

## Power And Spirit Church Blesses Group



HUMBOLDT, Tenn. (AP) — If you were looking to be entertained by a rap group, a church is probably the last place you'd look.

However, it is a small, non-denominational church in Humboldt where the group Righteous Rappers make their music.

The church's pastor, the Rev. Bob Williams, Sr., watches as four young men step behind the altar of the empty church. Two are holding microphones. Lamondra Green holds a mike to his mouth and percussion throbs from the speakers. Bob Williams, Jr., prepares to rap:

"Two thousand years ago a man was born. His name was Christ, King and Lord."

Unlike most popular rap songs, which are rife with obscenities, violence and degradation of women,

the Righteous Rappers croon about Christianity.

"We heard rap and decided to start rapping about things in the Bible," said Williams the group's lead singer.

On stage, Williams, 18, sounds much like rap superstar Ice Tea without benefit of electronic mixing.

No mixing, no profanity and no instruments. The group's booming drum beat originates in the mouth of a 15-year-old boy.

Make no mistake, The Righteous Rappers are good, and not just in a religious sense.

"When I walk down the street, I see a lot of girls. I do not just because I'm in another world," read the lyrics to one of their raps.

They also rap against crack, alcohol and other earthly temptations, instructing young people to

pray, not prey. Bible rap fuses the power with the joyous spirit of gospel.

"We just try and have fun and praise God," said Williams, the most talkative of the group. The other group members are Williams brother, Maranatha Williams, 13; Andre Gross, 15; and Lamondra Green, 15.

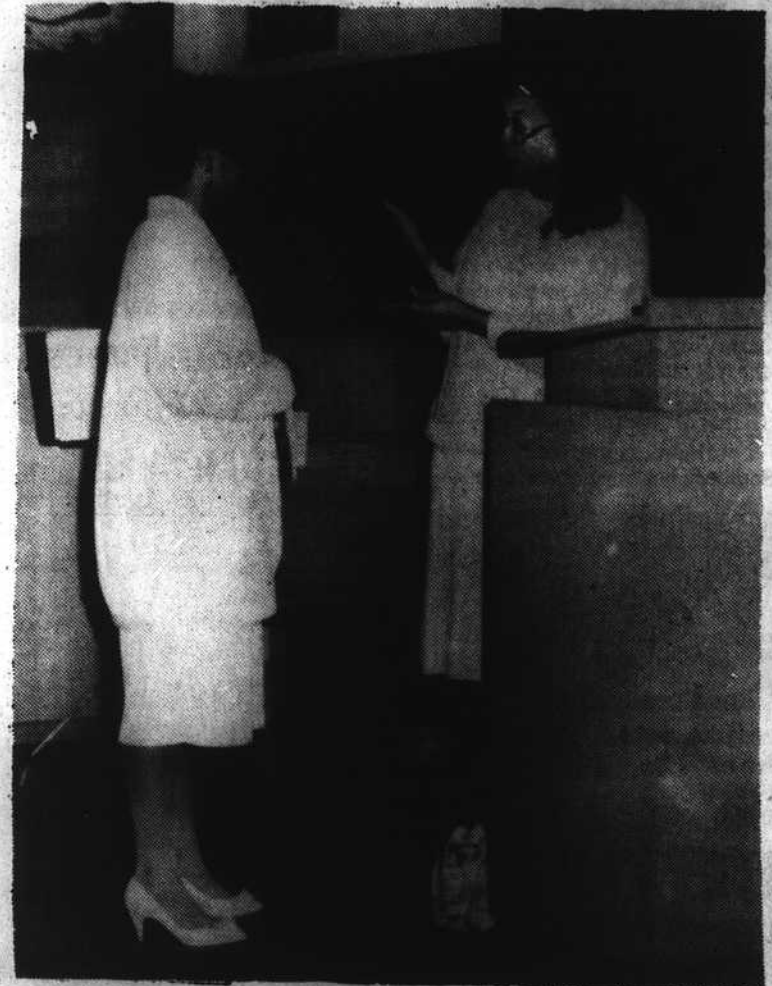
Although fairly new, the group has already created a stir in the community.

### MAGIC IN BELIEVING

There is a genuine magic in believing and magic there will be for belief will supply the power which will enable us to succeed in everything we undertake. Back our belief with a resolute will and we become a master of ourselves.

—Claude Bristol

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION** — Recognition was given to Left to right: Janyetta Sutton, Renee Banks and Jason McKay for their outstanding efforts during the preparation of a special youth program recently at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church.



**PRESENTING PLAQUE** — A plaque was presented to Ms. Wmoinina Lewis by Mrs. Porfua for years of dedication and service at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church during a program recently.

## Vacation Bible School Closes Summer Session

BY MRS. ANNIE THORPE  
Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church, with its very efficient coordinator, Mrs. Joyce Hawkins and her staff and teachers, closed a week of successful Vacation Bible School June 19-23.

The theme for the week was **The Good News and Grace Upon Grace: The Book of God's People.**

The school was divided in several groups with teachers appointed to instruct them. Classes began each evening at 8 p.m. and closed at 9 p.m.

Refreshments were served each evening of which everyone enjoyed. A general review of the lessons taught was given by the teachers or an appointee in the class.

Friday evening we held the presentation of certificates by the teachers from the various classes. Music always plays an important part in any service and thanks goes to Mrs. Ethel Jeffreys for the same.

Remarks were given by the superintendent, Jesse Degraffenreid.

and the pastor, Rev. C. E. Willie, III. After these the coordinator, Mrs. Hawkins thanked everyone for the fine cooperation given. She also thanked her husband, Clifford Hawkins, for supporting her and working with the students in arts and crafts. We adjourned and retired to the fellowship hall where we enjoyed a special treat.

Congratulations and thanks goes to the members of the staff who did a marvelous job. They are Rev. Elsie Degraffenreid, Rev. C. E. Willie, III, Mrs. Linda Willie, Mrs. Dorothea Sanders, Ethel Ridley, Paula Jones, Brenda Baker, Patricia Burnette, Mrs. Laverne Harrison, Mrs. Bettie Douglas, Mrs. Cynthia McKay.

The following persons served refreshments: Ms. Yvonne Moore, Mrs. Paula Jones, Mrs. Minnie Flagg, Mrs. Thelma Moser, Mrs. Linda Willie and Mrs. Joyce Hawkins. We say thank you to all.

The Sunday School superintendent is Jesse Degraffenreid.

## Religious Convictions Help With Bereavement

Strong religious convictions and healthy family relationships seem to be important factors affecting how people will deal with the suicide of a loved one, says a sociologist studying bereavement.

Mark Reed, Ph.D., who will join the Duke University faculty this fall, says that of people coping with the suicide of a loved one, those who pray often and attend church seem to have a greater guilt and stronger feelings of abandonment than less religious people. However, they experience less anger. He isn't sure why.

Among his survey group, emotionally healthy families who shared feelings dealt best with the emotions caused by the suicide of a loved one.

"When dysfunctional families experience a crisis they don't know how to deal with it," he said. Also those who immerse themselves in their work and the people or integrate themselves quickly into activities seem to be less grief stricken. People who seek formal help, such as raps, also recover more quickly.

Not surprisingly, his study showed that those with the strongest bond to someone who commits suicide will be most grief stricken.

Reed said.

Reed says that by studying bereavement he hopes to help people deal with the loss of a loved one. "If we can find out what factors grieving them we'll know how to deal with survivors...we can predict reactions."

Reed, who studies the social and psychological consequences of violence conducted a study on suicide bereavement in Dallas County, Tx. He surveyed survivors of suicide and accident victims' and compared the effects the deaths had on each group. He first surveyed victims' families in October 1987 seven to eight months after the suicides. He then contacted them 18 to 20 months later. Participants in the study included victims and 168 survivors of someone who died as a result of an accident.

He also found that suicide survivors have stronger feelings of abandonment and anger than survivors of accident victims. However, accidental-death survivors have greater difficulty accepting the loss. Both groups also showed no difference in their physiological responses, he said.

## Come Worship With Us

**LAODICEA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2004 Rock Quarry Road  
Raleigh, N.C. 27610  
Phone: 832-2784  
"Upward And Outward"  
Sunday School Sunday 9:00 AM  
Morning Worship Sunday 11:00 AM  
Prayer Meeting Wed. 7:00 P.M.  
Bible Study Wed. 8:00 P.M.  
THE REV. G. C. HAWKINS  
PASTOR

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PASTOR

**RUSH METROPOLITAN A.M.E. ZION CHURCH**  
300 E. Capital Blvd.  
Raleigh, N.C. 27601  
(919) 833-8878  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
V.C.E. .... 9:30 p.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Prayer Service ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Rev. Willie B. (919) 833-8878

**ST. AMBROSE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
813 Darby Street  
Phone: 833-8055  
Rev. J. Arthur Calloway, Rector  
SERVICE SCHEDULE:  
8 a.m. Each Sunday .... Holy Communion  
10 a.m. Each Sunday .... Church School  
11 a.m. .... Holy Communion & Sermon  
11:30 a.m. Wednesdays .... Luncheon-Eucharist  
\*Only Adult Classes during Summer Vacation

**Sunday School Lesson**  
DELIVERANCE AND DISOBEDIENCE  
Mount Gilead Community Church in east Texas had been a bastion of the faith for seventy-five years. Its members were farmers who lived close to the land.

Then one day oil was discovered beneath that rich soil. Soon two wells were pumping on the church's property. Its bank account swelled to six digits.

Homes began springing up as workmen moved their families to the area. Many of these newcomers started attending the Mount Gilead church. The leaders in the church began to fear that the "new people" would steal the leadership from them. One night it was voted that the membership of the church be closed.

The once warm spirit of the church cooled, and soon vanished. The membership dwindled to a handful. Finally, with fewer than a dozen members attending, the vote was taken to close the church.

No images of Baal or Ashtaroth violated Mount Gilead Community Church's altar. On the contrary, a gold-plated cross was central there. But the Christ of that cross had been replaced by the gods of pride, tradition, and greed. These reigned in the hearts of the people.

The nation of Israel was born with the First Commandment resounding in the ears of the people: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3). But when they entered Canaan, they quickly forgot that commandment. The attraction to the gods of the Canaanites among whom the Israelites lived became increasingly powerful.

The Book of Judges contains the record of Israel's first centuries in the promised land, describing the period extending from the death of Joshua to the reign of Saul. These were crucial years of testing for the tribal alliance. The Israelites were engaged in many isolated battles in their effort to gain control of the Canaanite towns.

Eventually, a generation of Israelites arose who had been exposed to Canaanite culture from birth. They had not witnessed the great miracles God had performed for His people during the hours of the exodus from Egypt and the conquest of Canaan. The faith of their parents had not had a positive influence on them, for they "did evil in the sight of the Lord" (vs. 11).

The first way they "did evil" in God's sight was to serve "Baalim" (vs. 11), the false gods of the land. Second, the Israelites "forsook the Lord God of their fathers" (vs. 12). They had entered into a covenant with God at Mount Sinai, but they broke that covenant. Third, they "followed other gods" (vs. 12), forsaking their faith in one God.

When the Israelites failed to exterminate the Canaanites as God had instructed them, they

(See LESSON, P. 16)

**MARTIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1001 E. Martin Street  
Raleigh, N.C. 27601  
Phone: 833-8788  
David C. Forbes, Sr.  
Senior Minister  
SUNDAY  
Early Worship ..... 8:30 a.m.  
Church School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union ..... 8:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship (2nd Sun.) ..... 7:30 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Mid-Week Prayer & Praise Services ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Bible Study for Daily Living ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Daily Prayer (M-F) ..... 12:00 Noon

**SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL**  
Phone: 832-8030  
REV. MICHAEL P. SHUGRUE, Rector  
REV. RICHARD H. HARPER, S.J.  
ASSOCIATE Rector  
Corner of Hillsborough & McDowell Streets  
WEEKEND MASSES  
Saturday ..... 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 Noon  
Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 12:00 Noon  
La Misa En Espanol Domingo ..... 8:30 p.m.  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
Grades K-8 ..... Sunday 9-10 a.m.  
Adult Discussion & Bible Study ..... Sun. 9-10 a.m.  
Inquiry Discussion Group ..... Monday 7:30 p.m.

# ATTEND SERVICE

**SMITH TEMPLE FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
322 South East Street  
Raleigh, N.C. 27601  
Phone 833-8847  
Elder Theodore McAllister, Pastor  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Teacher's Meeting ..... Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service ..... Wed. 8:00 p.m.

**SHAW DIVINITY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
609 Hilltop Drive  
Raleigh, N.C.  
Phone: 832-1488 or 838-1248  
DR. GREGORY T. HEARD, Pastor  
SERVICE SCHEDULE:  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Cantor's Time ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting ..... 7:30 p.m.

**GETHSEMANE TRUE VINE HOLINESS CHURCH, INC.**  
728 East Martin Street  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
Bishop Robert Henry, Pastor  
SERVICES:  
Bible Study ..... Thurs. 7 p.m.  
"Joy His" ..... Sat. 7 p.m.  
Sunday School ..... 10 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 11 a.m.  
Afternoon Service ..... 3 p.m.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2410 Creech Road  
Raleigh, N.C. 27610  
Phone 832-4704  
Rev. Donald R. Ingram, Pastor  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 8:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service ..... Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Hour of Praise Service ..... Fri. 8:00 p.m.  
"The Church of the Open Door"

**FIRST COSMOPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1615 Crosslink Road  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27610  
DR. W. B. LEWIS, PASTOR  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union ..... 8:00 p.m.  
Teachers Meeting & Prayer Service  
Wednesday ..... 7:30 p.m.

**List Your Church In This Space Call 834-5558**