

The Alpha Course reaches out to N.C. urban church leaders

Special evangelism training offered at upcoming conference

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Area ministers and lay people are inviting those involved in urban ministry to attend an Alpha Course kickoff event, set for July 28 at noon at First Waightown Baptist Church, 838 Moravia Street.

The Alpha Course is a popular evangelism tool being used by more than 6,000 churches of all sizes, denominations and ethnicities across this nation and the world. Alpha users attribute the course's success to the friendly, nonthreatening approach it uses to present the basic Gospel message to seekers. Area church leaders will be introduced to the Alpha Course and also will learn details about the upcoming Alpha conference in Charlotte, set for October 2003.

"The Good News is true for all people of all times," said Tony Lowery, an ordained Baptist minister. "The beauty of the Alpha Course is that it can be adapted to relate culturally to any particular audience without compromising the integrity of the Gospel message."

Lowery, who is on staff with Guildfield Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., will be a featured speaker at the urban kickoff event. He first encountered the Alpha Course in January 2000 when he attended an Alpha conference. Soon thereafter, he offered the Alpha Course as part of an inner-city ministry in Southeast Washington.

"We saw people allow God to move in their lives as they heard the basic Gospel message and experienced a caring environment where they could be real about life's tough questions. In all my years of ministry I've not seen a more effective tool for bringing unbelievers to the table."

That success has been duplicated locally by the efforts of Rev. James Lewis, minister of education at Morningstar Baptist Church and director of Christian education for the High Point Educational and Missionary Baptist Association of 41 churches. "It is a tool that can enhance discipleship and evangelism in the local African-American church," Lewis said.



Millner

The Alpha Course meets weekly for 10 weeks, including a weekend retreat toward the end of the course where

guests learn about the Holy Spirit and His role in a Christian's life. The general format includes dinner on a weeknight, followed by a talk about a basic aspect of the Christian faith, followed by small group discussion.

"Food, friendship and fellowship is a New Testament model of church growth and consistent with values in many urban churches, which are the center of our communities," said Marion Millner, conference developer for Alpha USA and a Winston native. "Like Rev. Lowery, I too ran Alpha in Washington, and now I'm running a course in Detroit with participants from Baptist, Pentecostal, Methodist and Episcopal churches. I am committed to more urban churches recognizing this as a tool for evangelism in this hour."

Minister Millner, who also is pursuing a master of theo-

logical studies degree at Harvard Divinity School, will be a featured speaker at the Alpha urban kickoff. He has ministered in several inner-city churches and is serving this summer on the staff of New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in Detroit.

In addition to Lewis, the urban kickoff is being organized or supported by a variety of lay people and ministers, including Minister Corrie Brown of St. Peter's World Outreach Center; Art Molloy of Union Baptist; Dr. Deborah Fountain of United Metropolitan Baptist; Rev. Dennis Bishop, host pastor of First Waightown Baptist; Rev. Donald Jenkins, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church; and Rev. G.L. Brown of Nuevo Amanecer Baptist.

For more information on the Alpha Course, contact Caroline Kinser at 723-6309.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brim

Melody Lynn Taylor and Joseph Brim wed

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Melody Lynn Taylor and Joseph Brim were married June 21 at Corpening Plaza. Rev. Cedric Crawford and Rev. Vernon Crump officiated.

The parents of the bride are Jacqueline Taylor of Winston-Salem and William Taylor of Columbus, Ohio.

The bride, a graduate of Mt. Tabor High School, is enrolled at Ron Parsley's Bible College studying evangelism and Ohio State University in risk management insurance. She is employed with Nationwide Insurance Co.

The parents of the groom are Cheryl James of Winston-Salem and Joseph Brim of Winston-Salem.

The groom is a graduate of Ohio State University with a

degree in industrial design. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi. He is employed with Discover Inc.

The bride's father gave her in marriage.

Maid of honor was Tiffany West, friend, of Winston-Salem. Bridesmaids were Tiffany Spease, friend, of Winston-Salem; and Christine Crawford, cousin of groom, of Winston-Salem.

Groomsmen were Donnelle Brim, brother, of Winston-Salem; Cedric Taylor, brother of bride, of Columbus, Ohio; and Dedrick Benton, fraternity brother, of Winston-Salem.

The couple will take a honeymoon trip to Jamaica at a later date.

The couple will live in Columbus, Ohio.

Music

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over the names of suspected music pirates upon subpoena from any U.S. District Court clerk's office, without a judge's signature required.

In some cases, subpoenas cite as few as five songs as "representative recordings" of music files available for downloading from these users. The trade group for the largest music labels, the Washington-based RIAA, previously indicated its lawyers would target Internet users who offer substantial collections of MP3 song files but declined to say how many songs might qualify for a lawsuit.

Music fans are fighting back with technology, using new software designed specifically to stymie monitoring of their online activities by the major record labels.

A new version of "Kazaa Lite," free software that provides access to the service operated by Sharman Networks Ltd., can prevent anyone from listing all music files on an individual's machine and purports to block scans from Internet addresses believed to be associated with

the RIAA.

Many of the subpoenas reviewed by the AP identified songs from the same few artists, including Avril Lavigne, Snoop Dogg and Michael Jackson. It was impossible to determine whether industry lawyers were searching the Internet specifically for songs by these artists or whether they were commonly popular among the roughly 60 million users of file-sharing services.

The RIAA's subpoenas are so prolific that the U.S. District Court in Washington, already suffering staff shortages, has been forced to reassign employees from elsewhere in the clerk's office to help process paperwork, said Angela Caesar-Mobley, the clerk's operations manager.

The RIAA declined to comment on the numbers of subpoenas it issued.

A spokeswoman for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts said the clerk's office here was "functioning more like a clearing house, issuing subpoenas for all over the country." Any civil lawsuits would likely be transferred to a different jurisdiction, spokes-

woman Karen Redmond said.

Verizon, which has fought the RIAA over the subpoenas with continued legal appeals, said it received at least 150 subpoenas during the last two weeks. There were no subpoenas on file sent to AOL Time Warner Inc., the nation's largest Internet provider and parent company of Warner Music Group. Earthlink Inc., another of the largest Internet providers, said it has received only three new subpoenas.

DePaul University in Chicago was among the few colleges that received such subpoenas; the RIAA asked DePaul on July 2 to track down a user known as "anon39023" who was allegedly offering at least eight songs. The recording group sent two subpoenas to Boston College to identify "TheLastReal7" and "Prythug23."

There was some evidence the threat of an expensive lawsuit was discouraging online music sharing. Nielsen NetRatings, which monitors Internet usage, earlier this week reported a decline for traffic on the Kazaa network of 1 million users, with similarly large drops across other services.

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