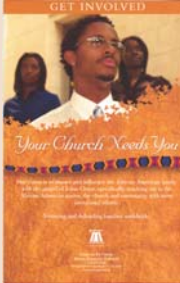




October 2006

- **Get Involved**

- **4th qtr Bulletin Insert:**
Your Church Needs You



- **Pastors Resource:**
Enriching Life In the Fishbowl

Impact Your Community

Send us your story about how you or your congregation is making an impact.



Our vision is to impact and influence the African American family with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, specifically reaching out to the African American pastor, the church and the community with more intentional efforts.

Contact Us

Ask for Alex or Kim...
email: pastors@family.org
phone: (719) 531-3360

Visit Us Online

www.parsonage.org/aa/
or
go.family.org/aaoutreach

Get Involved

I believe God has a specific plan for each of our lives. In contrast each one of us has a plan for our lives.

Many families have planned reunions months and sometimes years in advance. Couples have wedding plans for cruises and exotic honeymoon locations. Teenagers plan for their 16th birthday party with great anticipation for the special day.

God makes plans for our lives as well. His plan is always perfect and in order and excellent for His creation. God's plan is for us to serve Him publicly in church and privately. He wants us to get involved in church and community. Both need us desperately to move the Kingdom forward. He has stated in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV) His plans for us, church and community are good and are designed to help us become better than what we are presently.

The Lord sees all of eternity in a mille-second. We can only see as far as our eyes will permit. This, in most instances is limited by distance and terrain. But God can see it all without the aid of artificial lenses and night goggles. Our involvement has the potential to cast vision for future generations and many years to come. Our families, churches and communities need us more than we can imagine.

May I suggest we align our plans with those plans God has developed for us? Keep your eyes focused on Him for guidance and may we become obedient to the Most High.

Ps. 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD.
And He delights in his way. (NKJV)

Alex Person
Manager, African American Outreach
Focus on the Family

Clergy Appreciation

by Kim Simmons

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Focus on the Family held its annual banquet to honor all pastors. In Colorado Springs, CO over 300 pastors and leaders attended to hear Jim Daly, President of Focus on the Family, H.B. London, Vice President of Ministry Outreach, and Henry Tippie, President of KGFT encourage and lift up you who work diligently to meet the needs of others. We had overwhelming positive feedback as Rev. London encouraged the pastors to mentor young people in ministry and invest in their lives by deepening relationships.

Trends

Hip-hop services are becoming popular within many Black churches and are encouraging younger Black men, in particular, to get involved in the church and their community.

Adult men in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are active in black churches also tend to volunteer and become committed to a variety of service activities in the community.

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