills.

"This is my life," says LeValley. "My ministry is teaching music. Money doesn't matter. This is what the workshop is all about -- sharing.

"I'm just sharing with everybody else what I've learned. People like Isaac Douglas, Mattie Moss, the teachers, they really don't get the credit they deserve."

Last year, Anna Brown, minister of music at Called Out Assembly Missionary Baptist Church in Houston,

Texas, stood where LeValley did this year. As a student, she's attentive and sets an example to the altos in her section.

"I came last year and I'm going to keep coming back," she says. "I'll keep coming back as long as there is a need."

Other headliners at the workshop were Vanessa Bell Armstrong at one of the two weekend midnight concerts. Also included were speakers and singers Evangelists Rosie Haynes, Dana Holmes and Shirley Caesar Williams, and the Reverends Freddie Washington, Charles Lyles and Darryle Coley. Others were Carol Simmons, Steve Williams, Peggy Britt, Leo Taylor, Elder Michael Foy and Bishop Ralph Graves.

Church Notes

St. John Apostolic to offer tutorials

There will be a reading tutorial program at St. John Apostolic Church at 1131 E. 21st St. for grades K-4, June 28 through July 26.

Registration will be held today through Monday, June 24, from 6-7:30 p.m. The classes will be held on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m.

Jeanette Richardson Millner, a certified teacher in the city-county school system, will be the instructor. She is also a reading specialist in pre-reading

skills for the Bethlehem Child Care Program at the Bethlehem, Happy Hill and Kimberly Park centers.

Mrs. Millner has taught in both North Carolina and Virginia. She holds a bachelor of science degree in education from Winston-Salem State University, a master's degree in educational media from North Carolina A&T State University and has done further study at UNC-Greensboro.

For more information call 788-6708.

Funerals

Mrs. Della Elizabeth Harris, a Winston native, passes

Mrs. Della Elizabeth Harris

Mrs. Della Elizabeth Harris of 2920 New Walkertown Road Apt. D passed on Saturday, June 9th at her residence. Her remains were removed to Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home. She was a native of Winston-Salem and attended the local public schools. She was of the Baptist Faith. Her survivors are two grandsons, Mr. Willard Harris and Mr. Calvin Harris both of the city. Several other relatives and friends.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home in charge of services.

Mrs. Edna Mae Johnson

Mrs. Edna Mae Johnson, 1248 Alder Street, passed Sunday at the N. C. Baptist Hospital. She was a native of Randolph County, a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and a retired employee of the East Side Dry Cleaners. She is survived by one son, Mr. David Johnson, of this city, one sister, Mrs. Louise Bailey, four brothers, Mr. C. L. Reaves, Mr. Clarence Reaves, Mr. Charlie Reaves, Mr. James Reaves, Jr., all of this city. One granddaughter, other relatives and friends. Funeral services are incomplete at this time.

Arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by Gilmore Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Catherine Penn Smith

Funeral services for Mrs. Catherine Penn Smith of 310 N. Woodland Avenue were conducted Sunday, June 10th at 1:30 P.M. at the Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church, with Rev. C. H. Gill officiating. Interment followed in



Jeanette Richardson Millner

Choristers honored

Mrs. Addie Gary Hairston and Mrs. Annie G. Mormon were honored Sunday, June 17, for 50 years of service in the Hanes Memorial CME Church Chancel Choir.

Two retired members, S.A. Cunningham and Mrs. Helen Rader, were also honored for their service.

The recognition took place during the 68th anniversary of the choir. Special guest was the Senior Choir of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Walkertown.

Mrs. Georgia Smith is president of the choir and James Smith serves as the choir's organist and director.

Nurses celebrate birthdays

The Waightown Baptist Church Senior Nurses Board recently celebrated the birthdays of members Mrs. Luverta McCrow, Mrs. Ella Mae Williams and Mrs. Earlene Darr.

Members attending the birthday celebration were Ms. Annie Mae Bacote, Ms. Hattie Caldwell, Ms. Doretta Hays, Ms. Barbara Harris, Ms. Francine Jackson, Ms. Nellie Manselle, Ms. Theopla Meadows, Ms. Louise Streater, Ms. Jeanette Elley and Sherman Williams.

CALENDAR

Compiled by Lucille Douthett

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

•Kimberly Park Holiness Church will worship at Love's Temple Church of God at the corner of 30th Street and Ivy Avenue at 7:30 p.m. in celebration of the anniversary of its pastor, Elder George Pass.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

•The Brotherhood and Women On the Move of Tabernacle of Faith at 2712 Bon Air Avenue will present its Men and Women's Day program at 4 p.m. at the church.

•The Senior Choir of Zion Memorial Baptist Church will present a musical on at 101 N. Dunleith Ave. at 5 p.m. Music will be presented by the joint choirs of the church along with the youth choir.

•The Union Service of the four churches of St. John CME, Union Baptist, New Bethel Baptist and Emmanuel Baptist will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 1075 Shalimar Drive at 7 p.m. St. John CME will lead the service.

•Dellabrook and Trinity Presbyterian Churches will have a joint worship service at 11 a.m. in the picnic area of Bolton Park. Members and guests who wish to attend should bring a picnic dish and chairs. Groups will participate in swimming and games after the service.

•The Youth Department of Hanes Memorial CME Church at 819 Highland Ave. will present Mrs. Pansy Reddick Wilkerson, soprano; Frank McKissick, tenor, and the Christian Methodist Men's Chorus in concert at 4 p.m. James D. Smith, church organist, will be the accompanist.

•Children between ages 6 and 11 may continue to enroll in the day camp sponsored by Dellabrook Presbyterian, St. Stephen's Episcopal and St. Benedict's Catholic churches. The camp will remain open through July 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Dellabrook. Swimming, prayer songs, Bible stories and other enrichment programs will be included. For more information about the camp, call 725-1564.

The Chronicle welcomes church calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should also include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Church Calendar, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Mondays at 5:30.

N.C., after an extended illness. Funeral services are tentatively set for Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. at Marable Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Kannapolis, N.C. She is locally survived by: one son, Mr. Albert Stewart, 137 N. Wheeler Street, one daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frances Stewart, 137 N. Wheeler Street. The body is at the House of Stafford, 2105 S. Cannon Blvd., Kannapolis, N.C.

This announcement is a courtesy of Gilmore Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Margretta H. Gray

Funeral services for Mrs. Margretta H. Gray were conducted Thursday, June 14, 1984 at Spencer Memorial Christian Church at 4:00 P.M. with Rev. Kenneth Davis, officiating.

Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery

Mrs. Ada B. Gwyn

Mrs. Ada B. Gwyn, age 99 of Triad Nursing Home expired Saturday, June 16, 1984 at the Nursing Home.

She was born in Carol County, Virginia and had lived here most of her life. She was a Baptist by faith. She was a former employee of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Survivors include; a niece Mrs. Alma France of the city, nephews, great nieces, cousins, other members of the family and friends.

The body is at Johnson's Home of Memory pending the completion of Funeral and Burial arrangements.

Please see page B7

Mrs. Betty Jean Benson Roberts

Funeral services for Mrs. Betty Jean Benson Roberts of 1719 Thurmond Street were held on Saturday, June 9th at 2:00 P.M. in Friendship Baptist Church with Rev. S. E. Tyndall, officiating. The remains did repose in Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home until 1:00 P.M. Saturday at which time it was placed in state in the Church until the funeral hour. Interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home in charge of services.

Mrs. Daisy Baldwin

Mrs. Daisy Baldwin, 1056 E. 17th Street, passed Sunday at the Medical Park Hospital. A list of survivors and other details will be announced later.

Arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by Gilmore Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Rachel Massey Chapman

Mrs. Rachel Massey Chapman, Kannapolis, N.C., passed Saturday at the Cabarrus Hospital in Concord,