

# Youth Tour 2005

Youth Tour 2005 was an exciting program that allowed students to travel across the United States and visit many interesting and historical places. Computer training was provided that enabled the students to update our website every evening during the tour with the events of the day!

Youth Tour 2005 was an innovative approach to cultural awareness. It presented at-risk youth with unique and significant opportunities to:

- Experience other cultures
- Practice responsible behavior
- Participate as citizens in their own communities
  
- Learn life-long skills that will help them to avoid starting down a path of crime, violence, and drug abuse

In order to participate, students had to meet the following requirements:

- Be between the ages 9 - 17.
- Reside, attend school or church, or have parents that work in the Watts/South Central Los Angeles area
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 during 2004-2005 school year.
- Demonstrate good school conduct
- Must have a medical clearance to travel.
- Must submit a liability release form parents or guardian.
- Be free of criminal or civil litigation
- Submit a 500-word essay on a historical landmark or site to be visited.
- Make a contribution of \$1,500 toward the total participant cost of \$3,500

(Students were advised on how to meet this financial requirement.)

Youth Tour 2005 Calendar:

## Date Sightseeing Staying Overnight

7/5/05 Las Vegas, NV St. George, UT

7/6/05 Grand Junction, CO Grand Junction, CO

7/7/05 Denver, CO Denver, CO

7/8/05 Topeka, KS Salina, KS

7/9/05 St. Louis, MO Columbia, MO

7/10/05 Indianapolis, IN Indianapolis, IN

7/11/05 Cleveland, OH Erie, PA

7/12/05 Syracuse, NY Utica, NY

7/13-7/14/05 Boston, MA Boston, MA

7/15-7/16/05 New York, NY New York, NY

7/17 Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia, PA  
7/18-7/20/05 Washington, DC Arlington, VA  
7/21-7/24/05 Norfolk, VA Norfolk, VA  
7/25/05 Kinston, NC Kinston, NC  
7/26-7/27/05 Atlanta, GA Atlanta, GA  
7/28/05 Montgomery, AL Montgomery, AL  
7/29-7/30/05 Jackson, MS Jackson, MS  
7/31/05 Dallas, TX Dallas, TX  
8/1/05 Amarillo, TX Amarillo, TX  
8/2/05 Gallup, NM Gallup, NM  
8/3/05 Lake Havasu City, AZ Lake Havasu City, AZ  
8/4/05 Back to Los Angeles!

Eagle Empowerment, Inc. (Tax ID #74-3109083) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

## Youth Tour 2005 Participants



Clarence Braithwaite  
Age:13 7th Grade  
Wants to go to different cities and is looking forward to seeing historic sites.



Ronari Galloway  
Age: 9 4th Grade  
Wants to see new states, and spend time with friends.



TimHoni Galloway  
Age: 10 5th Grade  
Wants to see Niagara Falls, and more states.



Charles Goodridge III  
Age : 12 7th Grade  
Wants to see new people,

and visit different states.



**Jalen Gray**  
Age: 11 6th Grade  
Wants to make new friends,  
and experience new things  
things,  
and foods.



**Kesley Green**  
Age: 11 5th Grade  
Wants to learn about life in  
the United States, and have fun.



**Monae Green**  
Age: 12 6th Grade  
Wants to learn about new  
cultures, see new  
and swim.



**Marlin Henderson, Jr.**  
Age: 12 6th Grade  
Wants to see the Niagara  
Falls, and see nature and  
animals that he hasn't seen before.



**Christian Meeks**  
Age: 9 3rd Grade  
Wants to see new states.



**Aerica Myers**  
Age: 10 5th Grade  
Wants to see new things,  
speak new languages, and  
see Niagara Falls.



**Azadeh Myers**  
Age: 12 6th Grade  
Wants to have a good time,  
and meet new people.



**Garrett Nevels**

Age: 12 7th Grade

Wants to travel around the country, go to different states, and see the Empire State Bldg.



**Taylor Nevels**

Age: 10 5th Grade

Wants to see new places and things, and learn more about places and items.



**Kennesha Trammell**

Age: 11 5th Grade

Wants to see new places.



**Rochelle Tyler**

Age: 10 5th Grade

Wants to see new states,



**Lonnie Wilson II**

Age: 14 8th Grade



**Jasmine Zelaya**

Age: 10 4th Grade

Wants to see different things,

## **Mentors**



**Tier Elera**

Age: 14 9th Grade

Wants to meet new people, view historical places, and Youth Tour 2000 sites.



**Tinika Houston**

Age: 14 9th Grade

Wants to be an example to those who haven't gone on the tour before, see different sites and have fun.



**Darrin Oliver**

Age: 14 8th Grade

## **Chaperons**



**Sarah Akinwale**



**Gwen Baker**



**Yvonne Boyd**



**JoAnn Cannon**



**Joyce Hopkins**



**Carol Houston**



**Denzil Houston**



**Deniese McAfee**



**Dolores McDavid**



**Christopher Miller**

## **Youth Tour 2005 Participants and Coaches**



**Paige Snider/  
Clarence Braithwaite**



**Meredith Bagdazian/  
Ronari Galloway**



# Youth Tour 2005 Travel Log

This page shows the highlights of our tour from July 3rd through July 14th. Check our [participants page](#) to see which of us was reporting on a particular day!

July 3, 2005



**Pastor Carol, CEO**



**Our Bus**



**Mr. Chris Pufahl - Our Driver**

The children were thrilled, the chaperons had great expectation. Our departure is only two for prayer and a special dedication for the success of our tour. Twenty children and ten chaperons were presented. A magnificent brunch was prepared for all participants and guests. As CEO of Eagle Empowerment, Inc., I would like to thank each supporter. You are part of a great miracle. The participants reached their goal of \$45,000.00. As CEO, my financial goal was for the balance of our budget, \$60,000.00. As of today, there is a balance of \$38,000.00 needed. We are exercising faith, as we prepare to depart on Tuesday, that miracles will occur and the balance of funds will be donated. We invite you to make additional donations and to invite others to make donations toward completing our goal. Remember all donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: Eagle Empowerment, 8724 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90002. Tuesday morning at 5:00am is our departure time. The children had an option to leave at 5:00am or 8:00am. Yes, they chose 5:00am.

*Pastor Carol Houston, Reporter*

July 5, 2005



**The Las Vegas Strip**



**Hanging Out Together**



**Resting At A Rest Stop**

I woke up this morning at 3:00am. I left the house at 3:30am. I arrived at the church at 4:00am. The men and the boys were packing the luggage onto the bus. We were introduced to our bus driver. His name is Mr. Chris Pufahl. Chris is short for Christian. I was surprised that Chris stands for Christian, just like my name. We left the church at 5:00am just like Pastor Carol scheduled.

The bus stopped in Fontana to pick up Sister Gwen Baker. We stopped in Victorville at a McDonald's for breakfast.  
*Christian Meeks, Reporter*

Hello Bethel family and friends. I am one of your reporters for the day. This morning we said our goodbyes to our families and headed for our first stop on the strip in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The strip is a neon-lined portion of Las Vegas Boulevard. It is known by its temperatures, but most of all its casinos and large hotels, such as Treasure Island, The Mirage, The MGM Grand just to name a few. After we left Las Vegas, we headed towards St. George, Utah. We first had to pass through the point of Arizona. Then we finally dined at a buffet called the Golden Corral. After which, we headed for the Hampton Inn which is our hotel for the night.

In closing, I would like to give thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for giving Pastor Carol such a wonderful vision. We love you!

*Tinika Houston, Reporter*

**July 6, 2005**



**The Denver Post**



**Pastor Carol & Officer Karl Manley**



**Our Favorite Eating Spot**

The day started off with us eating a wonderful and quite delicious meal from the Hampton Inn. After that, we boarded the bus and were off to our destination. It was quite a long ride, and there was really nothing to do but entertain our own selves. After reaching our destination, we went to the Golden Corral, for our main meal of the day. There Pastor Carol was reunited with one of her brother's good friends, Mr. Carl Manley. After finishing our delicious meal, we headed towards the hotel.

*Darrin Oliver, Reporter*

Today we ate breakfast at the Hampton Inn. Then we got on the bus and started traveling. As we were on the road we saw some of the Rocky Mountains. After that we saw the Colorado River. We were on the road for a very long time and then we stopped for gas. When we had a full tank we got back on the road. We got food at the Golden Corral. When we were done eating, we headed towards the hotel to rest for the evening.

*Taylor Nevels, Reporter*

**July 7, 2005**



**University Of Denver**



**Campus Tower Layered  
With 24kt Gold**



**Black American  
West Museum**

Today we went to the University of Denver. During the course of the tour, our guide, Libby told us that they had the largest collection of cookbooks in the world. The university is one of three schools that has an Olympic size pool in Colorado. They also have many different towers around campus that are layered with 24 karat gold. We also visited the Black American West Museum. There we learned about one of the few all black farming communities called "Dearfield". It was an exciting day for me.

*Rochelle Tyler, Reporting*



Hi, everyone my name is Tier Elera and I'm your reporter for today. Due to the fact that our bus had a flat this morning, we were an hour late starting our journey. Our ride to Denver was about 6 hours. We toured the University of Denver. Our tour guide Libby showed us around the main parts of the Business School. When we left, Libby gave us all a bottle of water. This was not just your ordinary bottle of water. This was water that had a special University of Denver label printed on it. Our next stop was to the Black American West Museum. The museum is a house that belonged to Dr. Justina Ford, one of the first black, female doctors in Denver. We learned about various African Americans and more details about the house from historian, Mr. Richard Martin. We concluded our day with a big dinner at IHOP for Aeric's birthday. "Happy Birthday, Aeric!" We had the pleasure of Myra Donovan one of our major contributors to Youth Tour 2005 to also join us. Thank you Ms. Donovan for making this trip possible! Hi, everybody back home. Wish you could be here.

*Tier Elera, Reporting*

**July 8, 2005**



**Lonnie and Ronari**



**Pastor Carol and Family**



**Pooling Around!**

Today I gave the opening prayer for our morning devotion. I prayed for the bus trip and that we would all have a good day. The trip is going fine so far. I am having a great time with my friend Jalen. We left Denver, Colorado at 9:30 this morning on our way to Salina, Kansas. Before arriving at our hotel, we stopped at McDonald's to eat. I am looking forward to going swimming tonight.

*Ronari Galloway, Reporting*

The day started out as I read a passage from the bible. I read from Genesis 28 verses 13 and 14. What I read meant that the seed that God has planted inside of us shall grow and as it grows, so will the knowledge of many things that we have and will continue to learn from this experience. We left Denver, Colorado and headed towards Salina, Kansas. After we drove for about 7 hours, we stopped at McDonald's to grab a bite to eat. I can't wait to see what tomorrow will bring.

*Lonnie Wilson, Reporting*

**July 9, 2005**



**Brown v. Board of Education Marquee**



**Ms. Toi Hayes - Our Tour Guide**



**Front Lobby Of The Museum**

This morning Timhoni gave the prayer and I did the morning devotion from Psalms 59:7-9. I explained to everyone that this passage of scripture says, no matter what people, or the enemy tries to place in our way, God will always be there to lead, guide and protect us.

We left Salina, Kansas at 8:00 a.m. and headed towards Topeka, Kansas to visit the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. I think the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Site was a very educational place for me. It helped me to see how very blessed I am to be born now because I really understand how hard it was for people of color years ago. I have learned a great deal from this experience.

*Clarence Braithwaite, Reporting*

I think the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Site was a great place to visit. I got a chance to learn about slavery and how Blacks were treated due to segregation. I'm so happy I was able to go to the museum because now I know that Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks worked hard to help change the world that I live in. I want to say thank you to Ms Toi Hayes for

assisting us through the tour and I would also like to thank Pastor Carol for this chance of a life time experience. I really appreciate Pastor Carol for exposing me to a part of my heritage that I never thought much about. I loved it!

***Timhoni Galloway, Reporting***

**July 10, 2005**



**Museum Of Transportation**



**The Arch of St. Louis**



**The Whole Gang In Front**

After breakfast this morning, we boarded the bus and proceeded to the Museum Of Transportation in St. Louis, MO. Our tour guide at the museum was named Mr. Richard. He told us he's worked at the museum since the age of 15 and has loved trains all his life. We were able to walk through the inside of a caboose car. Mr. Richard explained that the caboose was used as the crew's living quarters as well as the engineer's office. Our guide informed us that the rear car of trains today is now called F.R.E.D. (Flashing Rear End Device). We then saw "Big Boy", one of the largest steam locomotives ever built out of a total of twenty-five. This steam driven locomotive was made in 1941 by Union Pacific. This particular locomotive was considered an "articulating" locomotive. This meant that at bends or turns the engine could literally adapt to the winding track due to a pin and hinge mechanism located underneath the bottom of the engine. We also enjoyed being able to go inside other different types of engines and train cars. This gave us the opportunity to see first hand the way they looked many years ago.

Later that day, we drove in to downtown St. Louis to see the Arch of St. Louis which is also considered "the Gateway To The West". We couldn't help but notice how big and beautiful the arch is. Especially the way the sun beams down upon it causing it to shimmer and shine in the sunlight. The Arch of St. Louis is truly a magnificent structure!

For dinner, Pastor Carol treated us once again to the Cracker Barrel restaurant. The food was delicious and we all had a great time. We had a full day of touring and traveling, but what a terrific day it has been.

***Monae Green and Aerica Myers, Reporting***

**July 11, 2005**



**Rest Stop On The Way To Erie, PA**



**Garrett & Jalen Outside**



**Our Hotel In Erie, PA**

The grass is greener on the other side of the country. Today was a full day of travel for us. We were not involved in any major tours. As we started our day, my partner Garrett prayed for our safety as we continued to travel and I gave the morning inspiration from Philippians 1:20. I shared with the group the importance of honoring God in all that we say and do.

We traveled through Ohio to get to Erie, Pennsylvania. When we were in Ohio, we stopped to take a restroom break in Ashland. This particular rest stop is in the midst of an Amish community and there happened to be an Amish family present when we arrived. We noticed the men wore tops hats, white long sleeve shirts, black vests and they had very long beards. The women wore white bonnets, long black dresses with vests and white long sleeve shirts. We boarded the bus and later pulled off the highway to eat lunch at Perkins Family Restaurant, also located in Ashland. The food was very good.

When we were done eating lunch, we needed to make a fuel stop in Cleveland, Ohio. There we united with Ralph and R.J. Moore the husband and son of Carla Moore, a major financial contributor to our tour. When we got back on the highway, we were driving along side one of the five Great Lakes, Lake Erie. After doing our laundry at a local wash house, we ended our travels at the Hampton Inn in Erie, Pennsylvania.

**July 12, 2005**



**Maiden of the Mist**



**Niagara Falls, NY**



**Niagara Falls, NY**

Today we woke up in Erie, Pennsylvania. We left the hotel at 7:30 a.m. From there it took us 2 hours and 30 minutes to get to Niagara Falls in Niagara Falls, New York. To get to this historical site we traveled Interstate 90 East. The temperature today rose to a staggering 104 degrees at 3:14 p.m. We spoke to Ranger Tom and he told us that Canada was one-fourth of a mile away from where we were standing. In order for anyone to get into Canada one must have a passport or a birth certificate. The only persons in our group with their passports, eligible to cross the Canadian border, is Niagara Falls is one of the seven natural wonders. This natural phenomenon is 70 stories high and the water that flows from the bottom of the gorge ends up in the Atlantic Ocean. Niagara Falls is the oldest National Park in the United States. It was discovered on December 6, 1668.

**Pastor Carol and Sarah Akinwale.**

We noticed that on the Canadian side both the Canadian and American flags were flying half-staff. We later found out that this was due to the bombings in London. In order to get around this massive park, we rode the trolley. As the trolley transported us from stop to stop, we passed such sites as Goat Island and the Three Sisters Island.

Niagara Falls actually consists of two major Falls, The American and the Horseshoe Falls. We boarded a boat called the "Maiden of the Mist" that took us up close and personal with both Falls. We wore plastic style capes with hoods, to keep us from getting soaked from the heavy mist produced by the Falls. The mist itself looked as though it was falling from the sky. We said, "Look what our God has done"! This was an unbelievable day. Our God is AWESOME!

**Marlin Henderson and Jasmine Zelaya, Reporters**

**July 13, 2005**



**The U.S.S. Constitution**



**Charles and Kennesha  
Aboard the U.S.S. Constitution**



**Charles, Kennesha and Alissa Sie  
(Student From Westmont College)**

Today we visited the U.S.S. Constitution located in the Boston National Historic Park. In 1794 the U.S. Congress approved \$688,888 to build six ships for the "new" United States Navy. The most famous of these ships was the U.S.S. Constitution also known as "Old Ironsides". It was given this name because during an encounter, the cannon balls which were blasted from an opposing ship, bounced off the sides of the U.S.S. Constitution as though it was made of iron. Hence the name, "Old Ironsides". This ship first set sail in 1798 and was constructed entirely of wood. It was powered only by the wind.

"Old Ironsides" is called a "square-rigged" ship. It has six levels to it. The sick-bay was painted red so the crew would not be distracted by seeing blood. The crew is made up of 400-500 seamen who were paid only \$6.00 to \$8.00 per month. Since there were so many crew members on the ship, it was necessary for them to sleep in 4 hours shifts. Space was limited, so hammocks were set up in the lower deck as the sleeping quarters. The U.S.S. Constitution could not sail everywhere. The ship sailed at an angle to the wind, never directly into the wind. During the war of 1812, Captain Charles Stewart was on board for the final victory battle. It was a dramatic victory for America and the U.S.S. Constitution. From this victory the union was greatly strengthened and the U.S. rose to the rank of a first-class power.

For several years, "Old Ironsides" was used as a training ship. In 1871, she was repaired in Philadelphia and in 1878 went on her last trip abroad, carrying American Exhibits to the Universal Exposition at Paris. Her long active career at sea ended in December 1881.

After our tour, we headed for the hotel to settle in and prepare for dinner. Today we had an awesome meal. Pastor Carol treated us to the Cheesecake Factory. This has been our best meal yet.

*Charles Goodridge III and Kennesha Trammell, Reporters*

July 14, 2005



**Azadeh and Kesley Preparing  
For the Freedom Trail**



**The Tombstone of  
John Hancock**



**The Duck Tour Vehicle**

Our names are Azadeh Myers and Kesley Green and we are your reporters for today. We first started out with the Freedom Trail Tour with Mr. Peter as our tour guide. The tour started at the Boston Commons. The oldest park in the United States. We saw the new state house where the Governor lives today. The Dome of the State House was first constructed of wood, but it would leak. They then tried copper but it turned green. So they finally settled upon 24kt gold because of its endurance.

We then visited the Granary Burial Ground. Mr. Peter took us first to William Blackstar's grave. William Blackstar was the first person to live in Boston, Massachusetts, it was a peninsula then and he lived there alone. He had pity for the Puritan people who had little land and no water. He chose to share his land and his water. He soon moved away and the Puritan's took over. After William Blackstar left Boston the people started hanging individuals who disobeyed the law. When the hangmen made a mistake the crowd would love it because each mistake would prolong the victims' death. The people loved a good show.

John Hancock was buried in the grave site also. He is the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He signed big so no one had to use their glasses to recognize his name. John Hancock and George Washington were enemies. Another grave we saw had only the name Frank. This was an indication that Frank was a slave. A last name was not placed on a headstone of a slave. It was also noted that Paul Revere was buried at this site. There was a large headstone marking his grave, but he is actually buried in a different location in this graveyard. We learned that Paul Revere did not ride alone during his famous Midnight Ride. There were others riding with him declaring the Minute Men are coming.

The first successful colony was Jamestown. It was successful because they sold tobacco to pay their debts. Boston was able to pay their debts to the British with codfish. We also saw a house owned by George Middleton, it was one of the stops on the Underground Railroad. There was only one black troop on Beacon Hill. The troop was called the Buck.

We learned about James Otis. He was the man that started the Revolutionary War by declaring, "A man's home is his castle". He stated this in a speech while trying a case in court. This case was regarding British officers who were taking things from people's home without their permission. Mr. Otis lost this case. After Mr. Otis' death the case was tried again and it succeeded. Otis died suddenly while walking on top of his apartment when lightning struck him.

Later that afternoon, we went on the famous Boston Duck Tour. We started out on the streets of Boston learning about the city. We passed the Boston Commons, where Pope John Paul first spoke in the United States. We were then transported from land to water. This particular vehicle was used in World War II as both a land rover and an aquatic vehicle. The driver allowed several of us to pilot the bus while in the water. Our day ended with yummy pizza and salad from the California Pizza Kitchen.

*Azadeh Myers and Kesley Green, Reporters*

## **Youth Tour 2005 Travel Log Part 2**

This page shows the highlights of our tour from July 15th through July 24th. Check our [participants page](#) to see which of us was reporting on a particular day!

July 15, 2005



**Inside the Lobby of the Empire State Building**



**Top of the Building**



**City View From the 86th Floor**

Hello again Bethel Family and friends. I am your reporter Tinika Houston. This is day 11 of our journey and so far it has been great. Today, I woke up at 7:00 a.m. and boarded the bus because we are on our way to New York City, NY. Upon our arrival we visited the Empire State Building which was built in 1931. This building has 86 floors and held the title as the world's tallest building until the title was given to the World Trade Center in 1972. This building stands at 1,250 feet and is made of steel, brick and limestone. We had the privilege to go to the very top of the building to enjoy the beautiful scenery. I was thrilled to be at the top of this historic building. After we left the Empire State Building, we arrived at our hotel in Jamaica, New York where we ate pizza and salad before turning in for the night.

*Tinika Houston, Reporter*

Hello citizens of the world. I hope you love my report today. We are currently in New York. To me, this is a beautiful city, but very expensive to live in. On our way to the Empire State Building, we were able to see Central Park, a very famous park in the U.S. I'm very excited at the fact that we are now waiting in line to go up to the observatory on the 86th floor of the Empire State Building. The line that we are in is like a maze in an amusement park. There are probably at least 400 people, if not more, waiting just like I am to see this great city. This has been an unbelievable day for me. I cannot wait to see what tomorrow brings.

*Christian Meeks, Reporting*

July 16, 2005



**"Our Lady of Liberty"**



**The Cross that was left at**



**"Ground Zero" after the attack Times Square**

Today we left the hotel at 8:51 a.m. My partner Darrin, once again, gave our daily inspiration and I prayed. This morning we took a boat cruise that gave us a close view of the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Ellis Island and the Washington Bridge just to name a few. There were many other historical sites that we witnessed as well. After our 3-hour tour of all five Boroughs that make up New York, we spent time in Times Square for sightseeing and shopping. We left Times Square. At 4:50 p.m. we arrived at "Ground Zero", where the World Trade Center once stood. It was amazing to see the vacant area where two massive buildings once stood. The only thing that really stands as a reminder besides the gaping hole, is a cross of iron. It was truly astonishing. We left Ground Zero and headed back to our hotel to reflect on what we have seen.

*Taylor Nevels, Reporting*

Last night we stayed at the Hampton Inn Hotel located in Jamaica, New York. This is within the borough of Queens. Today we will do a variety of things. We are going to take a cruise around the Hudson River to see more of New York. We also plan to explore Times Square and visit Ground Zero.

Our cruise around Manhattan began by us floating down the Hudson River which was named after Captain Henry Hudson. Our guide Mr. Murray, was very detailed with the information he gave. We learned that the Hudson River has two currents running through it. We also learned that New York is comprised of five Boroughs. The names are: Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens, Brooklyn and The Bronx. Mr. Murray also shared with us that Hip-Hop began in Brooklyn in the 1960's.

After departing the cruise, we ventured in to Times Square. Times Square is an amazing place, if you like to be in busy surroundings. It is filled with billboards, lighted signs and gigantic televisions. Pastor Carol, Tinika, Tier and I ate a fabulous lunch at Bubba Gumps Restaurant. After buying souvenirs, we boarded the bus and headed towards Ground Zero. At Ground Zero we stood in awe of what happened just four years ago. We were all anxious to see what the devastation left behind. During the last four years, the city has managed to replace the subway system and one of the smaller buildings that underwent some damage during the crash. This was truly an unbelievable day.

*Darrin Oliver, Reporting*

**July 17, 2005**



**The Liberty Bell**



**Meeting Room of the Senate**



**Room where the signing of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence took place**

Today we went to Philadelphia and saw the Liberty Bell. We visited Independence Hall the place where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed. After that we walked approximately three blocks to the home of Betsy Ross. There we were able to see various rooms of her home. We learned that the American Flag was possibly stitched in her bedroom. Following this visit, we boarded the bus and headed for our hotel. Prior to reaching our hotel, we stopped at the local Denny's. We had a great day. I hope we will have an even better day tomorrow.

*Rochelle Tyler, Reporting*

Hello family and friends! My name is Tier, reporting to you on our bus ride from New York to Philadelphia. Our morning started off quite interesting. As we were loading our luggage on the bus, it started to rain heavily. We were trying our best not to get soaked, but most of us did. When everyone was finally settled on the bus, Ms. Yvonne anointed each of us with "blessed oil" and prayed that none of us would get sick. Thank you Ms Yvonne!

Today we toured Independence Hall and the Betsy Ross House. What I found interesting was how the Liberty Bell was originally cracked by contractors trying to fix a thin, much smaller crack which occurred after the American Revolution. The Liberty Bell is a symbol of freedom, equality and justice for all regardless to color, race or creed. We are learning so much on this trip and I hope that you are getting as much from the reporting, as we are from the experience. Hi Mommy! I love you and miss you all.

*Tier Elera, Reporting*

**July 18, 2005**



**U.S. Mint In Philadelphia**



**Depiction of a slave being branded at the Great Blacks In Wax Museum**



**Horse Carriage housed at the B & O Museum in Maryland**

Today started as any other day. We woke up, got dressed and loaded our luggage on to the bus. During our morning devotion, my partner Ronari prayed and I gave the inspiration. I read Psalms 34:1, 3 and 4. I shared with the group the importance of giving God praise at all times no matter what may come our way and I told them how amazing God is. Before leaving Philadelphia, we visited the United States Mint. We were able to see different kinds of coins, medals and medallions. The self-guided tour featured the process of how the coins start out as an artistic design. This design is stamped on sheets of metal. It was interesting. After we left the Mint, we headed to Baltimore to visit the Great Blacks In Wax Museum. This museum was very educational and I learned quite a few new things about my heritage. Some of the exhibits were somewhat graphic in nature, but I felt they gave a realistic depiction of the horrific challenges African Americans faced in the early days in America. It also gave a positive picture of how Blacks have made contributions in every facet of this great country's history. In many instances African Americans are great innovators.

When we left the Great Blacks In Wax Museum, we headed for the B & O (Baltimore & Ohio) Railroad Museum. This museum holds the oldest, most historic and comprehensive collection of American railroad artifacts in the world. It is located on a 40-acre historic site. This museum is universally recognized as the *birthplace of American railroading*. I had a great time with my chaperon Mr. Denzil as we looked at many of the exhibits. It was a lot to take in, but well worth it.

*Lonnie Wilson, Reporting*

We started the day with prayer and devotion. Our first tour was the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. I learned that real people are on coins and I saw new pennies being made. When we went to the Great Blacks In Wax Museum. I learned that we were once owned by white people and they would whip us anytime they pleased. This made me angry! Our last visit was to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum. I saw a regular car that had its tires changed into train wheels and the car could be used on actual train tracks. We left Maryland and headed for Virginia. We enjoyed our dinner at the Pentagon Mall in Crystal City.

HOME PAGE MISSION STATEMENTS SERVICES STUDENT ADVOCACY YOUTH TREK NEWSLETTER MEET THE BOARD CONTACT US  
July 15, 2005

86th Floor	Inside the Lobby of the	Top of the Building	City View From the
	Empire State Building		

Hello again Bethel Family and friends. I am your reporter Tinika Houston. This is day 11 of our journey and so far it has been great. Today, I woke up at 7:00 a.m. and boarded the bus because we are on our way to New York City, NY. Upon our arrival we visited the Empire State Building which was built in 1931. This building has 86 floors and held the title as the world's tallest building until the title was given to the World Trade Center in 1972. This building stands at 1,250 feet and is made of steel, brick and limestone. We had the privilege to go the very top of the building to enjoy the beautiful scenery. I was thrilled to be at the top of this historic building. After we left the Empire State Building, we arrived at our hotel in Jamaica, New York where we ate pizza and salad before turning in for the night.

Tinika Houston, Reporter

Hello citizens of the world. I hope you love my report today. We are currently in New York. To me, this is a beautiful city, but very expensive to live in. On our way to the Empire State Building, we were able to see Central Park, a very famous park in the U.S. I'm very excited at the fact that we are now waiting in line to go up to the observatory on the 86th floor of the Empire State Building. The line that we are in is like a maze in an amusement park. There are probably at least 400 people, if not more, waiting just like I am to see this great city. This has been an unbelievable day for me. I can not wait to see what tomorrow brings.

Christian Meeks, Reporting

July 16, 2005

"Our Lady of Liberty"	The Cross that was left at	Times Square
	"Ground Zero" after the attack	

Today we left the hotel at 8:51 a.m. My partner Darrin, once again, gave our daily inspiration and I prayed. This morning we took a boat cruise that gave us a close view of the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Ellis Island and the Washington Bridge just to name a few. There were many other historical sites that we witnessed as well. After our 3 hour tour of all five Boroughs that make up New York, we spent time in Times Square for sightseeing and shopping. We left Times Square. At 4:50 p.m. we arrived at "Ground Zero", where the World Trade Center once stood. It was amazing to see the vacant area where two massive buildings once stood. The only thing that really stands as a reminder besides the gaping hole, is a cross of iron. It was truly astonishing. We left Ground Zero and headed back to our hotel to reflect on what we have seen.

Taylor Nevels, Reporting

Last night we stayed at the Hampton Inn Hotel located in Jamaica, New York. This is within the borough of Queens. Today we will do a variety of things. We are going to take a cruise around the Hudson River to see more of New York. We also plan to explore Times Square and visit Ground Zero.

Our cruise around Manhattan began by us floating down the Hudson River which was named after Captain Henry Hudson. Our guide Mr. Murray, was very detailed with the information he gave. We learned that the Hudson River has two currents running through it. We also learned that New York is comprised of five Boroughs. The names are: Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens, Brooklyn and The Bronx. Mr. Murray also shared with us that Hip-Hop began in Brooklyn in the 1960's.

After departing the cruise, we ventured in to Times Square. Times Square is an amazing place, if you like to be in busy surroundings. It is filled with billboards, lighted signs and gigantic televisions. Pastor Carol, Tinika, Tier and I ate a fabulous lunch at Bubba Gumps Restaurant. After buying souvenirs, we boarded the bus and headed towards Ground Zero. At Ground Zero we stood in awe of what happened just four years ago. We were all anxious to see what the devastation left behind. During the last four years, the city has managed to replace the subway system and one of the smaller buildings that underwent some damage during the crash. This was truly an unbelievable day.

Darrin Oliver, Reporting

July 17, 2005

signing of  
and the  
Independence

The Liberty Bell

Meeting Room of the Senate

Room where the  
the Constitution  
Declaration of  
took place

Today we went to Philadelphia and saw the Liberty Bell. We visited Independence Hall the place where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed. After that we walked approximately three blocks to the home of Betsy Ross. There we were able to see various rooms of her home. We learned that the American Flag was possibly stitched in her bedroom. Following this visit, we boarded the bus and headed for our hotel. Prior to reaching our hotel, we stopped at the local Denny's. We had a great day. I hope we will

have an even better day tomorrow.



Rochelle Tyler, Reporting

Hello family and friends! My name is Tier, reporting to you on our bus ride from New York to Philadelphia. Our morning started off quite interesting. As we were loading our luggage on the bus, it started to rain heavily. We were trying our best not to get soaked, but most of us did. When everyone was finally settled on the bus, Ms. Yvonne anointed each of us with "blessed oil" and prayed that none of us would get sick. Thank you Ms Yvonne!

Today we toured Independence Hall and the Betsy Ross House. What I found interesting was how the Liberty Bell was originally cracked by contractors trying to fix a thin, much smaller crack which occurred after the American Revolution. The Liberty Bell is a symbol of freedom, equality and justice for all regardless to color, race or creed. We are learning so much on this trip and I hope that you are getting as much from the reporting, as we are from the

experience. Hi Mommy! I love you and miss you all

Tier Elera, Reporting

July 18, 2005

housed at the	U.S. Mint In Philadelphia	Depiction of a slave being branded	Horse Carriage
Maryland		at the Great Blacks In Wax Museum	B & O Museum in

Today started as any other day. We woke up, got dressed and loaded our luggage on to the bus. During our morning devotion, my partner Ronari prayed and I gave the inspiration. I read Psalms 34:1, 3 and 4. I shared with the group the importance of giving God praise at all times no matter what may come our way and I told them how amazing God is. Before leaving Philadelphia, we visited the United States Mint. We were able to see different kinds of coins, medals and medallions. The self-guided tour featured the process of how the coins start out as an artistic design. This design is stamped on sheets of metal. It was interesting. After we left the Mint, we headed to Baltimore to visit the Great Blacks In Wax Museum. This

museum was very educational and I learned quite a few new things about my heritage. Some of the exhibits were somewhat graphic in nature, but I felt they gave a realistic depiction of the horrific challenges African Americans faced in the early days in America. It also gave a positive picture of how Blacks have made contributions in every facet of this great country's history. In many instances African Americans are great innovators.

When we left the Great Blacks In Wax Museum, we headed for the B & O (Baltimore & Ohio)Railroad Museum. This museum holds the oldest, most historic and comprehensive collection of American railroad artifacts in the world. It is located on a 40-acre historic site. This museum is universally recognized as the birthplace of American railroading. I had a great time with my chaperon Mr. Denzil as we looked at many of the exhibits. It was a lot to take in, but well worth it.

Lonnie Wilson, Reporting

We started the day with prayer and devotion. Our first tour was the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. I learned that real people are on coins and I saw new pennies being made. When we went to the Great Blacks In Wax Museum. I learned that we were once owned by white people and they would whip us anytime they pleased. This made me angry! Our last visit was to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum. I saw a regular car that had its tires changed into train wheels and the car could be used on actual train tracks. We left Maryland and headed for Virginia. We enjoyed our dinner at the Pentagon Mall in Crystal City.

*Ronari Galloway, Reporting*

**July 19, 2005**



**National Museum of the  
Native Indian**



**Lobby Area of the Museum**



**Inside the National Air  
And Space Museum**

Our day started with Garrett and I doing the morning devotion. He read Psalms 137:14-15 and I prayed that God would bless everyone and that we would learn and appreciate everything we could. After which Pastor Carol advised us what would be the highlights of our day. This morning we were unable to get morning passes to the Capitol Building because the Prime Minister of India was in town. It was decided that we would visit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian instead. The tour of the U.S. Capitol would wait until tomorrow morning.

While at the National Museum of the American Indian, we viewed a short movie called "Who We Are" at the Lelawi Theater. From this film, I learned the American Indian have had to fight and continue to fight to protect their land. It was also explained they have a celebration called "The Day of the Dead" when the spirits of their ancestors are welcome back to the world. They also place *symbols of morning* at the grave sites. We viewed another movie about the Native American Indians both here and abroad. This movie was very interesting to me because I learned interesting facts about the Native American Indian. *Jalen Gray, Reporting*

Our second stop was the National Air and Space Museum. For two and a half hours, Pastor Carol allowed us to roam freely throughout the Museum. There were exhibits pertaining to World War II. In this exhibit I saw military uniforms for Italy, Japan, Germany, The Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States. We also saw the aircraft the U.S. Military used during this period of time. There were many different exhibits and many types of aircrafts hanging from the ceiling. I even saw a Simulate Lunar Module and directly next it were Apollo II space suits. During our visit to the museum, we also viewed a 45 minute movie at the IMAX theater located inside. This movie was called, "To Fly"! It showed how far we have advanced in the area of flight technology. Overall it was a great day and very educational. *Garrett Nevels, Reporting*

**July 20, 2005**



**Ceiling of the Capitol Building**



**The Group Posing With  
Chaplain Barry Black**



**Interior of the Library of Congress**

On Wednesday we went to the United States Capitol building. While on tour, we were able to see very old original art work and statues that represents the history of our country. Our guides name was Mr. Peter. He told many historic things about the Capitol's history. After the tour, we led outside to the Senates side where we met Chaplain Barry Black. He allowed us to ask him different questions about his job and his family. He was very nice and polite. Mr. Black took a picture with us and prayed for us before we departed.

When we left the Capitol building, we headed to the Library of Congress. Our tour guide gave us many interesting facts and information. As part of the tour, our guide showed us the main reading room which is located in the center of the library.

After we left the library, we enjoyed lunch at the McDonald's located in the National Air and Space Museum. It was an exciting day.

*Jasmine Zelaya, Reporting*

This morning we got up took our showers and put on our clothes. After that Christian, Taylor, Darrin and I went down stairs to eat breakfast. When we got down stairs 45 minutes later Darrin, Christian, Taylor and I had to put the coolers on the bus. Once

everyone was on board, we headed for the U.S. Capitol building. Our guide, Mr. Rodger, took us through many rooms, but the "Rotunda" was most amazing. It is 96 feet in diameter and 180 feet in height. This room is used for important ceremonial events. This is the room where former President Ronald Regan laid in state. The area is still surrounded by red velvet rope. A statue of Martin Luther King Jr. is also in the Rotunda room. After the tour we went outside the Capitol where we were greeted by Chaplain Barry Black. He welcomed us to Washington D.C. and answered some of our questions. Before we left he prayed for us like he would pray for President Bush. He is one of three men who has access to any Federal building without having to be searched. He wears a small gold pin on his lapel that gives him this right.

When our time ended at the Capitol building, we headed for the Library of Congress. The most important and rarest piece of literature in the library was the "GUTENBERG BIBLE". In 1929 during the depression it was purchased for 1.5 million dollars. There are only 47 in the world. It is the rarest item in the world. In World War II, it was the only piece removed from the library to protect it. In the Library of Congress there is marble everywhere you look. There are symbols of snakes and eagles positioned in various places throughout the library. We later found out from Mr. Rodger that the symbol of the eagle means strength and the snake wisdom. What a great day we had!

*Marlin Henderson, Reporting*

**July 21, 2005**



**Bishop Barbara M. Amos  
Addressing the Delegates at  
"Fellowship Conference 2005"**



**The Fellowship Gathering**



**Enjoying a Game of Basketball  
In the Faith Academy School Of  
Excellence (F.A.S.E) Gym**

Today after breakfast we were on the road to Norfolk, Virginia. It took us four hours to reach our destination at Faith Deliverance Christian Center, Inc. (FDCC). When we arrived at the church, Bishop Amos greeted us with open arms. At FDCC had the opportunity to play basketball in their newly built gym for the Faith Academy School Of Excellence (F.A.S.E.). By the time everyone had finished playing, we were really sweaty and hungry.

Bishop Amos and Pastor Riley, the pastor of FDCC, treated us to a most delicious dinner at Piccadilly's. After we ate dinner, we headed to our hotel to freshen up. Later that evening we were headed back to the church for a "fellowship gathering" which included food, games and yes, more basketball! Our plan is to stay in Norfolk for the next four days to attend the Fellowship Conference 2005. This should be really exciting.

*Monae Green & Aerica Meyers, Reporting*

**July 22, 2005**



**Faith Deliverance Christian Center**



**Preparing For Night Service**



**Gwen and JoAnn**

We went to Faith Deliverance Christian Center today for the Fellowship Conference 2005. The theme this year is: "Maturing Christians Committed To The Local Church". The children including the youth, took part in various workshops according to their age groups. Because we were special guests of Faith Deliverance, they provided lunch for us during the break. We had a choice of fried chicken, greens, macaroni and cheese and bread. When lunch was just about over, one of the conference

workers offered us a chance to choose a workshop class to attend. Our choices were: Choir, Praise Dance, Spoken Word/Drama, Mime and Hip-Hop. I chose Hip-Hop because I love to dance. We learned both Hip-Hop and Step.

Our workshop classes lasted two hours, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. When classes were over, we boarded the bus and headed back to our hotel to rest. Later that evening, we returned back to the church for an evening worship service. At this service we enjoyed praying, singing and participated in taking "communion". We ended our evening with dinner at IHOP.

***Kannesha Trammell, Reporting***

We got up this morning and had continental breakfast. After our meal we boarded the bus. Today I lead the group in prayer and Kannesha gave the morning inspiration from Isaiah 1:19-20. We arrived at Faith Deliverance just in time to join in with prayer and praise known as "morning glory". After this session, we were divided up according to our age groups for special classes for the young people. In my class, I learned that sinning is wrong! When this class was over, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by Faith Deliverance. We were then offered to attend such workshops as drama, choir, hip-hop dance, mime and choir. I chose hip-hop. The instructor explained to us that hip-hop means, "**He Is Power - He's Our Power**". We watched a video on hip-hop and practiced some moves along with the video. I had so much fun learning new dance steps!

***Charles Goodridge III, Reporting***

***July 23, 2005***



***Gymnasium at Faith Academy School of Excellence***



***The Group Posing with Pastor Sharon S. Riley of FDCC***



***Teen Group From Kinston Christian Center***

At Faith Deliverance Christian Center there is lots of Praise and Worship going on! Everyone is so friendly and nice. At FDCC there is so much to do. You can't do it all in one day. Today Mr. and Mrs. Wellington were our teachers in the teen discussion group. It was an awesome session. After my class, I enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the MacArthur Center Mall. When we were done with lunch, we headed back to FDCC to enjoy an afternoon of playing more basketball while our chaperons were in a meeting with Pastor Carol. Once the meeting was over, the chaperons had an opportunity to go to Wal-Mart to get us some snacks. I had a great day.

***Clarence Braithwaite, Reporting***

***July 24, 2005***



***The Carrie B Boat Tour***



***U.S. Aircraft Carrier***



***Ship Sitting in a floating "Dry Dock" For Repairs***

Today we had to be on the bus by 7:15, so we had to wake up much earlier than normal. Our first destination was the 8:00 service at Faith Deliverance Christian Center (FDCC). Pastor Riley spoke from the book of Acts, chapters 1 and 2. The message was about Christians needing to be filled with the Holy Spirit. When service was over we were invited to the gym. In the gym we were offered muffins, fruit and juice. The hospitality at FDCC is absolutely awesome!

Our next destination is the Carrie B boat tour. This particular boat is a replica of a 19th century Mississippi River boat. It is a 2 1/2 hour cruise. The boat comes complete with a paddle wheel and is the most experienced tour boat in the harbor. As we cruised the Elizabeth River, we saw jellyfish and naval war ships. This Coast Guard inspected boat is also very accommodating. She has an open top deck and sails smooth water seven days a week. The Dupont harbor is the deepest harbor in the United States and we also passed the Lafayette River. We also sailed passed the Norfolk International Terminals (NIT). This is the place where

ship containers are held; they are used to prevent theft. WalMart happens to be the largest container using company in the United States.

We saw warship #78 which was named after Winston Churchill of Great Britain. We also saw warship #69 that has three masts. This is unusual because most warships have only one or two. Norfolk Naval Base has more than 70,000 personnel.

Once the tour was over, we headed for Captain George Seafood Restaurant. Many thanks to Bishop Amos and Pastor Riley for treating us to our best dinner yet!

*Azadeh Myers and Kesley Green, Reporting*

## Youth Tour 2005 Travel Log Part 3

This page shows the highlights of our tour from July 25th through August 4th. Check our [participants page](#) to see which of us was reporting on a particular day!

July 25, 2005



**Exterior View of the Kinston**



**Lobby Area of KCC**



**Darrin Participating in Karaoke**

Today we had to be on the bus at 10:15 a.m., our latest departure to date. We on our way to Kinston, North Carolina to visit the Kinston Christian Center (KCC). We stopped at FDCC to pick up Bishop Amos. She rode with us as our tour guide. She gave us many interesting facts about Virginia's history. She told us that the first slaves to come to the New World, were brought to Virginia in 1607. Bishop Amos also explained that many of the Civil War battles were fought in Virginia. She went on to explain that Virginia has 7 out of the 10 underwater tunnels in the U.S. We actually went through one today. This tunnel is situated at the bottom of the Elizabeth River. In Virginia they have all five branches of the Armed Services - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and the Coast Guards. They also house headquarters for both the FBI and CIA. Continuing on our way to Kinston, we stopped at one of Bishop's favorite places to eat fried chicken gizzards. According to the chaperons, they were delicious.

When we finally reached the city limits of Kinston, we stopped to have lunch at the Cracker Barrel. At KCC, we played games, enjoyed snacks and sang songs. Five individuals out of our group even participated in Karaoke. They were Darrin, Kannesha, Monae, Jasmine and Clarence. I thought they were all brave and did a good job. After our fun-filled evening at KCC, we went to McDonald's for a late night snack. Our friends from KCC joined us. At the end of the evening we all hugged and said our goodbyes to our new found friends. We saved special hugs for Bishop Amos and Pastor Riley for their wonderful kindness. We would also like to say a special thank you to our FDCC and KCC family for their considerable donation to Eagle Empowerment. Thank you all for making all this possible!

*Christian Meeks, Reporting*

Hola Bethel! It is day 21 of our tour and I am having a ball. Today we boarded the bus and left at 10:15 a.m.. Bishop Barbara Amos rode with us to Kinston, North Carolina. She pointed out to us peanut factories, tobacco plants, squash and slaughter houses. Our lunch took place at our favorite restaurant which is the Cracker Barrel. After lunch we were only an hour away from Kinston. Once we arrived, we headed straight for our hotel to unload and rest. Our plans are to join Kinston Christian Center later this afternoon for some fun activities.

When we arrived, we were greeted by the friends we had made earlier in Norfolk. We were invited to play basketball, dodge ball, football, jump rope and all sorts of board games. After our game playing we joined in with Christian karaoke. Many of the

participants were from Eagle Empowerment. What can I say, we were "rocking the house"! Later that evening, we went to McDonald's for a midnight snack and said our goodbyes to Bishop Amos and our Kinston Christian Center family. I would like to give a special shout out to Corey, Alexy, Dante and Lauren.

***Tinika Houston, Reporting***

**July 26, 2005**



Enjoying an evening of swimming in Atlanta at the Drury Inn and Suites

Today Brother Chris woke us up at 5:30 a.m. When we got on our clothes we headed downstairs for breakfast. This morning Darrin Oliver prayed and I did the devotion. My three scriptures were Jeremiah 10:24, Isaiah 59:1 and Psalms 51:10.

After the devotion, Pastor Carol told us that today would be the longest travel time for the entire tour. She advised us that we would be on the road for at least 8 hours. We left North Carolina at 8:12 a.m. and entered South Carolina at 10:27 a.m. We made a quick stop at a small gas station to stretch our legs. We boarded the bus and enjoyed an early dinner at the Cracker Barrel. We arrived in Augusta, Georgia at 1:56 off interstate 20 west. We finally made it to Atlanta at 5:55 p.m. The hotel that we are staying in is called the Drury Inn and Suites. It is located across the street from the William B. Hartsfield Airport. After settling in, we went swimming from 7 - 9 p.m. What a fun time we had!

***Taylor Nevels, Reporting***

Today we left the city of Kinston, North Carolina. This would be the longest traveling day of the trip. We will travel over 8 hours. This morning, before we departed we said good bye to Bishop Ralph and Bettye Houston. As I mentioned earlier, most of the day was full of travel and relaxation. Our day mainly consisted of sleeping, listening to music or reading. If we weren't doing that, we were looking out of the window at the beautiful scenery which was fields of green grass and towering trees.

***Darrin Oliver, Reporting***

**July 27, 2005**



**Birth Home of Martin Luther King**



**Exhibit at Fernbank Museum**



**Clark University Marquee**

Today we left the hotel at 8:45 a.m. to the Martin Luther King Memorial Site. We arrived at 9:06 and went to the visitor center. Once we left the visitor center, we walked to Ebenezer Baptist Church where Dr. King used to attend. We learned that the building itself was 119 years old. After visiting the church, we proceeded to the birth home of Dr. King. Our tour guide was Mr. John Roberts. The house is located at 501 Auburn Street. It was built in 1895 and purchased by Dr. King's father, A.D. Williams in 1909. After touring Dr. King's birth home, we visited the gift shop at the King Center. On our way to the gift shop, however, we ran into Martin Luther King Jr. III. Some people got a chance to take pictures with him.

We enjoyed lunch at Atlanta Metropolitan Cathedral (AMC). We were greeted by Elder Carolyn Johnson, the wife of Bishop Flynn Johnson. We were fortunate to have met Elder Carolyn's grandmother, Mama Lola. Mama Lola told us that she was born in 1911. This would make her 94 years old!

Later that afternoon, we visited the Fernbank Museum of National History. We had fun looking at and experiencing all the different exhibits. We also viewed a short film entitled, "The Living Sea" at one of two IMAX theaters located in the museum. Once we left the museum, we drove past some of the popular Black Colleges. They were Spelman, Morehouse, Clark and Brown. Brother Denzil was allowed to get off the bus and take pictures of the different school marquees. It started to pour down rain at about 6:58 p.m. when we were on our way to eat at IHOP. What a great day!

**Rochelle Tyler, Reporting**

Hello family and friends! This is Tier reporting from Atlanta (ATL). Today's expectations were to visit the Martin Luther King Center, have lunch with Bishop Flynn Johnson and visit Morehouse and Spelman colleges. First we went to the Martin Luther King Center. The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site was established in 1980 in order to protect and interpret for the benefit, inspiration and education of present and future generations. It is the place where Martin Luther King, Jr. was born where he lived, worked, worshipped and where he is buried. Our second stop was to the Atlanta Metropolitan Cathedral to have lunch with Bishop Flynn Johnson, but since the Bishop was out handling business, we had lunch with his wife, Carolyn Johnson. We were headed to tour Morehouse and Spelman colleges, but it was recommended that we visit the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. In the museum we visited the following exhibits: Giants of the Mesozoic, the Star Gallery, the World of Shells, A Walk Through Time In Georgia, The First Georgians, Sensing Nature, The Cultures of the World, Wings Over Water and "GROSS"ology. We didn't really have enough time to tour the colleges, so instead we just drove by and took pictures of the marquees. Finally, we arrived at our hotel, the Drury Inn after our long, but exciting day. I leave with you in the famous words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last".

**Tier Elera, Reporting**

**July 28, 2005**



Lonnie and Ronari in Front of the George W. Carver Museum



Sacntuary of The Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church



Rosa Parks Library & Museum

*"Happily the world has at last reached the point where it no longer feels that in order for a person to be a great scholar he has got to read a number of text books...but the world has come to the conclusion that the person who has learned to use his mind...the person who understands what he is doing who is mastering himself in the classroom...that person is a scholar".*

*~George Washington Carver~*

Today we visited the George Washington Carver Museum. I enjoyed it very much. It is located in the Tuskegee Institute. It was exciting and educational. After we left the museum we went to the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. This is the church that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Pastored from 1954 to 1960. The last place we visited today was the Rosa Parks Library & Museum. This was a great museum experience. I learned that Mrs. Parks did not give up her seat because her feet hurt and she was tired. Mrs. Parks did not want to give up her seat because her "spirit" was tired of the unfair treatment Blacks were receiving during this period of time. I learned many educational things today.

**Ronari Galloway, Reporting**

This morning, my partner Ronari led us in prayer and I gave the morning inspiration. My scripture was from Psalms 113:3. We then traveled to the George Washington Carver museum where I learned many interesting and fascinating facts about this remarkable man. Carver's scientific ability, reinforced by his love of nature and God, is basic curiosity, and his desire to help his fellow man, led him to develop numerous uses for Southern agricultural products. He developed over 300 uses for the peanut alone! Carver's scientific contributions shall live on forever.

We then visited the Dexter King Memorial Baptist Church where the late Dr. King once pastored. It was during this period of his life that King was a key figure during the Civil Rights Struggle. We finally ended our day at the Rosa Parks Library & Museum.

This museum offers unique educational experiences through its exhibits, collections and public learning programs. This was a great day for us to reflect upon our history and our heritage.

***Lonnie Wilson, Reporting***

**July 29, 2005**



**The Perkins Center. A Faith-based Community Outreach Center In Jackson, Mississippi**

Today, as we were on our way to Mississippi, we followed the 50 mile "Freedom Walk" that Dr. King and his wife led. Not only was it a good indication of how far 50 miles can be by foot, but it showed us what African-Americans went through in order to obtain the freedom we sometimes take for granted.

This was primarily a travel day for us. We spent a good portion of our time driving. When we made it to the state line, a great roaring cheer resounded throughout the bus. We knew it wasn't going to be long before we reached our final destination. When we arrived, we had just enough time to drop our bags and head back to the bus because we had a 3:00 appointment at the Perkins Center. This is a faith-based organization that is designed to reach the community in which it sits. Their desire is to meet the needs of the people both physically and spiritually. Their goal is to bring about reconciliation among people of different races and backgrounds. It's a wonderful facility. When we left the Perkins Center, we came back to the hotel to enjoy an evening of swimming.

***Clarence Braithwaite, Reporting***

Good morning to all my family and friends back home! Today my partner Clarence and I were responsible for the morning devotion. Clarence prayed for our continued safety and I read a scripture from Jeremiah 10:10. Guess what everyone? Today is Ms. Sarah's birthday. She's turning 21. Yeah Sarah! So in honor of her birthday the entire bus sang Happy Birthday Stevie Wonder style. She was very grateful.

After having lunch at Cracker Barrel, we headed for the hotel. When we arrived we were instructed to drop our luggage and come right back down because we needed to be at the Perkins Center by 3:00 p.m.

John Perkins has 8 children and he named the Perkins Center in memory of his son Spencer Perkins who died at the age of 45 of a heart attack. John Perkins was involved in the Civil Rights Movement, but his greatest contribution to society is working with the youth and the community. As a result of this, the Harambee Christian Family Center in Pasadena was founded. Mr. Perkins' work is based on three principles: 1. Reconciliation: to get people back to God and to empower the people to continue rebuilding. 2. Redistribution: Coming back to the community and sharing God. 3. Reconstruction: building the community up.

Mr. Perkins' vision is community development and economics. John Perkins wrote the book called, "Let Justice Roll Down". He also founded one of his most commonly used homes in the 1900's called the "Antioch House". This house has 10 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms. Mr. Perkins' organizations are all Christian based. This particular center that we saw today is located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Jackson, Mississippi. The goal is to focus on meeting the immediate needs of the people, then their spiritual. We saw the recreation room called, "Veramiah Playground". The foundation for the Spencer Perkins organizations is to transform the community in the name of the Gospel.

Today John Perkins is 75 years old and is still very active in the community. Everything on the grounds like the gardens and playgrounds were all donated by various groups who have committed their time and resources. John had an uncle named Bud for whom he cared for until his death. Uncle Bud left Mr. Perkins all of his money which he used to create a baseball field in his honor. Mr. John Perkins may not be as famous as some of the civil rights leaders that have come before him, but he definitely has a rich history and legacy that will long be remembered.

At the end of our day, Pastor Carol allowed us to go swimming for 2 hours. Even though most of our time was spent on the road, I still had an exciting day.



**July 30, 2005**



**Smith Robertson School**



**The Home of Medgar Evers**



**Dr. Perkins Addressing the Group**

Today we visited the Smith Robinson School Museum. The Smith Robinson School is located in the heart of Jackson's historic Black community. It has a comprehensive collection of artifacts portraying the African-American Mississippian's experience in history, art, music and literature. The museum was Smith Robinson Elementary School, the first public school for African-American children in the city of Jackson. After we left the museum, we had the opportunity to drive past the house that Medgar Evers was killed. We also went back to the Perkins Center because Dr. Perkins himself heard that we stopped by yesterday and he wanted to meet us personally. I felt honored that Dr. Perkins wanted to speak to us. We ended our time together by doing laundry.

***Aerica Myers, Reporting***

Today we went to the Smith Robertson Museum And Cultural Center. Ms Pamela Junior was our guide. She is the third manager of the museum. The museum was originally the first African-American school in Jackson, Mississippi. The school opened in 1894 and served the African-American community until 1971 when integration led to its closure.

The original facility was a two-story wood framed building in 1909. In the same year, a brick structure was erected by a local Black contractor. The school was named for Mr. Smith Robertson, who was born a slave in Fayette, Alabama in 1847. Smith died in 1899 and the school was named for him several years later. The collection at Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center includes, furnishings, clothing, fine art, folk art, books, papers, photographs, tools, equipment, instruments and other items. Folk artist and craftspeople develop their work with a strong sense of place and imagination.

We have now arrived at the John Perkins Center to meet Dr. Perkins in person. His son, Spencer Perkins, died 7 years ago. It would be this son who led Dr. Perkins to Christ. In 1957, Dr. Perkins moved to California. It was at a Christian Crusade in 1957 that he gave his life to Christ. Dr. Perkins has received over 8 honorary doctorate degrees. The first book that he wrote was entitled, "Let Justice Roll Down". There have been 3 books written about his life. One of which is called, "A Time To Heal".

The John Perkins Foundation is committed to giving back to the community and empowering young people to live and exceed far beyond what they can see or think. What an awesome work Dr. Perkins is doing!

***Monae Green, Reporting***

**July 31, 2005**



**Exterior and Interior Views of The Potter's House in Dallas, Tx**

Today we had to wake up much earlier than we have in the past. The reason for this is because we had to take Brother Chirs Miller, one of our chaperons, to the airport in Dallas. Our journey from Mississippi to Texas would take about 6 hours. On the way the scenery was very beautiful and we even saw a few horses. Since today was primarily a travel day, we spent time

watching DVD's, playing games and reading. In our spare time Pastor Carol has us reading "The Preacher and the Klansman" a booklet about the life of Dr. John Perkins.

When we dropped Bro. Chris at the airport, we headed for The Potter's House. This is the ministry where Bishop T.D. Jakes is the pastor. You might have seen him on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. Once we arrived, we were greeted by members of his ministerial staff and the security personnel. This church is HUGE! We could not believe our eyes. They have three very different sanctuaries housed under one roof. There is the chapel where weddings are performed and the Hispanic ministry have their services. This room seats 500 people. The "Fire House" is yet another sanctuary where the young people have services and it seats 2500 people. The main sanctuary, which is the largest of the three, has a seating capacity of 9,000 people. According to our guide, The Potter's House has over 30,000 members. If there is a special event going on, they may use all three sanctuaries at once to accommodate the large crowd. This is probably the biggest church we have ever seen.

***Jasmine Zelaya and Marlin Henderson, Reporting***

**August 1, 2005**



**Rest Stop Break in Decatur, TX**



**Garrett and Jalen Outside The**



**Jalen and Garrett with Our Friend Adam (a server at Furr's)**

This morning we (Garrett and Jalen) did devotion. Garrett gave the prayer and Jalen read the scripture from James 4:10-11. We are currently still in Texas and drove from Dallas to Fort Worth and then on to Amarillo where we will ultimately spend the night.

Today we had the opportunity to visit the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. We were under the impression that today would be a day of leisure, but it wasn't and we're okay with that. When we entered the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, we had to go through a very strict and almost space-like security check. Once everyone cleared security, there was a van waiting to transport us to the building where our tour would take place. Our tour guide was Mr. Lewis who gave us information on how money is printed. We learned many things today. One of the things that Mr. Lewis shared with us was that before green ink was used, money used to be printed using black ink. This, however, made it easy for counterfeiters to take a picture of the front and back of the note. Copies were made from these photographs and were then passed off as the real thing. Another interesting fact, is that the paper that our money is printed on comes from a company called Crane's Paper in Boston, Massachusetts. The interesting thing is that the paper really isn't paper at all. It is actually fabric which contains 75% cotton and 25% linen. This would stand the reason that when money is accidentally washed, it doesn't break down or tears apart. If you notice, it remains intact. There is also something called a "star" note. The star note replaces notes from regular production for a variety of reasons such as research, testing, or because of damage to production notes. Hence, the note is called the "Lone Star Note" because it was produced in Texas. There are only two printing plants in the U.S. They are located in Washington D.C., and Fort Worth, TX. If a note has an FW printed on it, it means the note was printed in Texas, if not, the note was printed in Washington D.C.

As we were preparing to leave the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, our guide Mr. Lewis was so impressed with our behavior and attentiveness, he literally tracked us down to give all of us souvenir bags with all kinds of goodies in them. We were so happy and excited, we all clapped in appreciation! Sorry we don't have any pictures to share with you, but cameras were not allowed in the facility. What a bummer! Tonight we ate dinner at Furr's Family Restaurant. The food was really delicious. At Furr's we met Adam one of the friendly servers. We had great conversation. Adam this one's for you!

***Jalen Gray and Garrett Nevels, Reporting***

**August 2, 2005**



**Our Hotel In Gallup, NM**



**Charles and Kennesha Relaxing  
In the Jacuzzi**



**The Kids Enjoying A Dip  
In The Pool**

This morning we are leaving Texas and headed for New Mexico. I offered prayer and Charles read the scripture and did the morning inspiration. We are currently on interstate 40 West to Gallup, New Mexico. Today it will probably take us at least 6 hours.

After crossing the state line in to New Mexico, we stopped at a rest stop for a bathroom break and to stretch. As we approached our final destination, we stopped at the Golden Corral to enjoy a buffet style dinner. After eating, we boarded the bus and got back on to the interstate, we saw a couple of Prairie Dogs playing around on the side of the road. As we were traveling on the highway, we noticed the signs were painted in the colors of terracotta and turquoise. Sister Joyce told us that New Mexico's nickname is the "Land of Enchantment". Tonight Pastor Carol has given us the green light to go swimming. We all are excited.

***Charles Goodridge and Kennesha Trammell, Reporting***

***August 3, 2005***



View of Lake Havasu



The London Bridge



Shops At the Lake Havasu Center

Hello Bethel Family and Friends. We are your reporters for today, Azadeh and Kesley. It is now day 30 of our trip. Our last day before we head back home to Los Angeles. We started our day by having a delicious breakfast. As we left our hotel, the Best Western, we turned on to the historic "Route 66". We remained on route 66 until we made the interchange to I-40 West. This would put us in the direction of Arizona, our final destination.

At approximately 10:42 a.m., we crossed the state line from New Mexico to Arizona which is also called the "Grand Canyon State". Its capitol is Phoenix. We are headed for Lake Havasu, Arizona which will be our final resting place. When I look out the window the landscape is full of beautiful rock formations. Each formation is completely covered with rich shades of reds and burgundies. The fluffy clouds that are hovering over head, make this scenic picture look like a post card. The ride to Lake Havasu is going to be about 5 1/2 hours. We thought it was hot in New Mexico, but we are expecting it to be even hotter in Lake Havasu. We thank God for our air conditioned bus. Oddly enough, we are now in the middle of the desert and it is starting to rain. As we look around us, we are definitely in the middle of now here. We are surrounded by absolutely "nothing"!

When we arrived at the Ramada in Lake Havasu, Pastor Carol decided to take us out for a nice meal at Chili's. This would be our last dinner we would eat together as a group. The food was great. When we left the restaurant, we had an opportunity to see the London Bridge. Pastor Carol was very generous tonight, she took us all to the movies to see, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". Johnny Depp was funny. We ended our evening swimming. At 9:30 at night, it still had to be at least 85 degrees. Can you believe it!

***Azadeh Myers and Kesley Green, Reporting***

***August 4, 2005***



**Pastor Carol Houston, CEO and Visionary**



**The Chaperons with Pastor Carol**



**All the Participants with Pastor Carol**

At 9:30, we are departing Lake Havasu City, Arizona headed for home, Los Angeles, California. This is our final day of travel. The last devotion of our tour was shared from Proverbs 3:5-6. I encouraged the children to trust in God with their entire heart. I assured them that God knows what's best. They were assured to expect God's guidance for their entire life. It was important to take my children to one last lunch. We stopped at the International House of Pancake in Victorville.

I want to take this moment to thank God for vision for this tour. God, you certainly direct the path of those who trust in your leadership. I express my deepest appreciation to all donors. You make the miracle of this tour possible. Thirty-one days with these children has been joyous. Thank you to Mr. Chris Pufahl, you are a fantastic driver. My heartfelt gratitude is extended to each chaperon. Your dedication, steadfastness and endurance have been greatly valued. To the three mentors, your leadership was exceptional. To the wonderful participants, we have planted **seeds of empowerment** that will enhance your lives forever. It is my desire for the seeds to cause you to be a vessel of empowerment for others. It was a joy to see the faces of parents as they welcomed their child home. It is my prayer that the life of each family is enriched.

***Pastor Carol Houston, CEO, Reporting***