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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

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## Lowery Says Nicaragua Is Another Vietnam

SCLC President Dr. Joseph Lowery says after meeting with Eugene Hasenfus and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, he's convinced the Nicaraguan government wants the Hasenfus incident to become an instrument of peace.

Lowery, his wife Evelyn, and two members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference staff spent three days in Nicaragua talking to government and religious leaders as well as accused American mercenary, Eugene Hasenfus.

But the SCLC president says his first and main concern was to let Americans know the loss of American lives on Nicaraguan soil are a direct result of our country's interventionist policies and are leading us into another Vietnam. Lowery urged Ortega to handle the Hasenfus case with justice tempered by mercy in order to send a clear message of that government's willingness to seek non-military solutions with the United States and other nations.

"I have sown the seeds of peace and will now trust the intelligence and judgement of the Nicaraguan government," Lowery told reporters waiting for him in Atlanta late Friday night. "I have wired United States President Ronald Reagan and told him we need to trade military supplies in Nicaragua for medical supplies, exchange tractors



Joseph Lowery  
...SCLC president

for arms and extend the open hand of a friend instead of the clinched fist of an adversary."

While visiting many Nicaraguan leaders such as Rodrigo Reyes, the Minister of Justice and Victor Tinoco, acting Minister of Foreign Relations, Lowery also talked with several religious leaders representing a wide variety of denominations. The message from them was that many barbarous and cruel acts of war had been committed against them...by the Contras. They supported their accusations with pictures and a videotape of a young pentecostal preacher. He and his seven-year-old daughter both had a leg blown off from mines planted by the Contras.

The last two people Lowery and his delegation visited were Ortega and Hasenfus. While talking with Ortega two leaders discussed the impact recent Senate elections might have on America's foreign policy. Ortega says the war with the Contras has forced his country to spend two out of every three dollars to defend themselves. He says he would rather spend those dollars on health care, agricultural development and housing for his people.

"What Reagan is interested in is that the mercenaries are successful...even though Honduras doesn't get directly involved (the army) as long as they continue to let the mercenaries work from their territory," the conflict will continue.

While visiting with Hasenfus the accused mercenary prayed with the veteran Methodist minister and admitted he was lonely and confused.

"It's hard to think things through," he said, "when they don't let you have any contact with anyone, I'm a little bit not really worried, I'm just wondering...I can't answer anything until I know what's going on. How can anybody answer anything if he doesn't know what he's talking about?"

Lowery urged Hasenfus to tell the truth about all of his dealings and then told him God was faithful to forgive him if he repented his sins.

"God may have spared your life to make you an instrument of peace," the pastor told the prisoner.

The time the two spent together ended in prayer.

During the time the SCLC delegation spent in Nicaragua many plans were discussed which may send Lowery back to Central America soon.

In the meantime Nicaraguan vice president Sergio Rameriz has plans to come to Atlanta for ceremonies at the Carter Center. Lowery plans to meet with Rameriz while he's in the United States.



Donna Monroe has a special characteristic that has propelled her to success.

## Donna Monroe Makes Good "First Impression"

By Russell Clark  
Post Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered why some people seem to excel in life while others flounder by the wayside?

Well, Donna Monroe is a secretary for the Charlotte Minority Business & Development Center and she has a special characteristic that has propelled her to a successful career.

"She has a very pleasant smile that we need in our office," mentioned her supervisor, Troy Watson. "When she applied for the position, there were several applicants ahead of her. We needed a person with good secretarial skills and a good personality - she was the right candidate for the job. I don't think our business would operate properly without Donna," he acknowledged.

A native of Oakboro, this week's beauty graduated from West Stanly High School in 1985 where she was active. "I was a member of the Political Awareness, Human Relation and DECA clubs and I also played basketball," she reminisced.

Upon graduating, she explored her options and decided to attend N.C. Central to continue her education. "I went to Central for two years, but I withdrew because I didn't like the atmosphere. When I returned home, I landed a job in Loucet at a printing company. Soon afterwards, I got interested in secretarial work and enrolled at Kings College to study secretarial science," she pointed out.

Many people get discouraged when stumbling blocks fall in their way when job hunting, but Monroe was very fortunate. "I finished Kings on a Friday and by Monday I had found a job," related the energetic, 22-year-old Libra. "I was just searching through the newspaper for job openings in my field and I came across the position at the Minority Business Center. My timing was just right and I was very lucky to land a job that soon after graduation."

Her responsibilities include typing, answering the telephone, and putting together client profiles, and she enjoys seeing minority businesses get established. "I believe in what our company is doing and that's one reason why I enjoy my work so much," she responded.

The Minority Business & Development Center not only spearheads businesses in Charlotte, but is also active in seven other surround-

ing counties. A few of their duties include preparing loan packages, providing assistance in planning, budgeting and consulting.

"I also find my job challenging because I get to meet a lot of interesting people. It goes beyond just typing and answering the telephone. I have to smile and be courteous because I'm the first person a client sees when they enter the office. If I can make a good first impression, then that allows them to relax and feel comfortable doing business with us," stated Monroe with a firm but gentle voice.

The daughter of Joe and Pamela Clark of Norwood, Donna has adjusted well to the Queen City. "It wasn't very hard for me because I had been to Charlotte before shopping and visiting relatives. Since moving here, I have found it to be a good place to build a career. Right now, I'm very content with my job, but I do plan to continue my education in the future," she asserted.

The fashion-conscious beauty resides in east Charlotte with her roommates Melissa Hoyle and they are both eligible bachelorettes. "We get along great because Donna treats people the way that she wants to be treated and she is easy to get along with," voiced Hoyle, a new accounts clerk at First Union National Bank. "She has a positive attitude and she is independent which I think helps her to deal with people," she remarked.

"I describe myself as a person who is willing to help others as long as a person doesn't try to take advantage of me. I'm not the type of person who does something for someone just because I expect something in return," she enlightened with a beaming smile.

When not working, the 5'4" Monroe enjoys traveling, swimming and tennis.

## Minority Suppliers Report Increase

National Supplier Development Council, Inc., purchased a record \$5 billion in goods and services from minority suppliers in 1985, a 17 percent increase over 1984, the Commerce Department announced recently.

The council, funded by the department's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), said the record purchases far exceeded its original \$5 billion goal for 1985. The \$5 billion total is based

## "Love Rally" To Express Solidarity

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

Rev. Johnny R. Calhoun arrived in Charlotte this past August as the new pastor of Adams-Metropolitan AME Church located at 500 Yorkmont Rd. One of the first things he asked of his congregation was they go out into the neighborhood and evangelize. They did so.

A week later, Rev. Calhoun received a phone call. "The Klan is rising," said the unidentified caller. "We don't want niggers in the neighborhood. Keep it up and we're going to get you."

Another week later, Rev. Calhoun and members of Adams-Metropolitan found their church defaced, scrawled with the markings of the KKK.

"The vandalism of a church is despicable," protests Kelly Alexander Jr. of the Charlotte Chapter NAACP. He further reveals that soon after this occurrence there came the sudden realization that there were a number of Klan-related incidents happening in the general vicinity of the church near Nations Ford Road.

"It was an area we were hearing about constantly. Blacks were being called nigger on the streets. Kids were being harassed. Klan slogans appeared on various road signs." Meanwhile Rev. Calhoun decided his church should be the site of a "Community Celebration of Harmony and Love." He says he didn't view the telephone call from the alleged Klanman as a threat. "It was a notification that the community needs to come together," Rev. Calhoun relates.

Shortened to "Love Rally," Rev. Calhoun's community celebration will be held Friday, November 21, at 7 p.m. Scheduled to appear at the rally are City Councilman Ron Leeper, Mayor Harvey Gantt, Kelly Alexander Jr., and Dr. William Gibson, national board chairman of the NAACP. Several organizations will also be present including members of Community Relations and the National Council of Christians and Jews.

Alexander says the rally is a "symbolic reaction." "It will be an act of solidarity," expounds Alexander. "We want to work as diligently as we can to create a cohesive, positive force."

Agreeing with Alexander, Rev. Calhoun adds, "It will be a demonstration to show that a group like the Klan won't find any real basis of involvement in this community."

Rev. Calhoun further describes the rally as means to "help resolve differences and find a common ground."

Whether it's feasible that the group attending the "Love Rally" will be able to find a common ground with the Klan, Rev. Calhoun answers, "Not necessarily with all, but among the people who really accept Jesus."

Admitting that could possibly be an idealistic approach, he responds, "But, with all the trouble in the world, it would seem idealistic to say



Rev. Johnny R. Calhoun  
...Hosts rally



Kelly Alexander Jr.  
...Guest speaker

life is worth living. Whenever you're doing something right, you'll be faced by evil forces seeking to discourage you," Rev. Calhoun says of the situation. "When diversity comes and trouble meets you at your back door, you can be sure you're doing something right and major."

Alexander maintains, "We've been fighting the Klan ever since the Civil War. It's an on-going fight—just like good and evil."

"I urge people to come to the rally and express solidarity," implores Alexander. "One of the most important things we must constantly keep in front of our minds is that the Klan is dangerous to all Charlotteans."

"And we must go away from the rally and make the principles we've expressed there real in the community," he stresses.

In another development, according to latest reports, the Ku Klux Klan plans to hold a march through downtown Charlotte on Saturday, November 22, the day after the "Love Rally." Furthermore, the Klan has recently announced plans to march in the Thanksgiving Day Carrousel Parade in Charlotte.

The National Minority Supplier Development Council is headquartered in New York City.

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## AFL-CIO President To Address Special Luncheon

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland will address a special luncheon December 15 to begin the celebration of the second national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All leaders of the American labor movement will be invited to attend the luncheon and to help raise funds to support the continuing work of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Commission. The luncheon will be at noon at the Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Labor Committee for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, headed by President Murray H. Finley of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). The holiday for Dr. King will be celebrated on January 19, 1987.

The AFL-CIO, its affiliated unions and other labor organizations took leading positions in winning Congressional approval for the nation's newest national holiday in honor of the great civil rights leader. Unions were particularly active in marking the first holiday last January.



If there is anything worse than a quitter, it is a person who is too afraid to begin.