

Local Minister Plans to Bring About Change in Black Community

BY MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Nearly 10 days has past since more than 3,700 men from Winston-Salem traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Million Man March.

The march, which solicited over a million black men, has become one of the most talked about events in America's history.

The question on the minds of most Americans is what are the men going to do now?

"We have to stop talking and bring about more action," said Minister Mickey X, a local representative for the Nation of Islam.

Minister Mickey has been a member of the Nation of Islam since 1991. He said he joined because his research found its teachings to be the truth.

"I researched and found without a shadow of doubt that Islam was true, so it was in my nature to submit," he said.

Minister Mickey said the nation is interested in working with the men and women of the community who are concerned about what's happening.

"We plan to call on the local pastors, activists, and businessmen and put together a town meeting to hear the concerns of the people," Minister Mickey said.

Once the people have

addressed their concerns, Minister Mickey said it's time for everyone to get to work.

"The churches can play a big part in this because the majority of the community members attend local churches," he said.

According to Minister Mickey, the nation is not looking to change anyone. He also said it doesn't matter if someone is a Christian, Catholic, or Muslim because everything that happens in the community affects everyone.

"If we start educating our people and stop dividing our people by titles, we will find that we all have a common cause," he said.

According to Minister Mickey, the March has received a lot of positive response from the community, and also increased the sales of the Nation's newspaper, *The Final Call*.

He also said the march has increased the number of supporters from the community, who in the past would not support Minister Louis Farrakhan.

"I think the march helped a lot of people get to know him and understand him as a man," Minister Mickey said. "If the minister wanted grandstand for self gain then Oct. 16 would have been the best time, but he didn't."

Minister Mickey says Far-



Mickey X

rakhan is just a servant who is doing what God has called him to do.

"If we all come together, we can clean up our neighborhoods. That's what we plan to do," Minister Mickey said.

One of the organizations the Nation plans to work with is the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem.

"We plan to go into the housing complexes to counsel and stress the importance of reading and writing," Minister Mickey said.

There are also plans to continue the Local Organizing Committee of Winston-Salem.

The L.O.C. is a corroboration of various members of the community, who are geared toward improving Winston-Salem's black community.

"It would be a shame for the L.O.C.'s around the state to continue work and show progress in their communities, and we not do anything," Minister Mickey said.

According to Minister Mickey, people are ready to pull together.

Minister Mickey says he thinks the march was a wake up call for blacks and whites.

"The masses of white people are totally ignorant of the sins and wrongs their ancestors did in the past, and I think this march made a lot of them realize it," Minister Mickey said.

Minister Mickey agreed that the present-day whites did not enslave blacks, but said they benefited from the system that has already been put in place.

"We have yet to receive an apology for the evils that was done to us during slavery," he said. "They promised us our 40 acres and a mule, so now we want to know where is it."

According to Minister Mickey, it is important that blacks stop having to ask whites for everything because that reinforces the slave and the slave master mentality.

"We need to start businesses of our own and build up our communities, so we can give our youth something to do," Minister Mickey said.

One way to achieve this

goal would be for the churches to come together and set up a unified business, he said.

"We have over 300 churches in Winston-Salem, why can't they get together and start some businesses?" he asked.

Minister Mickey says it is important community leaders to take aggressive action.

"We have a responsibility

for making the people's lives better, and if we don't, then God is going to hold us accountable," he said.

Since the Million Man March was a success, the world is watching to see what the black community is going to do.

"Now the ball is in our court, it's time for us to get busy," Minister Mickey said.

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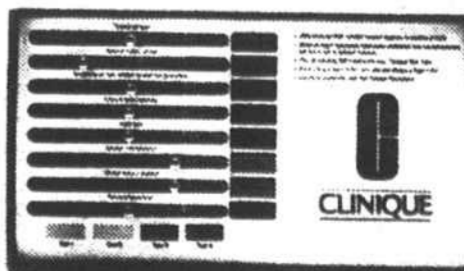
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