



# SFV African American Leadership Committee

**May 20, 2010.** A group of 30-35 African American leaders from across the San Fernando Valley met to discuss issues and formulate an action plan for positive changes.

Every individual, every business, every church leader, **everyone** has been affected by the pressures of our society. Is your voice being heard? How can you make certain your voice is heard? We know that in a sense, we are all fighting the same giant. Our **collective voice** can be heard in places where a single voice has no hope of reaching. There is power in numbers! "A rising tide lifts every boat."



Pictured are members of the African American Leadership Sub-Committee.

The focus of this leadership summit was to identify the strengths, skills and abilities within the African American community in the San Fernando Valley and focus on positive solutions to the problems and concerns identified.

The leaders who attended this meeting are in tune with what is happening in the African American community in the SFV. They have been involved and active in a cross section of community activities and understand the challenges we face. Acknowledging that we may not have the **same** areas of concern, it was agreed that we should hear from the group what they felt needed to be addressed.

According to one of the committee members, **Bob Winn**, "The overall goal of the AALC is to "accentuate the positive and deal with the negative."

## Let's Talk About...And Find Solutions

- How do we deal with the number of men who come out of prison, have a record and can't find a job in the community?
- There has been an increase in the number of teenage pregnancies, how do we get the right message to these young women and young men?
- What's wrong with our education system when it comes to educating African American children? What about cultural competency?
- Why can't we have more mentorship opportunities for African American men?



**Apostle William T. Broadous, Kenn Hicks, Daniel Lourie, Matthew Tisdall and Bruce Holloway** were just a few community leaders participating in this summit meeting.



The meeting started and ended with a prayer.

Is your voice being heard? We are stronger together. Join the African American Leadership Committee and let your voice be heard. You can find out about the next meeting and serve on one of the problem-solving sub-committees by calling Bob Winn at (818) 521-6702 or email Marlene at [mkrowlett@msn.com](mailto:mkrowlett@msn.com).



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Juanita Hays, Dr. A. Eugene Parker, and Sheila Parker were among the African American leaders who attended the summit.



Our African sisters (right) **Osas Otasowie** and **Olabisi Oyewo** are working with us to make positive changes. Osas is currently working on a health project with the MCCN-Black Infant Health Program and Olabisi is the Manager with the Employment Development Department at the Canoga Park WorkSource.

## What's Next?

As noted by many of those who attended this event, the issues that were discussed are not “new” issues. What is needed now is the *will* to set priorities and systematically focus on solutions. We must create the infrastructure to move our community from point A to point B. In the days ahead we will need to set goals and objectives and create a strategic plan for accomplishing those goals and objectives. We need our entire community to be involved. We need pastors and clergy, we need business owners, we need educators, we need young people, we need older people, we need moms and dads...We need you. We are stronger together. Let's move forward together.

## Let's Talk About...And Find Solutions

- Why is there such a “disconnect” between the generations?
- Did “integration” really help us or did it destroy our communities?
- How can we learn to trust each other?
- Do we really support our own businesses?
- How can we make politicians accountable?



**Bob Winn, Pastor Tony Booker and Brigitte Ledet** are community leaders participating in the summit. The goal is identify the issues that we face as a community, set priorities and focus on solutions.

## Summer Community Event

A Sub-committee was formed and this group will be working on a community event to be held this summer. Members of the Sub-Committee include:

**Dr. A. Eugene Parker, Dr. John Lett, Roland Hinds, Nicole Chase, Pastor Dennis Ware, Pastor Tony Booker, Dr. Zyra McCloud, Dr. Jeanette Pilliner, Sean Bouldin, Brigitte Ledet, Louis Stepter, Bruce Holloway, Joel Rucker, Rev. Sammy Riley, Bob Winn, and Elder Leon Garrett**