

K.I.D.S. plan gospel concert at Goler

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

A local non-profit organization established just over a year ago, to help underprivileged children in the community, is planning to sponsor a gospel concert Sunday, Sept. 8, at 5 p.m., at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church.

The organization is Kids in Dire Straits, or just K.I.D.S., which was founded in June of last year.

The idea for the concert was conceived by Lisa Williams, a member of Goler Memorial and K.I.D.S. She said, "We do different fundraisers throughout the year and each person in the organization chooses a fundraiser. And my fundraiser was to have this gospel concert." The concert, which is expected to draw between 200-300 people, will be free to the public, and will feature Conita Hunt and Randy Johnson, both members of Goler Memorial; and Elder John Heath of Ambassador Cathedral Church. There will also be performances by guest choirs such as the St. Stephens Mass Choir of St. Stephens Baptist Church, the Cathedral Choir of Goler Memorial and the St. Peter's Church Choir of St. Peter's World Outreach Center.

Although the event will be free, Williams said that the "fundraising part of this is being done by donations and ads." Williams, who is the sister-in-law of the organization's president Beverly Williams, also stated that the money raised will go towards the primary purpose of the organization - helping those underprivileged children who for one reason or another, do not benefit from money raised by the United Way.

Beverly Williams stated that she got the idea for such an organization because of the lack of knowledge as to how the United Way's money is put to use. She said that although the agency publicizes cases where it helps needy children, there were still some children that she knew who had not received assistance or had only received partial assistance.

"We're not trying to do real big things, but something to help out," she stated. In the future, she said hopefully the organization will be able to have a bigger impact on the community through its activities.

Some of the organization's past activities have included dances and selling items at football games. Some future activities, according to Lisa Williams include sponsoring a weekend train trip and having a talent show for kids. She said, "What we like

One-woman show at Bethlehem AME Zion

"The Black Experience During Slavery" is a dynamic, soul-stirring, one-woman act being presented by Mrs. Annie Johnson on Sat., Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem AME Zion Church, 6475 Old Yadkinville Hwy., Pfafftown, where the Rev. William Gullick is pastor.

Mrs. Johnson is an actor well known city-wide for her dramatic presentations of the days of slavery. She will be dramatizing a sermon by James Weldon Johnson, in which she portrays a black slave.

Her performance serves to add dimension to the knowledge of the black experience, building on the contemporary activities of Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and other modern-day African-American heroes.

Mrs. Johnson is the mother of Mr. Larry Leon Hamlin, the founder and artistic director of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company.

She is a member of Union Baptist Church, and the wife of Aaron L. Johnson.



Lisa Williams (center) of K.I.D.S., conceived the idea of a gospel concert at Goler Memorial, which will feature Conita Hunt (left) and Randy Johnson (right), as well as several guest choirs.

to do with projects like that is to give the kids something to do to keep them off the streets. It's not like going somewhere where there will be a lot of drugs involved, or alcohol, or anything like that. It's just clean fun."

There are currently only six members in the organization, all of whom are African-American, but Lisa Williams says that will hopefully change in the future. "As we grow, we want to build it out where we will be able to get in others," she stated. K.I.D.S. is also not

limited to helping only underprivileged African-American children, but needy children of any race, as well as adults.

K.I.D.S. also plans to adopt a family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. "We were given a family to contact through Social Services, and basically what it is, it's a household with only one parent, and there are about four or five children. And they really don't have anything. So we're going to

try to at least do something so the kids will have something for Christmas," said Lisa Williams. Overall, however, she said that the purpose of the organization is clear. "We just feel that if we are not able to help our children now, they may not have a future, especially the way things are going with drugs and things like that," Lisa Williams said.

Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church is located at 630 Patterson Avenue. For more information about the concert or Kids in Dire Straits (K.I.D.S.), call (919) 788-7000 or 741-5387.

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Hattie Gray Tanner

Hattie G. Tanner, the widow of the late Miss N. Tanner, is a life-long resident of Winston-Salem. She was educated in the local public schools, and a graduate of Winston-Salem Teachers College (now WSSU) and received her masters degree for NC A&T State University. She has done further study at Wake Forest University. She was an elementary school teacher for over 35 years, teaching at Kimberly Park, Carver Crest (now Cook), and North Elementary Schools touching the lives of many children.

Mrs. Tanner has been involved in many civic and community activities. She is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church where she belongs to the Miriam Group Missionary Circle. In civic affairs she was campaign manager for East Ward Alderperson Virginia K. Newell's first successful campaign in 1977. She is an avid card player, belonging to many bridge and pinocle groups. She is also a member of the Skylandite Community Club.

She has two children, Norma T. Smith and Charles K. Tanner, one granddaughter, Natasha Smith, and one brother, Arthur Gray all of Winston-Salem.

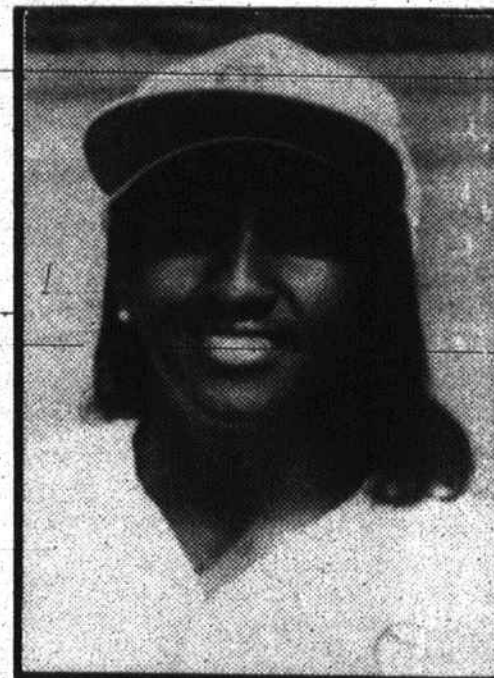
Mrs. Tanner celebrated her 80th birthday, May 25.

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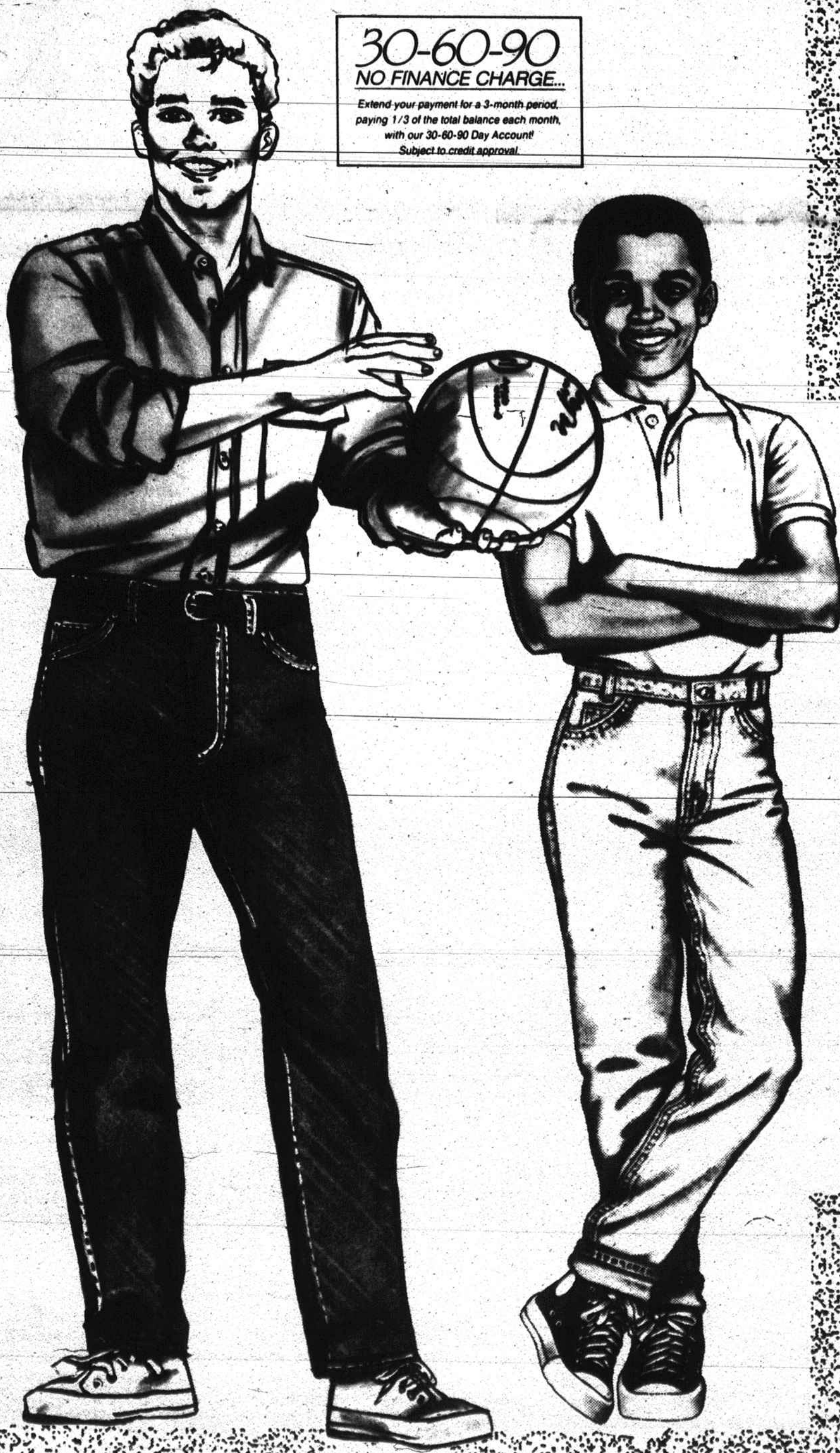
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