

Christian Television Network Founder To Speak on Mackinac Island Friday

By Sean Ely

The Reverend Glenn Plummer of Detroit, who will preach here Friday, August 3 is the founder of the Christian Television Network, owned and operated by three independent television stations in Detroit and New Orleans, and has produced and hosted the daily CTN Live!

show, seen nationally, and renamed Glenn Plummer Live!

He is the senior Pastor of Ambassadors for Christ Church in Detroit and is on the Board of Advisors of El Al Israel Airlines and the board of the National Religious Broadcasters, where he served for more than three years as president and chief

executive. He has also testified before Congress, prayed with President George W. Bush, and led Holy Land tours to Israel, where he has received the country's Ambassador of Tourism Award.

From a religious standpoint, there are only few things that Rev. Plummer has not done, and preaching to both Jews and Christians on Mackinac Island is one of them.

On Friday, August 3, he will speak after the 7:30 p.m. Jewish service at Kehillat Hatzav Hagadol, which is Hebrew for "Congregation of the Great Turtle." It is in the social hall next to Trinity Episcopal Church. He was invited here by summer resident Robert Spitzer.

"To be invited to be the main speaker at a Jewish synagogue is highly unusual," Rev. Plummer said. "For that synagogue to be on Mackinac Island is even more unusual. And something making it even more unusual than all of that is the fact that I am an African American."

Educated at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Rev. Plummer said he is returning to the Straits as a bridge-builder between the two faiths, Christianity and Judaism.

"Christianity would not exist without Judaism," he said. "We cannot say that statement the other way around. Our Lord was a Jew, the Apostles were Jewish, the early church was Jewish, and would not exist without Judaism. It's a consideration that many Jews have not heard Christian



The Reverend Glenn Plummer will give a sermon after the 7:30 p.m. Jewish service Friday, August 3, in the social hall next to Trinity Church. The Christian minister speaks on topics that both Christians and Jews can relate to. (Photograph courtesy of Ambassadors of Christ Church)

pastors say."

Rev. Plummer notes that the history of Jewish people is filled with atrocities in the name of Christianity, leading to a mistrust of Christians. Recently, however, he believes a stronger relationship is forming between Christians and Jews.

Dr. Spitzer and his wife, Dr. Ann Silverman, are promoting interfaith and cross-cultural understanding and were recently invited to teach at the Island's Vacation Bible School.

"I think our ability to enhance mutual understanding at that

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House Passes Bill To Fund State Park Landing Craft

By Karen Gould

Funding for a new freight boat for Mackinac Island State Park passed the U.S. House of Representatives late Tuesday, July 24. The bill sets aside \$300,000 in the 2008 budget to replace the current 1952 surplus Navy landing craft the park operates. A similar bill that includes the funding now awaits passage by the U.S. Senate.

"We're thrilled," said Phil Porter, director of Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) about the bill's passage. "We've been hoping to replace our current barge, which is 54 years old, with a newer, possibly larger vessel."

The boat is used for a number of tasks related to park maintenance and improvements, including transporting rubbish to the mainland and shipping supplies to the Island.

"It's one of the most valuable tools we have in our Island park system," said Mr. Porter.

Congressman Bart Stupak of Menominee, whose wife, Laurie, sits on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, has sought federal appropriations to replace the aging vessel for three years.

News of the boat funds came as the park was preparing to take delivery of two new snow plow trucks Wednesday, July 25. Nearly \$200,000 to replace the 15-year-old and 19-year-old plows was spearheaded by Mr. Stupak. The plows are used to keep Island roads accessible during the winter months for emergency vehicles and horse-drawn carriages that transport residents, visitors,

and supplies. They also keep the Island airport runway open, which is the main access to the Island after ferry boats stop running in the winter.

The 2008 funds for the boat are part of legislation appropriating \$50.7 billion for the Transportation Department and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

While specific projects in the appropriations bill can be challenged at any time, including during the conference committee process, Mr. Stupak said he would work throughout the process to protect projects in the bill that are important to northern Michigan.

"Since the early 1970s, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission has used a landing craft to transport a wide range of materials on and off Mackinac Island," said Mr. Stupak. "This vessel has been an invaluable tool in accomplishing the management goals of this world class park."

The House passed the bill by a vote of 268 to 153. The Senate must now take up its version of the bill. If that bill passes the Senate, the House and Senate bills will be reconciled through a conference committee. Once the final version is passed by both House and Senate, the bill will be sent to the president.

While no timeline can be placed on the bill, Alex Haurek, press secretary for Congressman Stupak, told *The Mackinac Island Town Crier* Wednesday, July 25, the House and Senate usually try to get appropriation bills passed by fall.

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