

MAAFA Commemoration Resource Center

September 2010 MAAFA Commemoration Preacher & Speaker Synopsis

Sunday, September 19, 2010

Rev. Dr. Lewis T. Tait, Jr., Pastor, Imani Christian Center, Stone Mountain, GA

In 1999, **Dr. Tait** became the Organizing Pastor of a new church started in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The church was named New Life United Church of Christ and its first service commenced in April 1999. In October 2004 New Life UCC became the Imani Christian Center, and in 2006 was re-launched with a new vision for reaching the un-churched, becoming affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. The Imani Christian Center's mantra is: "**Come as you are and leave transformed.**" Dr. Tait was inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers in 2004. He is co-author with A. Christian van Gorder of *Three Fifths Theology: Challenging Racism in American Christianity*, published by Africa World Press in 2002.

Monday, September 20, 2010

Tim Wise, Author and Anti-Racist Activist, Nashville, TN

Tim Wise is among the most prominent anti-racism educators and essayists in the U.S., and has been called, "One of the most brilliant, articulate and courageous critics of white privilege in the nation," by best-selling author and Professor Michael Eric Dyson, of Georgetown University. Wise has spoken in 49 states, on over 600 college campuses, to hundreds of community groups and to over a million people about racism and inequality in America. Wise is the author of five books in addition to his latest, *Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity*. He has contributed essays to thirty additional books, and is one of several persons featured in *White Men Challenging Racism: Thirty-Five Personal Stories*, from Duke University Press. You will find information about any of Mr. Wise's books at www.timwise.org

Karen Hunter, Journalist, Author and Publisher, South Orange, NJ

Karen Hunter is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, President and CEO of Karen Hunter Publishing, a radio talk-show host, and co-author of numerous New York Times bestsellers, including *Ladies First* with Queen Latifah, *I Make My Own Rules* with LL Cool J, *On the Down Low* with J.L. King, and *Wendy's Got the Heat* with Wendy Williams. Karen is also a full-time professor and distinguished lecturer in the Film & Media Department at Hunter College in New York. A former sports and news reporter with the New York Daily News for 12 years, Karen served on the editorial board of The News for four years, where she was a member of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize- and Polk Award-winning teams. She was also the paper's first African-American female news columnist. www.karenhunterpublishing.com

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

Dr. Scott Christianson, Writer and Human Rights Activist, Albany, NY

Scott Christianson is an internationally recognized author, journalist, filmmaker, teacher, and human rights activist, specializing in criminal punishment and social justice. His acclaimed new book, *Freeing Charles: The Struggle to Free a Slave on the Eve of the Civil War* (2010), is the culmination of more than 18 years of research and writing, which started after he moved into a house in upstate New York that had been a station on the Underground Railroad. Since 1998 he has published nine serious non-fiction books of investigative history. He is the winner of dozens of awards for his journalism, writing, public service and community activities, his work has been cited by the United States Supreme Court and hailed in many books and news reports. You can find information on Dr. Christianson's other books at www.scottchristianson.org.

Dr. Edward M. Bostick, Quiltmaker and Historian, Brooklyn, NY

"My main purpose in quilt making is to revive and maintain an interest in the art form. I wish to relate the important cultural and historical legacy of southern African American women. The traditional quilt themes included 'Housetops,'

'Pig Pens' 'Half- Log Cabins,' 'Lazy Gal,' and 'Cattle Guard'. The earliest forms were String/Diamond quilts made by slave women who used small pieces of strings and other remnants leftover from making the 'master's' clothes and quilts to construct their own quilts. The diamond shapes represent birth, life, death and rebirth. "The quilts also reflect the role of sympathetic white Americans in the pre-Civil war era. Hidden messages to slaves attempting to escape north to freedom were encoded in quilt symbols. 'Log Cabin' quilts indicated a safe house for escaped slaves to hide in. 'The Turn-Dash' symbolized a wagon available for transport to the next safe escape route. Additionally, my collection includes depictions of African and Native American mythological symbols and creatures." www.africanamericanquilts-bostick.com

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Dr. Edwin Nichols, Clinical/Industrial Psychologist, Washington, DC

The 21st Century Belongs to China

As African Americans, will we be onboard or will we be left behind?

- What can we gain from China?
- What can our children learn from China?
- What can we learn about "Resistance" from China?

Dr. Jonathan L. Walton, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

Jonathan L. Walton is an assistant professor at Harvard Divinity School. Trained as a social ethicist, his insights and reflections concerning the intersections of religion and society have been noted in numerous prominent news media outlets such as CNN, the New York Times, Time magazine, and NPR. Dr. Walton is the author of *Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism* with New York University Press, and has published several scholarly articles on religion, media and evangelical culture. www.jonathanlwalton.com

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Dr. Ron Daniels, Institute of the Black World 21st Century, East Elmhurst, NY

Veteran social and political activist **Dr. Ron Daniels** was an independent candidate for President of the United States in 1992. He served as Executive Director of the National Rainbow Coalition in 1987 and Southern Regional Coordinator and Deputy Campaign Manager for the Jesse Jackson for President Campaign in 1988. This presentation will explore the historic debt owed to Haiti, the world's the first Black Republic, by people of African descent, the United States and the world. Dr. Daniels will discuss the urgent need for collective action by the global Black community to build the new Haiti in the aftermath of the disastrous earthquake. In addition, he will use the occasion to comment on the vision and mission of Pan Africanism in the 21st Century. www.ibw21.org

Tom Burrell, Author, Chicago, IL

Marketing communications pioneer, founder and former CEO of Burrell Communications, and Advertising Hall of Fame inductee, **Tom Burrell** is credited with revolutionizing the image of African Americans in television and changing the face of American advertising. He coined the now-famous phrase, "Black people are not dark-skinned white people." Burrell calls the marketing of the myth of Black Inferiority to justify slavery within a democracy "one of the greatest propaganda campaigns of all time." In **BRAINWASHED** he shows how the torturous enslavement and indoctrination of a people resulted in the powerful, all-pervasive, mass-media driven brainwashing that impacts African-American lives even today. The BI brainwashing campaign may be more subtle than in the past, given that a black First Family occupies the White House, but nonetheless, it exists. www.stopthebrainwash.com www.theresolutionproject.us