

OPERATION: CEASEFIRE

THE ICDHR SALUTES OPERATION: CEASEFIRE

The Commission salutes **Operation: Ceasefire** for the work they are doing to address violence throughout the State of Illinois, especially in the Englewood community. Revered Brooks was honored to have been invited to attend the annual meeting of this great organization.

COMMISSION GOES STATEWIDE!

We have changed our name from the Suburban Human Relations Commission (SHRC) to **The Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations**. This change was necessitated by the number of requests for service across the State of Illinois. Readers are urged to view the ICDHR's new web site which includes the broad range of services that the ICDHR provides. www.icdhr.com



REVEREND BROOKS JOINS PASTORS MEEKS & HYBELS

Reverend Clyde H. Brooks, President of the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (formerly the Suburban Human Relations Commission), will join Pastor Bill Hybels of the Willow Creek Community Church, Pastor James Meeks of Salem Pastor and hundreds of other Church leaders at the Leadership Summit 2006 Conference from August 10 - 12 in South Barrington, IL. This will be a gathering of key ministerial leaders throughout the region. The ministers discussed the need to work together in bridging the gap of racial and cultural exclusion in the church and throughout the area. It was generally agreed that Black ministers should move over and provide White ministers an opportunity to speak out on key issues of concern to Black-White relationships. A key discussion of the day was the silence of the church on issues affecting morality and race relations.

COMING SOON:

ICDHR LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Initial meetings have been held with several attorneys regarding the formation of the Commission's Legal Assistance Program. This program is designed to help people who believe that they have been discriminated against to secure legal assistance.

DIVERSITY INCLUSIVENESS STUDY

The ICDHR has completed the Diversity Inclusiveness Study. It is a study of the inclusion of minorities and others in employment and other opportunities in 37 urban communities. For more information on the study,



Please visit www.icdhr.com/report_card.html. The Commission will next conduct a study of diversity inclusiveness within selected suburban school districts. A close look will be taken in the examination of the inclusion of minorities in administrative, teaching, supportive, procurement and other opportunities within those districts. The study will also review the implementation of the Amistad Act, legislature passed by the Illinois General Assembly to help ensure that the teaching of slavery in America is meaningful and correct.

GENOCIDE IN SUDAN

The ICDHR continues to be actively involved in the DARFUR Campaign to address the genocide against babies, mothers and others in Sudan. Reverend Roosevelt McGee, a Commission board member, was a speaker at the Chicago Rally that brought thousands together to urge and end to the violence. Amazing things are happening in Chicago! Over the last 6 months Chicago faith-based, civic, grassroots and community organizations have pulled together to insist on change. This coalition of groups meets regularly to organize the local efforts to save Darfur. We are also connecting with other major cities to coordinate activities nationally. The Chicago Rally to Save Darfur, held in conjunction with the National Million Voices to Save Darfur Rally in DC, and sponsored by over 50 local and national organizations was a resounding success. Over 4 thousand people attended; the energy was incredible! **Thanks to all who participated.!**

BLACK CULTURE LIBRARY WILL STAY OPEN

As reported in the May 5, 2006 edition of the Chicago Sun-Times, the Commission is delighted that Indiana University has decided not to close the black culture library located on its' campus. While it is unfortunate that there must be a separate cultural library, it is necessary until mainstream libraries provide a full range of options across racial and cultural lines. The passage of the Amistad Act by the Illinois General Assembly is the best recognition for the need for such important cultural initiatives.

COMMISSION CONCERNED ABOUT UNFAIR FUNDING

The ICDHR is deeply concerned with the unfair funding of schools in the State of Illinois. The current funding mechanism elevates suburban schools at the expense of inner-city and less influential communities. The Commission also urges its members and supporters to secure and study the required report cards prepared by school districts on the "No Child Left Behind" legislation. A study of these reports should clearly identify serious challenges confronting school districts and many of the students in the schools within them.

Reverend Brooks was the featured speaker at the annual gathering at Temple CHAI in Long Grove Illinois. He spoke on the contributions of Miss Rosa Parks, the noted civil rights leader who refused to give up her seat in Montgomery, Alabama only because she was black.

The Commission salutes the work of **John Stroger, President of the Cook County Board Commissioners** and wishes him a speedy recovery! President Stroger was the speaker at the recent Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Dinner in Schaumburg.