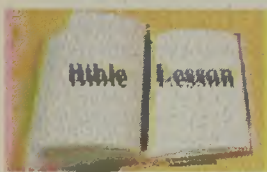


8B

RELIGION



Love and betrayal

Matt. 26: 3-15, 20-25

Then the chief priest and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Whey this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, where this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Then one of the twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "the one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."

Farrakhan cries out for justice, reparations



FILE PHOTO

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan delivered his annual Savior's Day address.

By Artellia Burch
artellia@thecharlottepost.com

The Nation of Islam capped Black History Month with its Savior's Day program last Sunday.

Hundreds of followers, politicians and community leaders filed into First Ward Recreational Center to listen to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan deliver the keynote speech "Reparations: What America and Europe Owes and What Allah (God) Promises" via satellite.

At the beginning of his sermon Farrakhan appeared a tad emotional when he told the crowd "There's something burning within me. There are some things I'm com-

pelled to say. So may the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in the eyes of Allah."

The bulk of Farrakhan's speech dealt with reparations. He said that if America is not willing to look at what happened to black people as a people there will never be a chance for good relations between black and whites. "If there is not truth between us there can never be love and justice between us."

Farrakhan also dealt the spiritual side of reparations. He said God is just and He is going to deal with America if it doesn't make a mends to the people of the transatlantic slave trade.

"The scripture teaches us that God

warns Abraham that his people will be a stranger in a foreign land..." he said. "And that his seed would be put in bondage but the nation that judges your seed I will judge and your seed will come out with great substance. "If America isn't willing to deal with what happened to our ancestors then America is going to have to deal with an angry God.

"The Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught us when we lie down justice lies down with us."

Farrakhan, who has often been called anti-semitic, says he is not filled with hate but has some serious questions for Christian, Jewish and Islamic scholars. "Have you ever asked yourself why don't these

Please see **NATION/6B**

Online network helps link like-minded Muslims

By Deborah Kong
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO—Part of her hoped she'd find her soul mate when she joined Naseeb, a new online Muslim community. But getting a marriage proposal just three months later while on a snowboarding trip in Pennsylvania was way beyond Saara Sheikh's expectations.

Raised by conservative, Pakistani Muslim parents, Sheikh knew dating was out.

Still, she rebelled at the idea of a traditional arranged marriage, skipping out on meetings her parents set up with potential spouses.

"They've been trying to hook me up since I was, like, 20," said Sheikh, a 25-year-old Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, mental health professional. "I told my mom I would want to find somebody on my own. The arranged thing would be very hard for me."

Naseeb seemed like a good

compromise. Sometimes called the Muslim version of Friendster, the site allows people to network with friends of friends.

Like the company, which is based in San Jose, California, but has engineering operations in Lahore, Pakistan, many of Naseeb's users are a blend of East and West, comfortable with technology yet tied to tradition. In Naseeb, they've found a culturally sensitive middle ground that lies

somewhere between dating, which experts say is discouraged by Islamic law, and the old-fashioned practice of marriages brokered by parents.

In the Muslim community, arranged marriages vary by ethnicity they are more common among South Asians and some Arabs than American blacks. Such practices, brought from immigrants' home countries, typically

Please see **ON-LINE/5B**

Pope weighs in on Haiti

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II called on Haitians Sunday to be courageous and humble in taking decisions needed for the good of Haiti in a strong appeal made shortly before news broke that the nation's president had left the country after four weeks of rebellion.

The pontiff made no direct reference to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who is a former priest. Even as the rebellion grew bloodier, Aristide had been insisting he would stay in office until his term expires in 2006.

U.S. and Haitian officials said early Sunday that Aristide had departed his nation, where four weeks of rebellion have seen more than 100 people killed.

The White House on Saturday had called on Aristide to "re-examine" his position but didn't call for him to step down.

"Worrisome and painful news reaches us from Haiti," John Paul said in remarks added at the last minute to his traditional Sunday speech to pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square. He spoke about a half-hour before The Associated Press reported Aristide's departure.

"In the face of such a situation, I feel the duty to invite all Haitians to have the courage and the humility to take those decisions which are required for the good of the country," the pontiff said.

"While I encourage the diplomatic efforts of the international community, and ask for generous commitments by humanitarian organizations, I send a special blessing to the beloved Haitian people," the pope concluded.

The U.S. Embassy in Haiti, which had rebuffed Aristide's pleas to send a small peace-keeping force, had urged him to tell his followers to stop "spreading terror and attacking civilians and the general population" in his name.

Earlier in the crisis, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin suggested Aristide cede power for

Please see **HAITI'S/6B**



Ratings

Classic; ★★★★★
Excellent; ★★★★★
Good ★★★★★
Fair ★★★★★
Why? ★★★★★
No stars — A

Nelson & Purpose strut their stuff 'Live In Baltimore'

Jonathan Nelson & Purpose
Live In Baltimore: Everything You Are
Jonathan Nelson, Producer

★★★★★

Those of you who are looking for the next big thing in gospel should find a copy of "Everything You Are," a live recording by Jonathan & Purpose.

Who is Jonathan Nelson? He's a marvelous writer, awesome arranger and a top-notch director. Imagine a bit of Richard Smallwood, Donald Lawrence, Kirk Carr and Kirk Franklin in a single body. Yet this kid has his own style that makes this material, well, sing.

Nelson's group is something special in its own right. This is a talented group. Each is polished, but have just enough rough edge to give an

innocent quality.

There is a wealth of quality songs on this project, most of which Nelson wrote or co-wrote. These are songs that come from a deep spiritual yearning, a passion for the love of Christ. One song, "Manifest," may be familiar to some. It's featured on T.D. Jakes' latest project. Purpose gives the 300-voice Potter's House choir a run for its money on the song. This is a "singing" bunch of folks.

But the best choir and solo performance comes on "Change Will Come." The sweetness that Chrystal Rucker sings with is incredible. Her approach is saintly, but she growls when needed and soars when necessary. Rucker's delivery makes you feel the message. It's a stunning performance that rivals anything I've heard this year. The choir's backing vocals are angelic. The choir never overpowers, just compli-

ments. This song is awesome!

The most amazing fact about this CD is that it's not on a major label. That has to be because no major label has heard this recording.

This is an independent project that can be purchased at www.jnandpurpose.com or at N Time Music, a gospel music store on Albemarle Road. Run, don't walk, to get this CD.

CHURCH NEWS

Christian Women of Elegance is sponsoring a 100 word essay contest on "Why Your Mother Should Be Considered The Greatest Mom of Charlotte." The writers' age categories are ages 5-9, 10-17 and 18 and older. All essays should be mailed or faxed to:

Christian Women of Elegance, 242 Water Oak Drive, Pineville, 281344 or fax to (704) 889-1209. The winners will present the awards to their mothers at the Gospel Day In The Park—A Day To Celebrate Women" to be held May 1 at Independence Park

located at 300 Hawthorne Lane. For more information call 704-493-2536.

March 5-6

A gospel comedy show will be held at Dr. U.I. McCall Activity Center at 1200 North Irby Street at Old Wil-

son High Auditorium in Florence, SC at 8 pm.

March 14

St. Phillip Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its 9th Anniversary of Rev. Larry Daniel. The Rev. Timothy Graham of Tabernacle Bap-

tist Church will deliver the sermon at 2:30 pm.

March 22 & 23

Liberty Baptist Church at 3000 Sam Wilson Road will hold its revival meeting. Both services will be held at 7 pm.

March 24

The Blessed Businesses Ministry of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at 1401 North Allen Street will hold its Networking Breakfast at 7:30 am. This month's topic will cover "How to Locate Your Current or Future Business for Maximum Success."