

THE CHRONICLE COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point
1974- Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

JULY 1, 1999

SECTION C

Prayer warriors



Many gathered around the altar to offer prayer for many concerns affecting the local community and the world at large.

Goler holds night of prayer and redemption

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The Rev. Seth O. Lartey is building an army of 2,000.

And on Friday, he spent the whole night training his troops.

The event marked the second time Lartey and members of his Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church family gathered for a night of

prayer and redemption.

While most of the city was tucked in bed, 25 members of Lartey's congregation spent the night praying, singing and listening to sermons.

The service, which began at 10 p.m., ended with breakfast Saturday morning.

During the night, the worshipers got a taste of what it was like to be in battle.

"Can you imagine 2,000 believers praying together for your well-being?" he asked. "How heaven-shaking."

Friday's service was led by Minister Donna Maree, who served as the master of ceremonies for an all-night prayer vigil. Many of the warriors came decked out in blue jeans, casual skirts or dresses, but young and old, they came together to pray.

Some of the songs they sang included "What a Mighty God We Serve," "There is Power in the Blood of the Lamb," "Giving Honor" and "Plant My Feet on Higher Ground."

At 5:30 a.m., they gathered in a circle and joined hands in a final prayer session. A continental breakfast was served at 6 a.m. These night watches, often called tarry services, will be held quarterly, Lartey said.

"Jesus asked his disciples to tarry with him in the Garden of Gethsemane in Matthew Chapter 26," said the Rev. Louis Hunter.

He encouraged the night watchers to seek for a breakthrough when many of those in the congregation were growing tired.

"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," Hunter said. "But we have the victory."

"We have so much power as Christians that we are not using," Lartey said. "We are allowing the enemy to take over. The Word of God says that whatsoever we bind on Earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever we loose on Earth shall be loosed in heaven. We are just taking the word of God seriously. It matters not the quantity of people in the audience. We need people who truly believe in the power of prayer. If we had standing room only and the people did not believe, it would be a waste of time. We give all an opportunity, but we know that the cream will rise to the top."

When Lartey became pastor of Goler Memorial in September 1992, he initiated a 40-day fast for the church body. Lartey said the fast gave church members and leaders an opportunity to participate to seek direction from God about the ministry of the church. From this fast, a telephone prayer group began. Members would contact one another in the mornings before they began their busy routines.



Minister Donna Maree served as the master of ceremonies and preached the opening sermon of the evening, "Preparing for Worship."

Last September, Lartey moved the group to another level by inviting them into the church for daily 6 a.m. prayer.

"The emphasis we place on prayer stems from the fact that Christians do not intentionally pray enough. Compared to Muslims who pray five times a day, we do not pray enough," he said. "As spiritual beings, if we are to continue the legacy that Jesus Christ left for us, we must pray constantly and intentionally stay in touch with God.... We have seen God answer prayers for us. If anything will happen for us, the local church, the community and our world, it will come through the avenue of prayer," he said.

Lartey selected to preach at various hours during the service.

Maree opened the service at 10 p.m. with a sermon titled "Preparing for Worship."

The sermon was followed by sermons by

See Prayer on page C2

Reynolds Park Road Closed

The bridge over Salem Creek on Reynolds Park Road east of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive has been temporarily closed due to settling of the bridge deck. Reynolds Park Road traffic is being detoured on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Waughtown Street.

Fun Fourth In Greensboro

The 25th annual Fun Fourth Festival will take place Friday, July 2-Sunday, July 4. Fun Fourth opens with a kickoff block party on July 2, at The Depot in downtown Greensboro starting at 8 p.m. and closes with a concert and fireworks display at Grimsley High School on July 4. On Saturday, July 3, the street festival will take place in the Old Greensborough Historic District featuring food, arts and crafts, a parade, 10K run and other entertainment and games for children and adults. For more information on this event call 574-1000 or visit the Fun Fourth web site at www.greensboro.com/festival.

Freedom Day Celebration

Free all-you-can-eat barbecue, deep fried fish, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, ice cream and more will be available to all that attend "Fun in the Sun" on Sunday, July 4. A dunking booth, moonwalk man, the basketball shoot-off, talent show and music featuring Nate & the Chocolate Wonders are just a few of the other activities. This event will take place at Evangel Fellowship, 507 Balboa Street in Greensboro, starting at 10 a.m.

Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem Anniversary Celebration

The Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem will celebrate its second anniversary in conjunction with a reception for Republic of Liberia Ambassador Rachael Gbenyon-Diggs on Friday, July 9, from 7-10 p.m. at the Urban League. The Otesha Dance Ensemble will provide the entertainment. Admission is free and all attendees are asked to dress in business or ethnic attire. If you are planning to attend RSVP by July 7 to 767-6355 or 784-9373.

See Page C10 for more of this week's Community Calendar



Janice Williams, wife of the Rev. Carlton Williams of Mt. Pleasant A.M.E. Zion Church in Statesville, sang "Because He Lives."