

## The Mission, Role And Future Of the Black Church

Historians, theologians and academicians gather for the 12th program in the Black Issues Forum series, "The Role of the Black Church." An in-depth discussion of the origin of the black church, its development in America, dominant agendas within the black church and its future challenges is featured. The one-hour program will air on all 10 channels of North Carolina Public Television on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. The program was taped before a live audience at Shaw University.

Addressing the origin of the black church and the charge that it has been used as a tool of white America, Bishop John Hurst Adams, senior bishop of the sixth Episcopal District, Atlanta, Ga., states that "the assumption is that Christianity is fundamentally a European religion, which it is not. It had its roots in a different part of the world and is as much African in its beginning as it is anything else."

Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, professor of religion and culture, Duke University Department of Religion, cites the fact that "there was no effort to bring blacks into the church (in America) until 1701." This was one hundred years after blacks began arriving in America. According to Dr. Lincoln, up until that time, blacks had not only been denied education in the Christian faith, but they were also prohibited from practicing the religious beliefs brought over from Africa.

Discussing the differences between the black and the white churches, the Rev. Albert McKnight, executive director of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, Opelousas, La., says, "the black church is a different institution because it was molded and fashioned by African culture." Dr. Lincoln adds that "the black church is the absolute womb of black culture."

While debating the role other institutions play in the black community, Rev. Dwight Jones, board of directors, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., Richmond, Va., says, "there is no other institution yet born that has the capability of addressing the issues that the black church is addressing today."

Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, president of Shaw University, recognizes the threat of other institutions taking power away from the church. He says, "if

other social institutions take predominance over the church, we lose the identity of the mission." Rev. Jones adds that no other institution has as powerful a voice of authority that the church does in the black community and that it is the church where issues of justice and humanitarian concerns are discussed and answers given.

Dr. David Forbes, Sr., senior minister of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh, believes that other institutions in the black community have developed because of the influence of the black church. While discussing how effectively the church has dealt with the problems and concerns of the black community, Dr. D. Forbes says, "the richness of the black experience in this country is indebted to the marvelous and excellent way that the black church has been functional in providing responses" to the issues facing blacks.

Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City, reminds the audience that "if we talk about a Christian church, then we ought to pay some attention to Jesus. Jesus never separated the fire of the spirit from the focus on liberating agendas."

The moderator for Black Issues Forum is Mrs. Valeria Lee, chair of The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television Board of Trustees and program development officer for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Dr. Paul F. Vandergrift, Jr. is the series' executive producer and Jim Bramlett is the producer. Bob Royster is executive-in-charge of production.

North Carolina Public Television is the program service of The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television.



Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, professor of religion and culture, Duke University Department of Religion, and Dr. David Forbes, Sr., senior minister of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh, listen as Rev. Dwight Jones, board of directors, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., Richmond, Va., says, "there is no other institution yet born that has the capability of addressing the issues that the black church is addressing today."

## Nelson Mandela's Historic Visit To America Chronicled On Video

New York, NY, — "Mandela In America," a commemorative home video which documents the South African leader's United States tour, will be released November 20 by A\*Vision Entertainment, Atlantic Records new home video subsidiary. Produced by Globalvision, the company that created the PBS series "South Africa Now," the video provides a behind-the-scenes view of the huge welcome Nelson Mandela received from Harlem to Hollywood. A portion of the proceeds from the video will go to the Nelson Mandela Freedom Fund.

"When Mandela toured the United States last June, millions of Americans were anxious to catch a glimpse of him on the streets or on national television," says Stuart Hersch, A\*Vision president. "This commemorative video provides an opportunity for everyone to

re-live, understand and also get an insider's view of this historic visit."

"Mandela In America" is uplifting, entertaining and informative. More than a political travelogue, it probes into the real meaning of Mandela's visit to our country," says Danny Schechter, director of the video and creator of "South Africa Now."

"Mandela In America" follows the Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC) from arrival to departure, from the United Nations to a Detroit auto factory. More than 100 people were interviewed for the program, which covers encounters with such celebrities as Eddie Murphy, Spike Lee and Jane Fonda, and showcases musical tributes by Tracy Chapman, Aretha Franklin, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Johnny Clegg, Hugh Masakela

and Ice T. Stevie Wonder's performance of "Keep Our Love Alive," a song he wrote especially for Mandela's visit, is available to the public for the first time on the video. "Mandela In America" also includes interviews and appearances by leading political figures such as Jesse Jackson, New York Governor Mario Cuomo and Senator Ted Kennedy.

A\*Vision Entertainment, a full-service home video and television company, is a subsidiary of the Atlantic Recording Corporation. A\*Vision provides a wide spectrum of visual entertainment, encompassing music-related and other forms of original video/television programming. The company concentrates on music-oriented videos, including live concerts, artist compilations, interactive programming, video magazines and simultaneous audio/video releases.

## Kim Coles to Perform at NCCU

Who's the hottest comedienne on the Comedy Circuit? It's Kim Coles! The Alfonso Elder Student Union and WQOK present live in concert "Kin. Coles! Miss Coles, a former North Carolina Central University student, will make a special appearance at the B.N. Duke Auditorium, on the campus of NCCU on

November 10. Showtime is 8 p.m.

Aspiring comedians, this is your opportunity to become a star! Kim Coles and WQOK will be the judges at open auditions on November 10, 10 a.m. until noon. Two top humorists will perform a fifteen minute stand up routine as part of the opening act.

Tickets are on sale at the NCCU box office. The cost for all students will be \$6 and \$8 for non-students.

For more information call Gloria McCrae (919) 489-4127.

The concert is produced by Rocrae Entertainment Inc.

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