

Center for Applied Cultural Studies and Educational Achievement (CACSEA)  
College of Ethnic Studies, San Francisco State University

*Touching the Spirit*  
Educational Excellence for African American Students  
Video Tape Series

**ANNOUNCING THE PRODUCTION OF THE  
VIDEO TAPE**

*The Children Speak, But Who Will Listen?*  
By the Prescott Village Speakers

Carrie Secret, *Teacher--Prescott School, Oakland Unified School District*  
and *Students: Olajuwan Bell, Shameka Bell, Nia Griffin, Chastity Hauper,*  
Charmesha James, Tatum Willoughby, Paula Woods, Brandon Young

Commentary by Asa G. Hilliard, III, Ed.D.

Teacher, Carrie Secret and her fifth grade students from Prescott Public School, Oakland, California inspire and inform us with a powerful recitation that is centered around the text: Faith in a Foreign Land, a sermon by Chicago minister Dr. Jeremiah Wright. The children's presentation is followed by a commentary by noted educator, psychologist and historian, Asa G. Hilliard, Ed.D., the Fuller E. Callaway professor of Urban Education at Georgia State University.

**We look, listen and learn as the children speak!**

The Center for Applied Cultural Studies and Educational Achievement (CACSEA) at the College of Ethnic Studies, San Francisco State University utilizes research on African and African American culture and on successful teachers of African American students in the design of its professional development programs for teachers, parents, and other educators of African American students. A highlight of CACSEA's program each year is its annual Summer Institute. This video tape is a recording of the program of one of the general sessions at the 1997 Institute.

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Notes by Carrie Secret

Dr. Jeremiah A Wright is senior pastor at Trinity Unity Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois. My first encounter with Dr. Wright was when I heard an audio tape recording of his sermon, What Makes You So Strong? This powerful sermon was spiritually regenerative and edifying and sent me on a journey of historical research. This journey was an absolute necessity because I was ignorant. I had little or no knowledge of too many of the African and African American historical figures named in the sermon.

Not only did What Makes You So Strong? lead me to begin research for information on the individuals mentioned in this sermon, it began my quest for information about other sermons by Dr. Wright. His Faith in a Foreign Land was the second sermon I heard. And yes, it too was full of historical chunks that I needed to have stored in my own internal memory system. Never had I heard someone connect so many powerful historical events into a mere forty-five minutes and perform such a fete from an African world view! His sermons are literally history lessons--lessons that were never taught to children in school.

The spirit of Dr. Wright's delivery draws not only adults into his realm but also children who become caught up in the message and make the connections necessary to internalize the information and commit it to memory. Because of its rich content of African and African -American history, we used Faith in a Foreign Land extensively in our classroom work. After memorization, the text was dissected and transformed into social studies, language arts, and math curricula that conforms to the guidelines of the California State Frameworks as well as the standards of the Oakland Public Schools.

We have traveled wonderful journeys with Dr. Wright and we plan many more!

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### Video Tape

### **The Children Speak, But Who Will Listen?**

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James, Tatum Willoughby, Paula Woods, Brandon Young

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Proceeds from the sale of these video tapes will be used to support the educational programs of the non-profit institutions: CACSEA, at San Francisco State University and the African American Children's Educational Project.