

Faith & SOUL

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say Rejoice.

NEWS MAGAZINE
Vol.5 No. 47 JANUARY 2011



Happy New Year! Happy Martin Luther King Holiday! This issue includes Above: Joyce Sorrel as she shares her struggles and songs (Photo by Tel-Mel Media). Publisher chats with Ben Bertelot Community Director for Lafayette Consolidated Government (Photo by: Danielle Harrison), Arnold Baker new chairman for National Black Chamber of Commerce with wife Tracie, publisher and Arnold's mom (Photo by: Darrell Rosenthal)

Luke 17 vs. 5 & 6
And the apostles said unto the Lord,
Increase our faith.
And the Lord said, If ye had faith
as a grain of mustard seed, ye might
say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou
plucked up by the root, and be thou
planted in the sea; and it should obey
you.

I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who continues to give me visions and strength to publish Faith & Soul News Magazine. I want to thank my family, all the wonderful advertisers(who faithfully support), our subscribers, readers and this wonderful community.

In this issue:

Enjoy Reading!!!!!!!!!!

My prayer to Haiti: Don't forget Haiti and don't forget New Orleans!
Keep the faith and hope, know that the Love of God is closer than you think. As Fall rolls in, the cooler air brings out the gumbo pots, let the Love of Jesus Christ season our gumbo and we share with the homeless and hunger. Not everyone will have a great Holiday Season! Give something to someone. Encourage someone along the way. Smile and make others smile too.
God Bless, Melinda

**Articles and views expressed in this publication do not necessary reflect the views of Faith & Soul News Magazine and its staff.*

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Publisher Pointers

We pray you had a bless 2010! Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays!

We pray that 2011 be like HEAVEN! Bless in your family, Bless with your children, Bless with your finances, Bless with your health, Bless with your Home and Most Importantly Bless with your Spiritual Life.

2010 was a great year for us, we took on some tough issues, ask some hard questions, got answers and Seek The Truth!

We thank you for all the Love and Support! We had a huge response to Mayor Joey Duriel's article. We appreciate it. We look forward to continue to work hard for you this great community.

In our next issue we will recap 2010 and announce Faith & Soul's 2010 People of the Year! Cover MLK activities from Atlanta to Houston from Arkansas to New Iberia and Lafayette Metro Area.


In closing, Love is a powerful Gift from God!. Love someone who is lonely with no one to Love them. Bless those who curse you and pray for everyone. Give with a free heart, share your talents, wealth and time.

May God Bless You! Talk to you again in 2011!

melinda

Love

*is a Powerful Gift from
God! Use it every second!*



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Joyce Polk Sorrell

She shares her Struggles and Songs Celebrates Martin Luther King Holiday in Loreauville with many activities.....

The year, 1986, had a profound affect on Gospel Recording Artist, Joyce Sorrell. That was the year that she had to deal with a death, a divorce, and a near tragedy, which left her badly shaken, but not broken. “In 1986, my mom died, I divorced my husband, and my son almost drowned,” Sorrell said.

Her son, then 13, had fallen into the bayou near his house while playing with friends. They rescued the boy, but for Sorrell, it was a defining moment when she realized that she had reached her limit. “I couldn’t believe everything that had happened to me at the time,” Sorrell said. I was literally thinking that I was going to lose my mind.”

Instead, the Loreauville native turned to God and prayed. The answer, she said she received was not really a surprise to her. “God told me I will give you peace of mind if you will listen to what I’ve been calling you to do – sing the praises of Jesus Christ.”

So, during that fateful year of 1986, Sorrell who had been singing since 1982, began singing in her church, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Loreauville.. The first song she ever sang in church was an old Catholic Hymn called “I would be true to You” and she was scared to death. “I thought I might forget the song,” she said. That didn’t happen, instead she felt a peace that she says only other singers who sing the praises of God can really explain. Ultimately singing in church became easier and she is currently the Director of the Full Gospel Choir.

Since that time, the dynamic woman, whose deep resonant voice is not easily forgotten, has pursued a successful career as a gospel singer, traveling near and far to spread the word of God, while maintaining a full time job as a Head Start Social Worker for SMILE. She has recorded several songs, and released a CD in 2008 entitled “Lord I’m Into You”. She is currently on the record label, LaTREBOR, located in Duson, La. The company’s CEO, Robert Coleman is also her manager.

Sorrell, who is writing songs for a second CD, uses her family, past experiences, and failures as inspiration for her songs. “I have been without parents for so many years, that it’s important to me to keep my family together, especially my brothers and sisters,” she said. That sentiment has never been truer than now, as she and her nine siblings are dealing with the illness of her older brother, Archie, who earlier this year was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He has since had surgery to remove the tumor and is back home recovering, “His illness kind of threw me and took me to another level,” Sorrell said. “But it’s the hand we were dealt with, so we have to stay prayed up and continue to encourage him, and he encourages us as well.”

The singer said she received so many calls from friends in the music industry wanting to help her family. So she is hosting a benefit concert, with several bands and DJs performing, on Sunday January 9, 2011, at the Martin Luther King Building in New Iberia, with the proceeds going towards defraying her brother’s medical costs.



From left to right Bernedette Derouen , Roger Griffin, Melanie Broussard, Monica Johnson, Nakeisha Pierce, Lil Falley, Father Robert Seay,O.F.M., and Matt Noel.

The Founders of Northside Community Cares Concert Series- Chris Andrus aka Lil' Fallay & Matt Noel, presented all proceeds(check) from their 6th annual Concert Series on 12/07/2010 at 9:am at Holy Family Catholic School located at 200 St. John Street Lafayette, Louisiana 70501.....

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Photo from the file by Tel-Mel Media. Martin Luther King III at the Chretien's Family Reunion in Atlanta, Georgia.

Faith & Soul News Magazine encourages you to support your local Martin King Jr. Holiday activities; please bring your children to the events. Let's continue to work together and love each other.

Please pray for our communities!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have a very Bless Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday!!!!!!

AFRICAN-AMERICANS WHO CAMP

**One-of-a-Kind Travel Adventure
Program Making a Difference**



*Faith & Soul News
Magazine Travel*

Oakland, CA (BlackNews.com) -- One year ago today, Tracey Friley's right eye was twitching uncontrollably. As the Executive Director of OBG Adventure Camps, a travel and learning adventure program for girls 11-16, Friley was gearing up for her very first camp experience that would journey to a beachfront campground location in the United States Virgin Islands, and she was stressed. "I didn't know if I could pull it off," says Friley. "I'd been planning this program for many years knowing that it can be very difficult for many parents of color to trust and let their children go off to camp, particularly when camp involves travel. But in the end, I managed to get it done." And get it done she did.

With two successful camp sessions under her belt - having taken place in both the US Virgin Islands and California's Lake Shasta - Friley and her qualified team are now gearing up for the 2011 season with CampCaribe 2011 where diverse girls from around the nation will participate in a multicultural camp experience, environmental engagement, cultural appreciation, beach, land & water activities, and a fantastic dolphin encounter in the Caribbean sea. "This time," laughs Friley, "the twitch in my eye isn't so bad."

Friley's twitch has calmed down a bit because she believes that steps are being made in The Outdoor Movement as it relates to diversity. Not only does the White House have outdoor and healthy lifestyle initiatives in place, but America's First Daughter Malia Obama set an example for tween girls of color when she went to camp for the first time this past summer, and even Oprah Winfrey and her bosom buddy Gayle took up Park Ranger Shelton Johnson's offer to go camping and road tripped to Yosemite National Park for all of the world to see. "When the public sees African-American girls and women enjoying the Great Outdoors, we hope that it sends the message that outdoor recreation is for everyone," laments Alley Bailey, an OBG Adventure Camps staff member and one of two African-American lifeguards on staff. "This is good stuff."

American Camp Association statistics indicate that less than 11% of campers in the independent camp sector are in minority groups. Shelton Johnson, the African-American park ranger that invited Oprah to Yosemite has this to say on CNN.com: "African-Americans today are least likely to have a wilderness experience, but we descend from people who were most likely to have intimacy with the land." Likewise, Last Child in the Woods author Richard Louv has coined the phrase 'Nature Deficit Disorder' to describe the lack of outdoor engagement by today's youth. And Friley only knows too well about these truths. "I had a number of adults upon seeing my girls engaging in beach and waterfront fun ask me if my group was at-risk. People just aren't used to seeing a group of diverse girls traveling to and hanging out in such a high end island environment."

Because of these types of comments, because there is a dramatic shift in the nation's demographics and because camp helps kids gain independence, build character and develop critical thinking and social skills, camp programs like Friley's that reach out to girls of color are critical.

Vanessa Sanchez, a social worker and another member of the OBGAC staff, agrees. "As a triathlete and camping addict, I don't see as much diversity as I would like. Programs with like this that reach out to children of color are critical to a child's overall development. When Tracey asked me to participate, it was a no-brainer. I couldn't say no."

With Malia, Oprah & Gayle leaving camp behind and moving on to their next adventure, Friley remains optimistic in spite of the stats. Her non-profit grassroots adventure program, which is going into its second year, enrolls a majority of African-American Adventurers although she's determined to make the program more multicultural in the years to come. "In my ideal world, I'd like OBG Adventure Camps to represent the world we live in," says Friley, the only Brown Girl at camp growing up. "Empowering African-American children is a priority, but a program that is an accurate representation of the world we live in would be just perfect."

To get more information about OBG Adventure Camps, to make a donation, or to give the gift of a tropical sunset to a deserving girl, please contact Tracey@OBGAdventureCamps.com, visit www.OBGAdventureCamps.com or join OBGAC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OBGAdventureCamps.

Cont. from Page 4 Joyce Sorrell..... Her Struggles and Songs

Sorrell has also been dealing with an illness herself since 2004. It was then she was diagnosed with a debilitating disease called Fibromyalgia, which attacks the body's soft tissues and nerves, and is extremely painful. The pain, she said can be excruciating and can sometimes last from the time she wakes up to the time she goes to bed. Family, especially her husband Michael, has been her source of inspiration, often times encouraging her to keep singing at her various events, despite the difficulties.

Singing during these times also allowed her to experience the miracles of God. "I noticed that when singing and praising his name, either I didn't feel the pain or He's not letting me have pain," Sorrell said. So she continues to push forward and fight the disease, with the help of the Lord and her family.

She also has a penchant for community service, having been instrumental in starting Kwanzaa, the Martin Luther King Celebration and the Mardi Gras Parade in Loreauville. Sorrell, who is married to Michael Sorrell, and has four sons and five grandchildren, knows how important family and faith are to living dreams and overcoming adversity. She is living proof of that. "My goal is to always help families with my job and heal hearts with my music."

***Faith & Soul News Magazine
congratulates Lafayette City-
Parish Councilman Kenneth
Boudreaux on his
appointment of Chair of the
Council Board.
We wish you many success!***





F&S chats with Ben

By: Article & Photos Danielle Harrison

In a 20-minute chat, Ben Berthelot, Director of Community Development in Lafayette Parish, talked to F&S about the work his department is doing in the African-American community.

His department provides a wide group of services which include: Housing, Human Services, Arts and Culture, Workforce Development, Acadian Recovery Center, Governmental and Business Relations.

Asked about current or up and coming projects in the African-American community, Berthelot spoke of the recent neighborhood cleanup and collaboration with TownFolk and 500 University of Louisiana at Lafayette freshmen to plant more than 65 trees (evergreen and fruit) in J Wallace James Park on Hopkins Street and 50 pink Crepe Myrtles at the cemetery on St. Antoine and Oliver Streets.

Other ongoing projects include the departments continued partnership with Habitat for Humanity, which the DCD gave \$650,000 to build 12 homes to revitalize a neighborhood.

“There are a few homes still for sale for first time home buyers,” Berthelot said.

Also, made possible by Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) is the Housing Rehabilitation Program that provides qualifying residents with a complete home make-over and a means to relocate during the house rehabilitation process.

The Rehab program services 15 homes per year.

Asked if minority contractor receive any of the contracts to build or rehab houses, Berthelot replied: “Anytime we have a project going out with CDBG funds minority contractors were sent out.” “(With) Home Funds we had to spend 15 percent of the total home funds (\$800,000) with Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO).

When asked about the DCD’s future relationship with the Housing Authority, Berthelot replied, “I can’t speak to anything in the future.” “We’ve met with Housing in the past; whatever proposals are put on the table, I’ll be happy to discuss.”

In conclusion Berthelot said that the DCD is “always looking’ for partners in community projects. Proposals can be made at their yearly public hearings.

To learn more about the DCD programs call, (337) 291-8402 or visit the Lafayette Consolidated Government’s website www.lafayettegov.com.

President Barack Obama in Oval Office



President Barack Obama makes Congressional calls from the Oval Office before today's final Senate vote repealing the ban on gay men and women serving openly in the military, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010. □ (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

***Faith & Soul
congratulates
Arnold C. Baker
as the new-elect
Chairman of
The National
Black Chamber
of Commerce***



*Picture from
Lft.Zazelle
Dudley(Chair of
Louisiana Black
chamber of Com-
merce), Center: Mr.
Arnold Baker(New-
elect Chairman
of the National
Black Chamber
of Commerce),
Right: Melinda
Sylvester(Louisiana
Black Chamber
Board Member)*

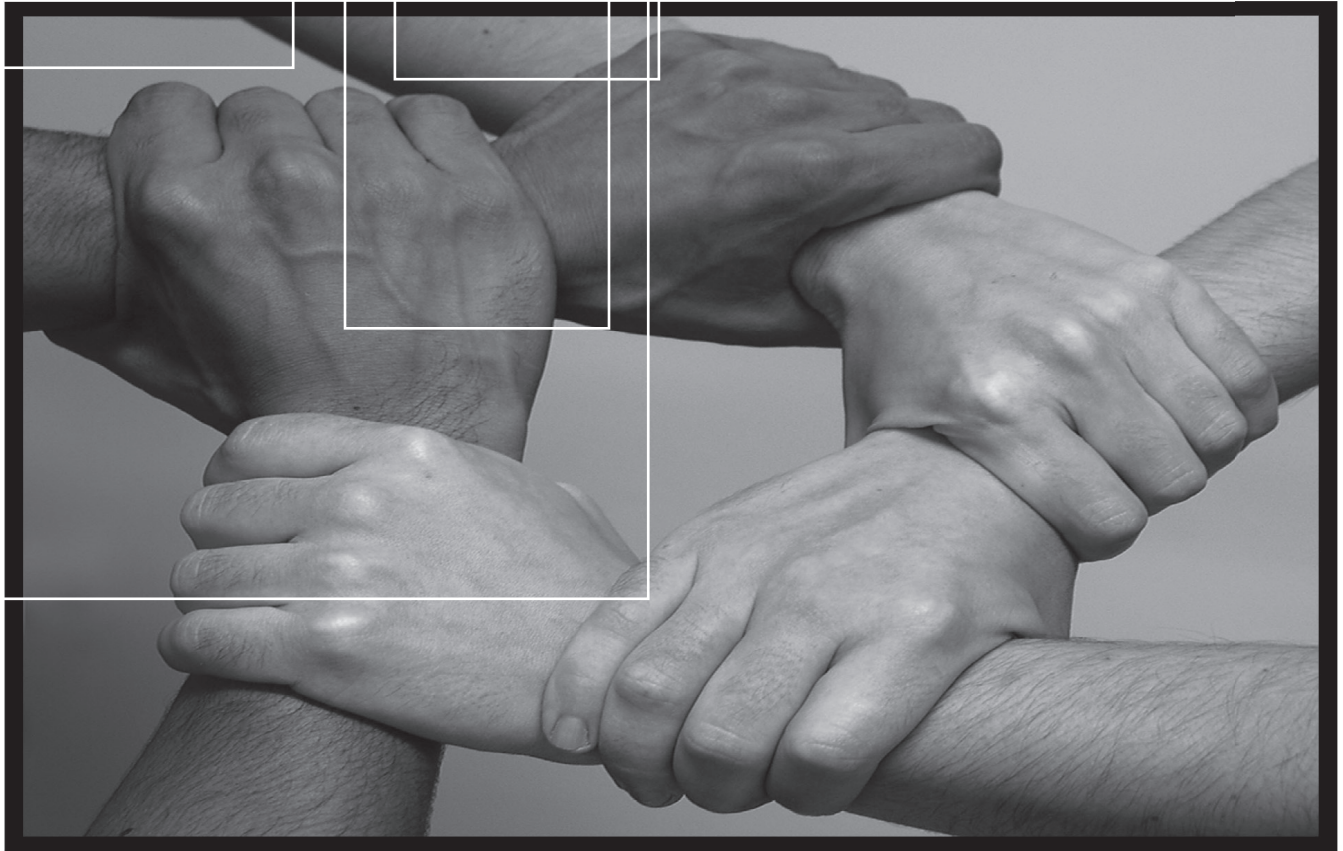
Faith & Soul congratulates Arnold C. Baker as the new-elect Chairman of The National Black Chamber of Commerce. He will be officially inaugurated on Jan. 1. Baker is former marketing director of the Northgate Mall in Lafayette, and he owns Baker Ready Mix & Building Materials in New Orleans.

“I nominated Arnold Baker to be our 2011 Chairman, so that says how I feel about his election. We look forward to great things coming from his leadership. Our legislative agenda and 2011 objectives will be announced on January 26 when he officially takes over.”-Harry C. Harold, President/CEO of National Black Chamber of Commerce

“We could not have selected a better chair at this point in time. I most definitely believe in his potential. He has been a proven leader on local and state level and a strong participant on the national level. I have no doubt in his ability to lead on the national level. I view Arnold Baker as a strong leader in the business community. I’m super excited that he is from our own home state, Louisiana!”-Zazell Dudley, Chairman/Exec. Dir. of Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce

“I wish Arnold luck as the new Chair. Arnold is a very respected businessman in the New Orleans area and a national figure in the National Black Chamber of Commerce. He has served as president of the New Orleans Chamber and as a board member of the National Chamber. Arnold will make a wonderful chair on the national level in general and on the local level in particular. We plan on working with Arnold, and I ask him to be our keynote speaker at our banquet in March.”-June Andrus, President of Lafayette Black Chamber of Commerce.

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Picture from the file by Darrel Rosenthal, African American History Parade.

This year's African American History Parade will be March 13, 2011.

It will be another awesome event.

For more information, call Je'nelle Chargois @ 337-233-4262

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Faith & Soul News Magazine Congratulates Pokey Chapman

Hello, im sure you all have heard that Pokey is the new WNBA Head Coach and General Manager of the Chicago Sky, well i did some Pokey shirts "She's Back"!!!! 2010, if anyone is interested send me an email. I am sooo PROUD of her, I told ya, The Best is yet to Come!!!

The Best is yet to Come!!!

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PSA-Everyone is invited to our 28th Year of Mr. & Miss MLK Pageant set for January 15, 2011 4:00 pm at the MLK Multipurpose Center 309 Cora Street Lafayette, LA 70502 Admission is only 2 can goods.

For more information please call Brenda at 337-258-1666.

**Regards,
Brenda Andrus
MLK Pageant Director**

Isaiah 9 vs. 6

*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and
the government shall be
upon his shoulder: and his
name shall be called Won-
derful, Counsellor, The
mighty God, The might
God, The everlasting Fa-
ther, The Prince of Peace.*

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