

Church leaders call for post-Katrina talk on racism

Ministers want to focus on long term disparity issues

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — An unusual coalition of Atlanta-area churches last week called for political leaders to intensify discussions about the racial and economic disparities highlighted by Hurricane Katrina.

The group also scheduled a Katrina-themed interdenominational service for Oct. 23 — a date more than a month away selected in order to keep a long-term focus on the storm.

"By that time the media won't be covering it, by that time folks will have forgotten

about it, by that time the evacuees will become invisible again," said the Rev. Tim McDonald, senior minister at Atlanta's First Iconium Baptist Church.

"This is an opportunity for us to raise the issue up again so hopefully we will continue to address it."

McDonald was one of about 30 church and social service agency leaders who spoke at a news conference. Attendees said Wednesday's gathering represents a formal political-activity partnership between the Regional Council of Churches of Atlanta — tradi-

tionally identified as a collection of predominantly white Atlanta-area religious leaders — and the Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta — an predominantly black group.

"I am not aware of a formal working together in this way" in the past, said the Rev. Robert Franklin, a black theologian who is current president of the Regional Council of Churches.

Leaders said the coalition was spurred by the thousands of evacuees who came to Atlanta for shelter and assistance, many of whom have been served by churches.

Some black church leaders have publicly criticized the

response of government agencies and local Red Cross chapters. They accused the Red Cross of failing to quickly respond to the needs of evacuees and of being disconnected with grassroots efforts like those happening at black churches.

Those criticisms were toned down — leaders instead said the social service agencies had been overwhelmed, and that they were simply stepping into the breach.

But they added that because the demand for evacuee assistance is continuing, prompting Concerned Black Clergy to establish an emergency resource center and 24-

hour helpline (404-788-9429).

Speakers at Wednesday's event said national leaders failed in planning for and responding to the storm, and poor and minority Gulf Coast residents suffered disproportionately as a result.

Rev. Franklin called on Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue to lead a discussion on the future of moral leadership and moral citizenship.

A spokeswoman for the mayor could not immediately be reached for comment.

Leaders also said they've scheduled a service for 6 p.m., Oct. 23 at the First Presby-

terian Church on Peachtree Street. The service will be for evacuees and the people who help them, the Rev. Gerald Durley, pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church.

"One of the symbols of New Orleans, whenever there was a funeral people came together and they moved somewhat slowly down the path. But when the funeral was over, they came back in the second line, shouting and celebrating," Durley said.

"We want to give these people something to celebrate after we've gone through all these things."

McKinney back at Mount Zion

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speaks truth to power." McKinney said he plans on serving as the main Sunday morning preacher for as long as necessary.

Church officials are forming a committee to conduct a nationwide search for a permanent pastor, he said.

Braxton, 43, resigned amid growing criticism over what some parishioners claimed was a domineering management style that drove people away.

After leaving Mount Zion, Braxton formed a

new church in Renton called the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. McKinney estimated that about 500 Mount Zion members — out of about 2,700 — left to join Braxton's new church.

Some parishioners who left Mount Zion because of the split with Braxton said they will return, now that McKinney has.

"I will definitely join again," Doris Terrell, 70, of Seattle, told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Terrell, a retired Boeing industrial engineer, said she appreciated McKinney's preaching style. "He's a rock," she said.

Money matters seminar

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Homecoming Harvest Festival at 3:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Timothy Baldinger of Messiah Lutheran Church.

October 8

Memorial Presbyterian Church will host a class titled "Who Has The Checkbook?" Money Matters in the Marriage. The class begins at 10 a.m. The church is located at 2600 Beatties Ford Road. For more information, call (704) 392-4752.

October 15

Gospel Music Day is back in the second year at Para-

mount's Carowinds. This year's festival includes artists Tonex, J Moss and Stephen Hurd. Grammy nominated artist and gospel sensation Tonex will headline this fall's event.

Tonex's latest release Out of the Box has garnered a Grammy nomination as well as six 2005 Stellar Awards. Appearing before Tonex is Detroit-raised artist J Moss whose album "The J Moss Project" garnered him several Dove award and Soul Train nominations. Paramount's Carowinds will be open from 10am to 8pm. Gospel Music

Day performances will begin in the early evening. The combination concert ticket includes admission to Paramount's Carowinds and all the concerts in the Paladium Amphitheater plaza. Seating is limited, so early ticket purchases are suggested. Seating is reserved.

October 29

Greater Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church will host its sixth annual golf tournament at the Renaissance Golf Course, 1525 West Tyvola Road. For more information, call (704) 376-8806.

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September, 2005 Newsletter (Special Edition) - Part II
J.M. Little, Teacher

Now, bear with me in my foily if you can. Our religious leaders have for some 20 years tried to take the sword of justice out of the Hands of the Sovereign God of this Universe. Over the last 200 years the religious leaders (the vast majority) have taught that God is a God of love and is too good to send anyone to hell. In fact, many religious leaders no longer teach the wrath of God and fail to teach Hell as a living reality. They tell you: "God is a God of love and would not send you to a place to burn forever." Now you hear the Word of God, if you can: "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, He will whet his sword; He hath bent his bow, and made it ready." (Ps. 7:11-12) My readers, you may not know it, but God is angry with you this very moment if you are not in Christ and under the Blood of Christ. When He says "If he (the sinner) turn not, he will whet his sword." That means if you don't repent, God will whet His sword. What is God going to do with His sword? He will destroy you with it! But you say, and have been falsely taught by unsaved and uncalled religious leaders, that God is a God of love and wouldn't destroy anyone. My friends, God is a God of love. But He is also a God of wrath and justice! God hates sin! But today in the average church, the preacher or Bible teacher rarely mentions sin. But my friends, you'll come to see yourself as a lost, guilty, hell-born, hell-bent, hell-bound and hell-deserving sinner under the convicting power of the blessed Holy Spirit or go to hell! As a whole, America and the world have never seen themselves like this. But you will before you are ever saved, if you are ever to be saved! This generation of preachers and Bible teachers over the last 200 years has tried to take the sword of Justice out of the Hands of the Sovereign God of this Universe. You will go to hell for your trouble. You can call me being too hard all you want to. But you are going to face the fact here in this lifetime that you are a wicked sinner in rebellion against God, come to hate sin and cry for mercy at the Feet of the Sovereign God or never be saved! You are going to bow to the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord over you! Over the last 200 years false teachers and preachers have tried to divide Christ. You false teachers and preachers have done the Devil's bidding by teaching the damnable rot out of hell: "Just accept Jesus as your Saviour and you are saved." Teacher...preacher...that is trying to divide Christ! In the first place, the Lord Jesus Christ is Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords and does not stand before any sinner for the sinner to accept Him or reject Him! On the contrary, you stand before the Lord Jesus Christ for Him to save you or damn you! Who are you to accept the Lord or reject Him? You are a totally depraved worm of the dust. Have you ever seen yourself as just a worm? A wiggling maggot? You will before God saves you. I know, you teachers and preachers say that if you taught this way you'd lose your job. Then I say "Lose it!". If you are not going to declare "thus saith the Lord", you had better get out of the ministry!

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