

Rally focuses on youths' concerns

Continued from page 8B
 clothing and costumes.
 "Live Ministries is a bridge between communities and churches," said Rev. Dorothy Jackson of Live Ministries. "Live Ministries is God using common people to do extraordinary things."
 "We wanted to do something for the youth who are under extreme pressures. We are sending them a message God cares and is concerned about their daily issues."
 Jackson says self-esteem among youth is on the decrease and some feel that there's no hope for their situation.
 "When you lack hope, drugs and even suicide becomes an option," she said.

"I'm Mad' is an attempt of people to go into people's lives where they've lost hope and speak life. We want kids to express their concerns to us and we will end the function on a positive note about Christ.
 "We are going to give solution-focused type counseling on the issues young people experience. Going to church once a week will not address the issues of young people."
 There will be live entertainment and prizes offered to competitors. Representatives from organizations such as United Family Services, Domestic Violence in Relationships, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network and DARE will be present to discuss problems youth face

at school, home and their neighborhood.
 Churches at the rally will be able to correspond with youngsters and address their needs.
 "This event is also for churches," said Jackson. "We want to increase the churches' awareness of what the youth is going through. We have seven churches and they all have a heart for youth."
 "At the rally we're going to stand still and listen to their concerns without judging. If you look at statistics the kids are under an extreme amount of pressure to compete, trying to fit in, keeping up with fads. Some families are poor and can't afford to do so. There are children

that come home upset because they have been picked on at school."
 Although African Americans are making more money than before and the community no longer has to deal with Jim Crow laws Jackson says the problems youth face today are just as bad.
 "Within their culture they're dealing with segregation and racism," she said. "We need to help them deal with it so they don't turn to the devil. And their issues are things we shouldn't address one time. We have to continue to address their problems and constantly get the word out. And let them know that some people who love the Lord care."

"The Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord" - Exodus 20:10

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 Frank L. Harrell, Sr. - Pastor

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 Sabbath Service..... 11:00a.m.
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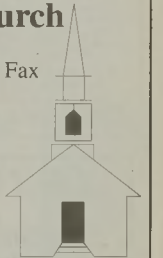


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 Rev. J.A. Cuthbertson - Pastor
 Office Hours: 9am - 3pm
 Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.

Worship Service..... 11:00a.m.

Rejoice!



U.S. Muslim group takes Indonesia by storm

By Chris Brummitt
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAKARTA, Indonesia — They're regulars on MTV. Fans accost them in shopping malls. Their debut album smashed into the top 10.
 But Debu is hardly your typical American pop export.
 The band's 17 members are all Muslims, and their songs of peace and love are making a big splash in Indonesia — the world's most populous Islamic country — where religious extremism, terrorism and anti-American sentiment are on the rise.
 "We are doing it for Allah," said Washington, D.C. native Najib Ali, the band's drummer, manager and Web site designer. "The music is just a vehicle to convey an important message, namely that in Islam everyone is protected and there is peace."
 Debu's sound is a heady mix of Middle Eastern strings, thumping drums, flutes, violins, a harp and other Indonesian instruments picked up during the band's travels through this

vast archipelago with 210 million people, about 90 percent of them Muslims.
 The band is made up of 10 women and seven men. Most of them join in the singing, belting out the lyrics in a mixture of Indonesian, Arabic and English.
 Fifteen of the group's members are U.S. citizens, hailing from various parts of the country. They formed the band four years ago after visiting Indonesia along with their spiritual guru, Syekh Fattaah. Other members now include a Swede and an Indonesian.
 Although they've never released a record outside Indonesia, Debu hopes to find a following among America's growing Muslim community.
 "Our music is without limits — it moves," said lead singer Kumay Mustafa. "What we try to do is make a combination of different sounds to make something universal."
 The band's popularity in Indonesia underscores a growing Muslim revival in this country, where the practice and observance of Islam

have long been generally less rigid than in Middle Eastern countries.
 Muslims, especially young urban ones, are becoming more pious and orthodox. Islamic-style clothing — once rarely seen on the street or in the media — is gaining more popularity.
 Made up of four families of mixed ethnic backgrounds, Debu live in three large houses in a suburb of South Jakarta, at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac lined with banana trees. The band's stay in Indonesia is sponsored by a large Islamic foundation.
 Rehearsals, held in one of the houses, are a family affair, with children banging on drums, shaking tambourines or dancing around the studio.
 Debu's musicians are Sufis — members of a mystical branch of Islam that emphasizes the allegorical nature of the Quran. Its followers strive for a direct, personal experience of God through meditation and self-discipline, normally under the guidance of a teacher.
 Unlike most mainstream Muslims, many Sufis believe

music and dance can be used as tools to get closer to God, and as ways of spiritual cleansing.
 "Singing the songs over and over again is kind of like scrubbing a dirty pan," said Mustafa, who comes from Oregon state. "Your heart is that dirty pan."
 Western groups, mostly boy bands or long-haired rockers, have long been favorites among Indonesian teenagers. But a Western musical group spreading Islam is a first.
 During the Islamic holy month of Ramadan late last year, a video clip of the band's latest single was repeatedly played on MTV Indonesia, the cable network's local unit.
 Its debut album, "Drunk with Love," has sold more than 50,000 copies, enough to break into Indonesia's Top 10, according to its record label.
 "The lead singer is so attractive," said one giggling female fan at the show.
 On the Net:
 Debu's Web site:
<http://www.musikdebu.com>

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FAITH IN ACTION

— Della Reese, Entertainment Legend.
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Oratory's growth leads to local plea for donations

By Sula Pettibon
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Members of The Oratory, a community of brothers and priests, are not afraid of controversy.
 They made history when they helped integrate St. Anne Catholic School in 1954, the first in the state and possibly the South; and their members helped lead Rock Hill's civil rights movement in the 1960s.
 But the community, which will celebrate its 70th anniversary in Rock Hill this year, needs help now. Facing some economic hardship, The Oratory has, for the first time, asked York County's approximate 3,000 Catholic families for donations to support its 15 members.
 The strain is caused by growth. Three men are being educated for the priesthood at a cost of about \$90,000 a year. At the same time, several members have reached retirement age, which brings challenges with medical costs.
 "All churches are strugg-

ling," said the Rev. Joseph Wahl, a provost who's been there 56 years. "People are being very careful. They're holding onto their money."
 The Oratory receives money through fees for retreats at its 10-acre campus. Income also comes from stocks they've been given and from the county's five Catholic parishes that pay salaries to priests.
 But the investments haven't performed as well as they used to, and the community has run \$150,000 in the hole for several years. They fear they'll deplete retirement funds if things don't change.
 On the positive side, they will have three new priests by the year 2008, replacing those who will retire, Wahl said. He is also delighted with the response they've gotten to the recent appeal letter, he said. "People have been good."
 The Oratory, founded in 1875 by St. Philip Neri of Florence, Italy, is a place where ordained and secular ministers pray, preach, evan-

gelize and live as a community. There are six in the country, with others in Pharr, Texas; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Metuchen, N.J.; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Two are being formed in Hawaii and Seattle.
 Rock Hill's was the first in America. Established in 1934, it has seven buildings at its location, including its Church of Our Lady and St. Philip Neri. Before The Oratory arrived, Jesuits served York, Chester and Lancaster counties, Wahl said. The Oratorians were given permission by the bishop to locate in the area, once considered mission territory.
 Wahl's brother, Ed, was one of the first members, Wahl said. His second brother, Richard, came in 1941 and finished high school here. All three received an education from The Oratory. It takes nine years to become a priest.
 "The way we pay back is to give our life and service," Wahl said. When Wahl arrived in 1947, there were 100 Catholic families in Rock

Hill who worshiped in a tiny church on Saluda Street. Catholics made up about a half of 1 percent of the state's population. Today, they make up about 3.6 percent.
 Through the years, Oratory members were chaplains for St. Philip's Hospital, started St. Mary's Catholic Church in 1946 and helped needy boys. Along with integrating St. Anne school, they organized unions for textile workers and created a credit union for the black community.
 "They had their ear tuned to what was happening in the community," said Betty Jo Rhea, former mayor for Rock Hill. "They made a difference in a lot of people's lives."
 "The Oratory is always noted for social justice," said Irma Dickson, a Catholic who came to Rock Hill at age 13 in 1938.

Obituaries

A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service

Andrew Davis, 69, of 3657 High Laurel Lane, died Dec. 11, 2003. Funeral was held Dec. 17, 2003 at Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Gastonia.

Josephine Downing, 61, of 1418 Wembley Drive, died Dec. 17, 2003. Funeral was held Dec. 20, 2003 at New Covenant AME Church.

Freida Harding, 43, of 1600 Burtonwood Circle, died Dec. 13, 2003. Funeral was held Dec. 20, 2003 at A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service Chapel.

Leon Morris, 57, of 701 Ablow Drive, Matthews, N.C., died Dec. 23, 2003. Funeral was held Dec. 29, 2003 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Matthews, N.C.

Frank Harper, 80, of 1108 Rocky Ridge Drive, died Dec. 31, 2003. Funeral was held Jan. 5 at Greater Salem Church.



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 "THE DIVINE REVELATION OF HIM CHRIST" - PART SEVEN
 J. M. LITTLE - TEACHER

I have an elderly woman in my family who has been in the church practically all of her life. But she will not let me talk to her about Christ and she gets very angry when I even mention some simple truths to her. She is like a sleeping dog. A sleeping dog does not want to be disturbed. Every sinner in his natural condition is asleep in the lap of the evil one. "And we know that we are of God, and the WHOLE WORLD LIETH IN WICKEDNESS. And we KNOW that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may KNOW Him that is true, AND WE ARE IN HIM that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." (1 John 5:19-20). Knowing Christ and the Father is eternal life. Do you know the Father and the Son? I do. When God saved me back there in 1972, God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit took up an abode in my heart by faith. It wasn't faith I saw, but Christ who died for me. Further John said, "But ye have an unction (anointing) from the Holy One, AND YE KNOW ALL THINGS." This anointing from the Holy Spirit enables me and every believer to know when the other fellow is not in Christ but just on a religious profession just like I was on for years. It is a great mystery to you how I know you are not saved! Again John said, "But the anointing WHICH YE HAVE RECEIVED OF HIM abideth in you, and YE NEED NOT THAT ANY MAN TEACH YOU; but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, YE SHALL ABIDE IN HIM." (1 John 2:27).