

Atonement Day video to be shown on 2nd anniversary

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Farrakhan announced early this year NOI will honor the family on the anniversary of the Million Man March. This year is the year of the child and youth. The year 2000 will mark the year of the family. Farrakhan plans a Million Family March that year in Washington, D.C.

"We have failed our youth," Muhammad said. "We call them Generation X because we

don't understand them...we are seeking involvement from the Native American community, Hispanic community and the Caucasian community. We need to sit down and talk about and to our youth."

About 60,000 people assembled last year outside the United Nations to hear Farrakhan speak during "World Day of Atonement" marking the one-year anniversary of the Million Man March. More than 100 people gathered

at Walls Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church to hear Farrakhan's speech via satellite downlink.

At the historic 1995 march in Washington, D.C., Farrakhan led a crowd estimated to be at least 1 million in a pledge to



Farrakhan

"never raise my hand with a knife or a gun to beat or cut or shoot any member of my family or any human being."

Farrakhan has been on a "revival tour" promoting Oct. 16 as a day of atonement.

He spoke in Charlotte last month to a sold out crowd at Owens Auditorium.

"America is in need of healing," Farrakhan said, during a recent speech in Des Moines, Iowa.

Farrakhan said that

Americans are not accustomed to hearing a stern religious message and also challenged nay-sayers who claim he is intolerant.

"Even if I as a person am not liked, if the call to atonement is a proper message, accept the message even if you will not accept the messenger," he said.

"...If I am so influential and I am a bigot - anti-Semite, anti-white, anti-Catholic, anti-gay, anti-America - why is it there has never been a charge levied

against any of my followers for a hate crime - in the city of Des Moines, in the state of Iowa, in the United States of America?" he said. "I do not hate Jewish people. I never have. I do not hate white people. I hate injustice, untruth."

Muhammad reiterated Farrakhan's stance.

"This day of atonement is for anyone who feels the need to atone," he said.

The Associated Press also contributed to this article.

Church rebuilt

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McCOMB, Miss. — It appeared as recently as a year ago that the congregation's goal of rebuilding Rocky Point Missionary Baptist Church in Johnston Station would never take place.

But dedication services held Sunday in a new building demonstrated to doubters the power of faith and hard work, church leaders say.

After the church was destroyed by a fire set by three teenage boys on April 5, 1993, the original groundbreaking for a new church was scheduled for early 1994. But it never came.

Rocky Point's pastor, the Rev. Henry Manning, died of a heart attack and stroke in early 1994. A dispute within the church over the handling of money for the rebuilding followed and resulted in a split of the congregation.

In the meantime, a united Springhill Freewill Baptist Church in Amite County, another church burned in 1993, rebuilt with the help of volunteers.

In September 1996, with Rocky Point's rebuilding effort going nowhere after a number of court hearings, the Rev. Zebadee Bridges Sr. took up the challenge.

Bridges, pastor of Asia Baptist Church in New Orleans, teamed up with a local minister, the Rev. L.E. McEwen, to encourage the less than 50 Rocky Point members to move forward with construction.

On April 8, 1997, work on the new church began and on Aug. 17, Rocky Point held its first services in the new building.

During Sunday's dedication, church members honored the those who had given physical and financial help to the church in its time of need.

McEwen, who is currently interim pastor at the church, described the feeling of finishing the work.

"It feels great, I have seen faith working," he said. "Everyone pulled together and helped out. Those who helped got as much joy out of helping us as we did accepting it."

Bridges estimated in all that donations for the church since its burning reached around \$180,000, including \$140,000 raised in the last 14 months.

Prisons accept gifts

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Nadler, D-N.Y., wrote Reno to express concern that the order inadvertently affected religious donations to prison chaplains.

"We do not believe that your order was intended to abridge the free exercise rights of federal prison inmates," said the letter, dated Sept. 29.

The Bureau of Prisons worked out an agreement in time for Jewish inmates to receive needed materials in time for Rosh Hashana, Craig said.

"In regards to the specific situation, I do want to categorically state that no inmate was deprived of the items necessary to practice their faith," he said.

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