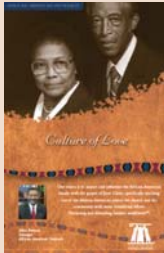




January 2008

Looking to the Future

1st qtr Bulletin Insert:
Culture of Love



Church Library Resource:
Tony Dungy: Quiet Strength - audio CD

We saved a place for you!

Answer the Call

A complimentary lunch for pastors and spouses, designed to refresh you from the every day issues you face and help you and your spouse network and fellowship with other local pastors. Are you connected with a ministerial association, local group of clergy or desire to get connected? Consider hosting a luncheon in your area.



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.

email: pastors@family.org phone: (719) 531-3360
www.africanamericanfocus.org or www.parsonage.org

Love Beyond Measure

I am reminded of my early childhood while attending Sunday School classes. Our teacher would discuss the Scripture about God's love for all of humanity. This verse still echoes in my heart from those formative years, I John 4:8, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." After many years I must confess that I do not know nor understand the depth and breadth of God's love for the human race. I could not phantom it as a child and to this day as a man I cannot imagine the love God has for us. It is simply overwhelming and incomprehensible!

Historical Note

The United States Postal Service Black Heritage Postage Stamp Series added the Madam C.J. Walker Commemorative stamp on Jan. 28, 1998 to its collection.

God loved us before we had any knowledge of His existence. He loves us even when acknowledge Him and continue to walk a path which is inconsistent with His love. Wow! Then to share the love with us through the birth, suffering and death of His only Son gives me a profound sense of humility. We are not worthy to be loved like this in any circumstance.

However, God gives us the opportunity to know Him better because of the love He has demonstrated towards us. The prerequisite of knowing God intimately is that we love. The very character of God is love. Perhaps it is time to love and not hate? Perhaps today is the day we resolve to "love one another" because it is the God thing to do as believers. As I recited in my Church School classes many years ago, let us never forget that "God is love."

Alex Person
Manager, African American Outreach
Focus on the Family

Leaving An Impression

by Kim Flynn

James Earl Massey, mild mannered in his presence, I had the opportunity to meet Rev. Massey in passing at the EK Bailey Preaching Conference. He is a powerful speaker who delivered an inspiring message to a congregation of approximately 800 delegates. Many preachers offer the idea or theme that their message will take you to the next level yet this humble preacher delivers. He was called to preach at the age of sixteen. He hails from a line of preachers from the Church of God (Anderson, IN).

He received his degree with a concentration in Biblical languages. In 1984 he was appointed Dean of Chapel at Tuskegee University in Alabama and became the university professor of religion and society. Six years later he was called back to Anderson University to become Dean of the School of Theology from which he retired as dean emeritus in 1995.

Henry Heywood Mitchell interviewed Rev. Massey and he observes and notes Rev. Massey has developed a "bicultural style and vocabulary" that makes his preaching equally effective before a white or a black audience. Massey points to five things that make for effective preaching: A sermon must have focus and purpose, encourage people to celebrate their faith in God, help promote community within the congregation, be a radical proclamation by a faithful and fearless messenger, and result in a climax that leaves an impression on the hearers.