

Forty days to explains purpose of our lives

Continued from page 8B

"The book has secular appeal," Stevens said. "And our underlying plan is to bring in people that have gotten tired of church and sick of

the stale religion that the city offers."

The Bible, he said, states that people have to make careful decisions about life,

but many people don't.

"This campaign will give people a renewed sense of purpose," he said.

There is no fee to become a

party of the campaign and no membership commitments, Stevens said. However, participants are asked to sign a short-term commitment card

for tracking purposes.

Many of the meetings, Stevens said, will take place outside of the church. On Sundays the church will host

"celebration Sundays."

To sign up or for information, call (704) 716-3610 ext. 239 or visit www.theuniversitychurch.com.

Fire destroys church responsible for its gospel music contributions

Continued from page 8B

the 1940s it had about 10,000 members, said the Rev. Hycel B. Taylor, the church's former pastor.

It had been "the quintessential black megachurch," he said.

The church was a place

where the famous architects Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler experimented with the features that made them famous—such as vaulted ceilings, amazing acoustics and ornamental designs, such as the terra cotta panels with intricate foliage designs, said Ned Cramer, curator of the

Chicago Architecture Foundation.

It was built as a synagogue between 1890 and 1891, but it has housed the Pilgrim congregation since 1922. The surrounding Bronzeville neighborhood was a vibrant hub for blacks during the first half of the 20th century.

"It's like hearing a close relative has died or a good friend. It's heartbreaking," said Cramer.

Though no one was injured in the blaze, it is feared the church's archives—including old photographs and Dorsey's original sheet music—were destroyed.

McLin said she's hopeful that Dorsey's wife might have sent some of those mementoes to Fisk University, where the family choose to deposit some of Dorsey's belongings. But she is sure a huge painting of her uncle—whom she lived with as a child—was destroyed.

Still, she said, she'll never forget the feeling of being in that church, surrounded by thousands of worshippers packed on the floor and the balcony, listening to gospel music.

"The spirit was just all over the place," she said.

Jewish group accuses Chavez of anti-Semitism

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARACAS, Venezuela — A Jewish rights group accused Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez of making anti-Semitic comments in a Christmas Eve speech.

The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center demanded an apology Wednesday from Chavez saying such remarks have long been used to persecute Jews.

"The world has enough for all, but it turned out that some minorities, descendants of those who crucified Christ, descendants of those who threw Bolivar out of here and also crucified him in their own way in Santa Marta, there in Colombia. A minority took the world's riches for themselves," Chavez said, according to a transcript of the Dec. 24 speech. Simon

Bolivar led the 19th century fight to liberate Venezuela and some other Latin nations from Spanish rule.

Chavez did not did specifically mention the Jewish people in the televised speech.

A spokeswoman for his office said it had no immediate response to the complaint.

"In your words, the two central arguments of anti-Semitism emerge... the accusation that Jews killed Jesus (and associating them with wealth," the Center said in a letter to Chavez. "Our center strongly condemns your anti-Semitic declarations."

Another Jewish leader, U.S.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, said in an e-mail he has serious doubts it was an anti-Semitic slur.

"I know of no one who accuses the Jews of fighting against Bolivar," wrote Waskow, of The Shalom Center in Philadelphia. "And certainly I—and most Jews—teach that it was the Roman

Empire, and Roman soldiers, who crucified Jesus."

Chavez's comments came in a part of the speech about the world's poor.

Chavez, a fiery speaker, has called President Bush a "madman" and also used a derogatory term for "jerk" in referring to him. Chavez has also criticized Mexican President Vicente Fox.



Chavez

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Wednesday Prayer Service.. 8:00pm



Rev. Cuthbertson

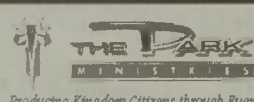
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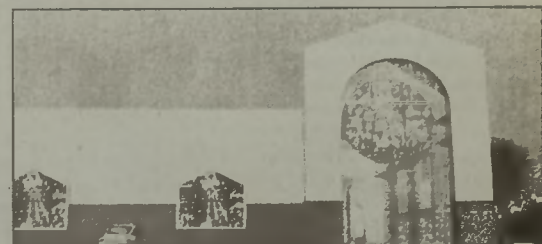


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Schedule of Services

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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