

Dr. Bob Frankin

July 23, 2004

Introduction: We are really proud to have for our prayer breakfast, one that is not a stranger to this kind of setting. I would imagine that many of you know him. And I have four quick things I want to tell you about him so that you can be prepared to receive his message this morning. He is another Chicagoian. He is from Chicago by way of Grenada in Mississippi. And he is also another Moorehouse man. You know, Emmett was a Moorehouse man. 1975 was really a good year for him. Not only did he graduate from Moorehouse but he was ordained to preach the gospel that year. The third thing is that he is, in addition to the president of Moorehouse he's also has his Master's in Deity Work from the University of Chicago. He served on the faculty of at least four institutions including his Alma matta, University of Chicago and Harvard and some other schools of divinity, and he's also published. If you've not received any of his books, try to figure out some way to get them. He has three books and all three of them are really good publications. You see him after, he might be able to tell you after the Caucus is over. Speaking is Dr. Robert Michael Franklin, who is the President and distinguished Professor of Social Studies at Emerson University in Atlanta. We're proud that he was able to take time and come and be with us this morning. So would you receive him in a warm Louisiana welcome, by giving him applause?

Speaker: Thank you very much. I want to thank Raymond for that very generous introduction and say what a privilege it is for me to join this conversation and be in the presence of so many pioneers in African American philanthropy, so many outstanding executives, founders of non-profit organizations and community development corporation. So many women and men who are committed to serving and uplifting humanity, inspired by faith and it is a blessing for me to be here, to see so many old friends and colleagues who have really plowed this ground for a long time. And to see now the harvest that comes forth from diligent labor, labor back in the day when this work was not as popular as it has been. And one might argue that it is, even now fading into obscurity relative to other enterprises. And so you're gathering to focus on the art and the practice of voluntary giving and action to serve the common good. One common definition of philanthropy is the comment of voluntary action and giving to serve the common good is exceedingly important at this moment in history.

I would get in trouble if I did the usual preacher thing and started trying to, you know, acknowledge everybody that I recognize and know in the room. This isn't that kind of room because I recognize over 30 to 40 percent of the folks in this room so, I can't do that and my friends will