

Local minister delivers message in song

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

What good is a song if it doesn't inspire?

That's the theory behind the music ministry of Minister Jesse O'Banner. A Detroit, Mich., native, O'Banner moved to Winston-Salem a decade ago to further his ministry.

Since then he has moved around the church community looking to fulfill his calling from God to minister through music and The Word. His journeys led him to his landing at New World Cappadocia Outreach Church. It is through that association that a relationship has been established that has allowed him to take his ministry to another level.

On Saturday night O'Banner will perform in concert at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium in Winston-Salem, along with Hezekiah Walker. But more importantly, his new CD will be released. O'Banner performs with his choir, the United Voices of Worship, on the recording, which is on the Respect Records label.

The release of the CD represents a milestone in O'Banner's life. Although he's been around the recording industry and performed with a number of recording artists,

his new release is special to him. "It means a lot to me," O'Banner said. "It is an opportunity for me to share my ministry with people from all walks of life."

O'Banner's new release is much-anticipated by the gospel music industry. It has been previewed by DJ's across the country, who have given the release rave reviews.

Nathan Malloy, the producer of the CD, said he expects sales to take off.

"We're so excited to be releasing it," Malloy said. "It's going to be very successful. From the time I met Jesse I could sense the anointing. He's extremely talented and I think his music offers something for everyone."

Already the release has been previewed in major urban areas such as Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles.

"They're all excited about the project," Malloy said.

Malloy said he believes O'Banner's music will fill several niches. "He'll find a place because his

music is something that not only the kids can relate to, but the grown ups as well. You really can't put it into words how I feel about it because it is unique. But it's going to take off."

The CD is dedicated to the memory of O'Banner's wife, the late Jennifer Bristol O'Banner, who died last year at the age of 26.

"Although she's looking down on us, I want to let her know that she is behind all of this," O'Banner said. "She's the one who actually named this ministry. I know I'll always have her blessings."

O'Banner has been performing in church since the age of five. He also sang in school choirs, local talent shows and also traveled with Dr. Mattie Moss Clark and the Michigan State Choir, where he led many of the choir's songs.

After moving to Winston-Salem, he formed his own group which he called the "Sounds of Praise". After a year of performing it disbanded and he began traveling with a host of artists, including Bruce Parham, Christopher Brinson, Chris Gray, David Allen, Beverly Crawford and Keith Staten. He also opened for headliners such as Vicky Winans and Shirley Caesar.

After a series of ups and

downs, including the illness and death of his wife, O'Banner found his way to New World Cappadocia Outreach, which is co-pastored by the Revs. Melvin "Rip" Wilkins and Paul Jeter.

"I met Jesse about three years ago and about two years ago he started singing at some of the vigils that we were doing in the Winston-Salem area," Wilkins said. "After that he started working with us doing some of the outreach crusades in the local housing areas, he began to see that is where his ministry should be directed. He's been such a big help because he's been through many pitfalls and that's what our ministry is about. We're here to heal the wounded and hurt."

"Through that, along with his wife passing away, he's been able to realize the need for his ministry," Wilkins added. "He's a great outreach minister, instructor, accompanist and choir member."

In addition, O'Banner has helped out with several of the church's projects such as the PEJ Ensemble, which recently released a CD and the Community Outreach Choir, which also has recorded a CD. Both groups will perform on Saturday, along with O'Banner and the United Voices of Worship.



O'Banner

Holden named first black patrol commander

By GARY ROBERTSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH - Lt. Col. Richard Holden, who 30 years ago was one of the state Highway Patrol's first black cadets, today was named the agency's first black commander by Gov. Jim Hunt.

The appointment of Holden comes one day after state crime control officials unveiled plans to closely monitor traffic stops in the coming months to determine if blacks are being targeted.

Holden, 51, succeeds Col. E.W. Horton, who left the patrol after Hunt ordered an investigation into free building materials Horton received for his home in 1995. Horton had previously said in sworn

statements that he paid for the materials.

Six veteran troopers applied for the job. Hunt said he and Richard Moore, secretary of crime control and public safety, interviewed all of them. He said it was one of the most time-consuming decisions he ever has made.

"He is a man who inspires confidence and loyalty," Hunt said of Holden. "He is the essence of fairness."

Holden previously was the Patrol's director of support operations. A Wendell native, Holden was one of the first six black cadets to enter the Patrol's training school in 1969. He rose steadily through the ranks during his 30-year career and

is the only one of that group who remains with the agency.

Holden said he doesn't plan major changes immediately.

"Our number one focus is on saving lives," Holden said today. "We also want to have the right tools out on the roads."

He said the agency's morale remains high despite the abrupt departure of Horton.

Hunt said all six candidates underwent exhaustive background checks by the State Bureau of Investigation.

"It's been a helpful process. I'm glad we did it and I hope we continue to do so in the future," the governor said.

Horton, who was patrol commander for three years, succeeded

Col. Robert Barefoot, another commander who left under a cloud.

Barefoot took early retirement after his friendship with a Garner man who headed a stolen goods ring became known. Lt. Col. Cecil Wilkins, who was interim commander after Barefoot left, resigned amid a federal investigation of the patrol's hiring and promotions.

Hunt and Moore today announced that upper-level Patrol management are now taking a new, three-day ethics course. They said the decision to launch the program wasn't directly related to the circumstances surrounding Horton's departure.

The Chronicle's e-mail address is:
wschron@netunlimited.net

Piggott named Northwest principal of the year

Special to THE CHRONICLE

Daniel A. Piggott, principal of Carver High School who was Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System winner in the Northwest Region has captured the title of "1999 Northwest Region Principal of the Year."

The honor catapults him to the state level against five other regional winners. The Principal of the Year program is sponsored by Wachovia Bank N.A. and the North Carolina

Department of Public Instruction.

Piggott received the honor at a luncheon recognizing 19 system winners in the Northwest region. He submitted a portfolio including educational background, honors and activities, leadership style, philosophy and letters of recommendations. He also underwent a personal interview by a selection committee.

Prior to naming the Northwest regional winner, each principal was presented a framed certificate and a check for \$200.00 for being their system's winner. The 1998 Western Regional winner, Kathleen Noyes, principal of Haw River Elementary School in Asheville gave inspirational

remarks.

Piggott accepted the honor and commented "that only God could have been responsible for him receiving such recognition. I see my position as a mission of God to make a difference in the lives of young people."

Diane Piggott, his wife, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Superintendent Donald Martin were in attendance at the time of this recognition.

The state competition continues with a team visit with Piggott and a day of observation at Carver on March 19, 1999.

The state winner will be announced at a luncheon in Raleigh on April 27, 1999.



Piggott

THE CHRONICLE
The Choice for African American News and Information

News Deadline is Monday at 5:00pm

WOMEN'S Free CAR CARE CLINIC

Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. To register, call the location below:

Thursday, March 11
Winston-Salem
2047 Silas Creek Pkwy., 336-721-1162

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Kay Beaver, our Women's car care expert, hosts this free two hour clinic designed to help you avoid breakdowns and repairs.

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GREENSBORO

Never Give Up!

Almost ten years after battling back from an auto accident that nearly ended his life, 36-year-old Charles Ridley of Greensboro is today an undergraduate student at UNCC.

Charles Ridley of Greensboro is a junior in the UNCG School of Education majoring in Early Childhood Education.

"It's been a long road back, but I find that as an adult student I'm not as easily distracted as I was when I was younger. And the standards I set for myself are higher. After my accident, I was in the hospital for a year. Anxieties I might have had about going back to school have been displaced by what I have overcome."

"I think this school is great. I'm doing well, and I love it. I was told that UNCG has the facilities and faculty of a large university but the feel of a small school. And it's true. If you put forth an effort to help yourself, people here at UNCG are willing to put forth an even greater effort to help you. After I graduate, I'm going to get my master's degree and teach, and later I plan to work in educational administration."

Charles Ridley is among hundreds of adults who enter UNCG each semester to follow their educational dreams and earn an undergraduate degree. Follow YOUR dream!

Call ACES at (336) 334-5757 and ask to speak with an advisor. Or, e-mail us at aces@uncg.edu.
<http://www.uncg.edu/aces>

ACES Where Students Come First!

NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

Project No.	County/Route	Division No.	Type	Location	Metric/English		
8.U250903	New Hanover	03	Foundation Load Test	Bridge over NE Cape Fear River on US-17 (Wilmington Bypass)	Metric	00%	
8.2720501	Avery	11	Grading, drainage, paving, PVT markings & structure	Bridge over North Toe River & approaches on SR-1345 (Wauauga St.)	Metric	07%	
8.2770801	Yadkin	11	Grading, drainage, paving, pvtm markers & structure	New route from S of US-421 to SR-1146 (Shacktown Rd.)	Metric	12%	
8.1281101	Sampson, Duplin, Pender & New Hanover		Milling, resurfacing, PVT markings & cable guiderail	I-40 from Johnston County line to NC-132 in Wilmington	English	12%	
8.1404101	Wake	05	Safety improvements	US-64 & 264 from SR-1003 to US-264	English	20%	
8.1404301	Wake, Johnson	05	Safety improvements	I-40 from Jones Sausage Road to NC-42 east of Raleigh	English	12%	
8.1590201	Scotland	08	Safety improvements	US-74 from US-74 Business west of Laurinburg to Robeson County line	English	12%	
8.1661201	Mecklenburg Cabarrus	10	Median cable guiderail	I-85 from North of SR-2472 in Mecklenburg Co. To North of SR-1430 in Concord	English	14%	
8.1822901	Iredell	12	Guardrail & cable guiderail	I-77 from Mecklenburg/Iredell County line to North of SR-1892	English	12%	
8.1871601	McDowell	13	Guardrail	I-40 from US-70 to East of US-221	English	12%	
8.1951701	Henderson, Polk	14	Safety improvements	I-26 from the South Carolina line in Polk Co. To the Henderson-Buncombe County line	English	12%	
8.2590301	Scotland, Hoke	08	Grading, drainage, paving, PVT markings & structure	Bridge over Lumber River & approaches on SR-1404 in Scotland County & SR-1104 in Hoke County	English	06%	
8.2821701	Iredell	12	Grading, drainage, paving & culvert	Culvert over unnamed creek & approaches on SR-2342	English	10%	
8.1844801	Buncombe	13	Median guardrail	I-40 from SR-1205 to East of SR-2531 & I-26 from Henderson Co. to I-40	English	12%	

LETTING DATE: Tuesday, March 16, 1999

***** MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1999 6 PM - MIDNIGHT *****

North Raleigh Hilton - 3415 Wake Forest Road - Raleigh, N.C.

Prime contractors will be available to receive quotes for trucking, sub-contracting and materials. M/WBE's needing more information and/or technical assistance may come to Room 522 to meet with representatives from the Bennington Corp., NCDOT's Supportive Provider. (919)832-6027

NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1-800-522-0453
Certification of highway contracting firms Richard Chrisawn
Certification of supply/service/engineering firms: Robert Mathes
Comments or concerns: Delano Rackard, Director