



Introduction

Since 1998, Pastor Rosetta Dotson has been trying to make a difference for the youth of Austin. With her Walk By Faith Mission, Pastor Dotson is helping young people learn how to cope with problems and not become involved with gangs or resort to violence.

Pastor Dotson meets with young people every Saturday and Sunday at her center, located at 5453 W. North Ave. Here you might find her feeding young people or helping on the computers. Youngsters come there to "hang out" and visit with friends. Dotson is trying to make herself available to young people when they have problems or just need someone to talk to.

On Sunday, November 25, Walk By Faith held a fundraiser for youth and gave away new coats to many youngsters. The event was held at her church, Gospel Temple COGIC (Church of God In Christ) at 3855 W. Harrison by the Rev. Sidney Grandberry, the church's pastor.

Dotson said, "As I've gone around to different communities and churches, I fell in love with a youth center in the Garfield community. I was blessed to have 16 coats donated from that area going to their choir, and I'm excited to be able to give the coats today. This event is great because children are showing up with their parents and this is always a good sign."

Introducing Mrs. Obama, Rev. Arthur Brazier told the large crowd, "I see light at the end of the tunnel. It's a long road, but Senator Obama is going to win Iowa, and he is going to win or come real close in New Hampshire. And if that happens, we're going to sweep South Carolina, and the road to the White House will be wide open."

"I think about my girls every single moment of this campaign. They give me passion for this, they keep us grounded. I think about the kind of world I want to hand over to these precious little girls. Anything should be possible. I think about our children because the world we are about to hand over to them is not the one I want. We are not where we need to be and we all know that. See the problem is we are living in a country, in a world, where in 2007 we are still too divided. We don't know each other, we don't talk to each other, we don't trust each other, and we are living in a country that is still too cynical.

We have become a mean people-it has become a source of entertainment for us. And we are also a nation that is guided by fear, afraid of everything and everyone. The problem with fear is that it clouds our judgment. The one thing my mother told me is you don't make good decisions when you are afraid.

Fear shuts us up-it cuts us off from one another within our own families, within our own neighborhoods. It's cutting us off within our own communities, in our own country. It's certainly cutting us off from the rest of the world.

"Fear is what is motivating us, and see, the frightening thing about fear, it's like there is this veil of impossibility over our heads and, more importantly, over the heads of our children. We are raising a nation of children who are hearing you can't do that.

"I want people to understand who Michelle and Barack Obama are as people, where we come from, how we think, what are our values-that's what I talk about. And the first thing I tell them is forget Harvard and Princeton, forget those fancy degrees because who I am, who we are, I'm a little girl who was raised on the South Side of Chicago. I am the product of a working-class family.

Thank You.

Pastor Rosetta Dotson