

# Sterling Brown, Literary Genius 87, Dies Following Long Illness

**BY SHIRLEY REED-BLASH**  
*NWPA News Service*  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.—The voice of another great African-American has been silenced. Sterling Allen Brown, considered a literary genius who inspired and influenced countless people as a nationally recognized poet, author, and scholar, died Jan. 13, at 87, after a long illness. He succumbed to leukemia at Heritage Health Care Center, in nearby Takoma Park, Md. Brown helped to establish African-American literature criticism with several works in the early 1930s, considered one of his most important contributions. A native of Washington, Brown was born on May 1, 1901. He attended District of Columbia public schools, including Dunbar High School. His father, Sterling Nelson Brown, was a prominent local minister, member of the D.C. School Board, and professor of religion at Howard University. Brown reportedly spent much of his childhood mingling with African-American intellectuals on Howard's campus, among them Paul Laurence Dunbar. During these early years at Howard, it is said he developed a "black consciousness."

In 1923, Brown graduated from Williams College, where he joined Phi Beta Kappa, and went on to earn a master's degree in English from Harvard University. Brown's teaching career began at the Virginia Theological Seminary, in Lynchburg, Va. He later went to Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Mo., and Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. In 1929, he assumed a post at Howard and taught literature there until his retirement in 1969. A highly sought-after scholar, Brown was visiting professor at many campuses during his academic career, including Atlanta and New York universities, Vassar College, Wesleyan, and the universities of Illinois and Minnesota. For 13 years, Brown also reportedly worked for the Federal Writers Project and on a landmark Carnegie Myrdal study of African-Americans. Brown reportedly regarded himself primarily as a teacher. And, during 40 years at Howard, he is credited with introducing a number of "groundbreaking" courses, including the first Afro-American literature course. Brown also performed with the famed Howard Players. "He had an extraordinary influence on

Howard, shaping the curriculum and the English Department," said Michael Winston, the university's vice president of academic affairs, in a recent local newspaper article. Winston, a former student of Brown, added, "He's one of the greatest professors and one of the greats in the country." Other distinguished African-Americans Brown taught at Howard were political activist Stokely Carmichael, psychologist Kenneth B. Clark, actor Ossie Davis, writers Amiri Baraka, Paula Giddings, Toni Morrison, and Michael Thelwell; and Federal Appeals Court Judge Spottswood W. Robinson, III, in Washington. Brown emerged from retirement briefly in the early 1970s to work at Howard again. Brown, who lived in the Brookland area of Washington, is survived by a son, John L. Dennis, of Silver Spring, Md.; a sister, Elsie B. Smith, of Landover Hills, Md.; and four grandchildren. His wife of 52 years, Daisy Turnbull Brown, died in 1979. Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 19, at Howard University's Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.



**STUDENTS SPEAK OUT**—Enloe High student Derek McCullers spoke at the MLK celebration in the Raleigh Civic Center on what Dr. King's dream meant to him and students of his generation. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

## Barbour Marches With Band During Bush Inaugural

Schyuler Barbour, a member of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church and the Needham B. Broughton High School Marching Band Flag Corps, traveled with the band to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Inaugural Parade for President George Bush. Schyuler is a senior at Broughton and is on the A-B Honor Roll. The trip to the inaugural celebration for the President of the United States was an opportunity for her to witness, in person, the transition of power which occurs at four- or eight-year intervals within the United States government and recorded in the history of the United States of America. Many people will not see this event in their lifetime and we commend Schyuler Barbour because the Lord has given her the opportunity to see this event in person. Schyuler is the daughter of Joseph Preston Barbour, 517 Calloway Drive, Raleigh.

## Service Group Preparing For Summer Program

The World Mutual Service Group met at the Hargett Street Branch of the YWCA on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 3 p.m. The Hargett Street Day Care Center was opened Jan 2. The group is now preparing for its summer day care center. May 7 was set for the Children's Extravaganza. Members present were Ms. Marie Macon, Ms. Lillie B. Scott, Ms. Betty Whitaker, Ms. Lillie S. Ballentine, Ms. Mary G. Carter, Ms. Daisy Robson, Ms. Shirley Nimmons, Ms. Naomi Thompson, Ms. Jessie Mebane, Ms. Rachel Payne, Ms. Juanita Lucas and Ms. Lucille Griswold Paige.

## Pope Calls For Special Synod Of Bishops On Church Role In Africa

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope John Paul II recently called a special synod of bishops on the role of the church in Africa, where Roman Catholicism is spreading faster than anywhere else in the world. John Paul, who has visited the continent four times since he became pope, made the surprise announcement during his noon Angelus address from his window overlooking St. Peter's Basilica. "I have the joy to announce an initiative of great importance for the spread of the Gospel. I have decided to convene a special assembly for Africa of the synod of bishops on the theme, 'The church in Africa toward the Third Millennium,'" he said. The pope said he was acting on a longstanding request by African prelates, theologians and lay people. "I invite you to remember with prayers the African continent, the blessed land that welcomed the exiled Jesus with his family, and received the message of Christ from the first century," he said.

"Let us pray that the new synodal initiative, with the help of God, can represent for the universal church and for all the individual churches in Africa a special moment in the course of faith of those beloved people, to whom I feel so close." John Paul did not say when or where the assembly would be held but announced he had appointed an organizing commission of nine African prelates headed by Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi, archbishop of Garoua in Cameroon. The synod is a consultative body which meets every three years to inform and advise the pope on various issues. Sometimes the pope calls a special or extraordinary synod. The last worldwide synod of bishops was held at the Vatican in October 1987 to discuss the role of the laity in church and society. Pope John Paul visited Africa in May 1980, February 1982, August 1985 and last September. During the most recent trip, he toured Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and

Mozambique. He also made a brief unscheduled stop in South Africa when bad weather forced his plane down there. The pope is expected to return to Africa in 1989, probably in April. Africa has the world's fastest-growing Christian community. The Catholic Church there has at least 70 million followers, about 13 percent of the population, with nearly 500 bishops and 19,000 priests. By the year 2000, the Vatican says it expects to have 100 million African faithful, or 18 percent of the population. Roman Catholics made up just one percent of Africa's population a century ago. Women in the Kivu region of eastern Zaire are prosecuted for wearing mini-skirts, officials announced. Also banned are trousers, culottes, wigs, lipstick and other Western fashions.

## Laodicea Arts Society Plans Cultural Program

The Black Arts Cultural Society of Laodicea United Church of Christ will sponsor "Search for Excellence—A Celebration of African-American Leaders—Today and Tomorrow" on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 4 p.m. The program, in honor of black history, will feature some of Raleigh's finest musical and cultural talents and Dr. Milton D. Quigless, Jr. as the keynote speaker. It will recognize six honor students from area colleges; selected city, county and state elected officials; educators, business and community leaders. Some of those appearing on the program will be Waltie Rasulala and Connie Howard (WRAL-TV 5), Thelma Lennon (retired, N.C. Department of Instruction), Brothers in Christ (NCSU), Horace Cagle (Shaw University), video presentations by Dr. Lawrence Clark (associate provost, NCSU) and Ms. Irene Clark (St. Augustine's College), the Brothers in Unity and Ms. Edna Haywood (Laodicea United Church of Christ). This program promises to be one of the best events in honor of black history. The public is invited to attend.

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## Come Let's Think


**BY EVA L. PERRY**  
 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." It really makes sense to praise the Lord. We are in God's end time cycle, and we are called to be part of the culmination of God's end-time harvest. God is in control! The earth recognizes His deity and worthiness to be praised, so come now, let's praise Him. No one is able to praise God for you—you must do your own part of praising Him. Even the little children are able to praise Him, and every child should be taught to praise the Lord. Why? Praise is not man's idea, but a mandate from God. This was His reason for creating us. Read I Peter 2:9 and Psalms 102:18. Praise really is worship, physically expressed. This is the way God's people manifest their love and appreciation. If you love Him, you ought to praise Him. He is your source of life, and every good and perfect gift comes from Him. Body, mind, and spirit live only because God lives, and loves us. I am glad to praise Him for His mercy and for His grace. Think about it. Praise is one way God provides for us to draw nearer and nearer to Him. "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." If you praise the Lord you will find joy beginning to spring up in your soul. The more you praise the Lord, the more of His presence you will feel. When you live right, you can enjoy praising the Lord. "Praise is comely for the upright." Those people who faithfully live all they know are the ones whom God promotes into higher heights and deeper depths. We must be "doers of the Word, and not hearers only." We must learn to praise the Lord openly. Unity in spirit, in love and in praise is an important part of God's strategy. If God's people will unite, be of the same mind, speak the same thing, and praise God with an honest heart—we can and will win the war against Satan and all of his evil forces. The very sound of holy praise causes the devil to flee. Praise brings a response—thus making it possible to get our needs met. Read II Chronicles 20:25-27 and Acts 16:25-27 and think seriously about this for a while. Maybe you are still bound because you need to praise the Lord. I want everybody to praise the Lord! There is healing and deliverance in praising the Lord! Read your Bible prayerfully and think!



VICKIE M. LATAILLADE

## Gospel Record Company Names Product Manager

CHATSORTH, Calif.—Sparrow Records has named Vicki Mack Lataillade to the position of product/marketing manager. In the past she will be responsible for the development and implementation of marketing strategies for Sparrow's artists and their products to the gospel marketplace, according to Bill Hearn, senior vice president of marketing, to whom she will report. Additionally, she will be called on to further expand Sparrow's role within that market. Ms. Mack Lataillade brings 14 years of gospel music retail and promotion experience to Sparrow. She has worked with RCA and Light Records and for the past seven years has owned and operated the consultant agency, Charismata, managing corporate clients such as QWEST, A&M/Word, Benson and Virgin Records and artists Al Green, the Winans, Andrae Crouch, Shirley Caesar and the Clark Sisters as well as Sparrow's Tramaine Hawkins, BeBe and CeCe Winans and Demiece Williams. Ms. Mack Lataillade and her husband Claude live with their two daughters, Nadia and Sharnael, in Inglewood, Calif. Alex Haley, critically acclaimed author, noting that one pitfall of fame is that he is often called upon to be a spokesman for all African-American people: "I don't know what the black people think. Often I don't know what I think. That's the truth."



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