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FAITHS COLLABORATE ON INNER CITY ILLS
An Interfaith Effort Formed to Solve Drug Abuse, Illiteracy and Other Problems,
Based on Discoveries by Author and Humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard

CLEARWATER, Fla. (February 26, 2006)—A group of ministers from the Baptist, Pentecostal and African Methodist Episcopal (AME) churches and the Nation of Islam have been collaborating to turn around the lives of inner city residents, utilizing the breakthrough study and drug rehabilitation technology of author and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard.

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam (NOI), the Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood, pastor of the 10,000-strong St. Paul Baptist Church in Brooklyn, Dr. Charles L. Kennedy of the Glorious Church of God in Christ and the C.L. Kennedy Community Center in Tampa, Reverend James McLaughlin, senior pastor of the Wayman Chapel AME Church in Houston, and his wife Cleo Johnson-McLaughlin, head of the Black United Fund of Texas and senior vice president of Narconon Arrowhead, a residential drug recovery facility, all received Friends of Mankind Awards at the Church of Scientology's Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater, Florida on Saturday. The Rev. Freddie Johnson, founder of the World Literacy Crusade, delivered the keynote address at the awards ceremony, which was organized by Ebony Awakening, a group formed by esteemed jazz vocalist and educator Amanda Ambrose and comprised of Black Scientologists and members of other faiths from around the country. Soul diva Chaka Kahn closed out the event with a rousing performance.

West coast NOI chief Tony Muhammad received the award, which was for supporting and establishing programs based on Hubbard's works in the ministers' own religious organizations, on Farrakhan's behalf. Farrakhan called into the gala, saying that he is honored to receive the award but stating that, "the Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught me that you don't get honor until the work is done. So I accept this award as encouragement to keep working until the job is done."

Hubbard's technology in treating inner city ills has been championed since 1992 by Johnson, whose Compton, California-based center has been training personnel from the Nation of Islam and AME churches.

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Having utilized Hubbard's works to turn around gangbangers, criminals, drug abusers and drug dealers in Compton, California, Johnson brought Hubbard's technology to the attention of Farrakhan. Seeing its potential for changing conditions in the inner city, Farrakhan gave Johnson and his West coast chief Tony Muhammad a charge, "to create economically viable social betterment centers that will inspire and empower the believers to arrest the social, moral, economical, educational and spiritual decline of our people throughout the nation." Believers are members of the Nation of Islam.

The two got to work, training personnel to establish centers to provide drug rehabilitation, literacy and alternative mental health services to inner city populations. The plan is to establish centers in all Nation of Islam mosques around the country.

The ministers have put aside differences in religion to work together to salvage the people in their communities. "I don't think we have an option, as men of God means servants of God," said Johnson. "We will either work together as servants of God or we will perish as detached fools."

"We have discovered that we are more connected than we are disconnected," said the Rev. James McLaughlin, who attended the two-day Interfaith Leadership Summit of African American Leaders, which preceded the awards dinner and was held at the Church of Scientology. "Why have we not been together sooner?"

The religious leaders agree that methods that really work need to be employed to address the poverty, illiteracy and drug abuse rampant in their communities, and have seen Hubbard's methods change lives.

"This is the beginning of the resurrection of the dead," said Muhammad.