

# Christian fiction genre gains publishers' notice

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God has called her to write and she stays true to herself and her faith.

She doesn't sugar coat things either. Bowen shows the good and the bad in the church, because that's real life.

What she doesn't do is write the stereotypical Christian novel that could easily be turned into one of those "Mama, I Wanna Sing" Chitlin' Circuit plays.

Other publishers have started to notice. Christian fiction is now piggy-backing

on a larger interest in black novels that many trace to the success of McMillan's 1992 best seller, "Waiting to Exhale."

BET Books added a new line of black Christian romance novels. Three years ago, BET Books launched

New Spirit, a black-oriented imprint that also offers inspirational fiction.

Publishers Weekly doesn't keep numbers on the genre, but BET Books' foray demonstrates that such books are gaining traction, says Lynn Garrett, religion editor of

Publishers Weekly.

"It's significant any time someone starts a new imprint," Garrett says. "It says they believe that there must be a market for these books."

Want to meet the writers? Who: Michelle Andrea

Bowen

Where: Real Eyes Book-Store, 3306 North Davidson St.

When: Oct. 11 at 6 p.m.  
Who: Latoya Mason  
Where: Joseph Beth Booksellers in SouthPark Mall  
When: Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.

# Texas town accepts Katrina victims

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIDOR, Texas—You've got to wonder why dozens of black refugees from Hurricane Katrina would set down in Vidor—an old lumber town in the pine country of east Texas that has a long record of racial hostility.

Consider:

- In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan drove every last black resident out of town through a campaign of murder and terrorism. Blacks had owned large swaths of timberland here; later, whites took it over.

- In the '50s, hand-painted signs, using a capitalized racial slur to address blacks, read, "READ THIS AND RUN," and "DON'T LET THE

SUN SET ON YOU HERE." The signs were a reminder that hooded Klansmen still roamed the night, unbothered.

- In the '70s, black motorists who dared to stop for gas in Vidor were reportedly forced to drink motor oil.

- In the '90s, after four black families moved into a public housing complex, Klansmen in full regalia staged marches, cross-burnings and fund-raisers to "Keep Vidor White." The families moved away shortly thereafter.

- Today, according to the NAACP's Hate Crimes Web site, Vidor remains the home of a Klan faction, the "Knights of the White Kamellia." In a

state where blacks make up 12 percent of the population, few of Vidor's 11,293 inhabitants are African-American; just eight blacks were counted here five years ago.

So how have the black refugees from Katrina fared?

Says Trisha Reaux, 30, who will be a mother in two weeks:

"We've been completely accepted with open arms."

To that, Jacqueline Jilles, 62, of Harvey, Louisiana, adds: "These people have treated us like blood sisters and brothers."

Melvin Bahan, 47, a baker from New Orleans, goes a bit

Please see TOWN/6B

# Golf tournament at Greater Mount Moriah

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the Rev. Alexander Porter and his choir and Congregation from Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church.

October 15

Gospel Music Day is back in the second year at Paramount's Carowinds. This year's festival includes artists Tonex, J Moss and Stephen Hurd. 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. Also appearing on the lineup is music minister and Integrity Gospel recording artist Stephen Hurd. Paramount's Carowinds will be open from 10a.m.-8p.m. 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 Padium Amphitheater plaza.

October 29

Greater Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church will host its sixth annual golf tournament at Renaissance Golf Course, 1525 West Tyvola Road.

For more information, call (704) 376-8806.



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Early Flow Worship.....8:00am  
Church School.....9:30am  
Spirit Flows Celebration.....10:45am  
Wednesday Bible Studis.....Seniors, 10:00am  
.....12 Noon and 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Intercessory Prayer.....6-6:30 pm  
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Sabbath Service..... 11:00a.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00p.m.




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Samuel Guthrie, Jr.

On Sunday, September 25, 2005 at 3:00pm, Word Of Faith West will be having their Pastor Appreciation Program for Rev. Samuel Guthrie Jr.  
The guest speaker will be Rev. Maurice Redmond of Assurance Community Bible Ministries

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