

'STORY' CHRONICLES LIFE OF EARTH TEMPLE FOUNDER ANTHONY HODGE

By R.C. BOURNEA

"THE STORY MUST Be Told" is a chronicle of the life of Anthony Hodge, founder of Earth Temple, a non-denominational religious and community service organization.

"The Story Must Be Told" documents Hodge's childhood in Columbus, his college years at Central State University, and his experience as a private investigator.

"The book is about what I went through in raising myself and my endeavors in higher education," said Hodge.

The book has an important message for young people about avoiding the pitfalls in life.

"I encourage young people to avoid mood-altering substances, to stay away from using hard drugs

and drinking alcohol," said Hodge.

Young people should also be careful of the company they keep, said Hodge, since people they associate with can sometimes get them into trouble.

"Avoid all negative social elements while you're trying to get ahead," said Hodge. "Your associations can be held against you."

"The Story Must Be Told" gives inside information on Hodge's dealings with the FBI, which Hodge says has been involved in conspiracies targeted at the Black community, and high-profile cases he handled as a private investigator.

The book also traces Hodge's family lineage, which is mixed with African-American, Caucasian, and Native American ancestry. Many of Hodge's family members,

including Hodge's cousin, actor Phillip Michael Thomas of "Miami



ANTHONY HODGE
— Earth Temple founder

Vice" fame, grew up in Jackson County, Ohio, where hundreds of ex-slaves and mulatto offspring of U.S. presidents migrated after the Civil War.

"The book talks about interfamily rivalry," said Hodge. "Young people can see from this story how the things they do to their brother or sister can affect their lives and their children's lives for generations and generations to come."

Getting in touch with one's roots is vital, says Hodge.

"It's important for Black people and people of all colors to know their heritage in order to teach young people about their history," said Hodge. "It's important not to hide the past, no matter how painful it is."

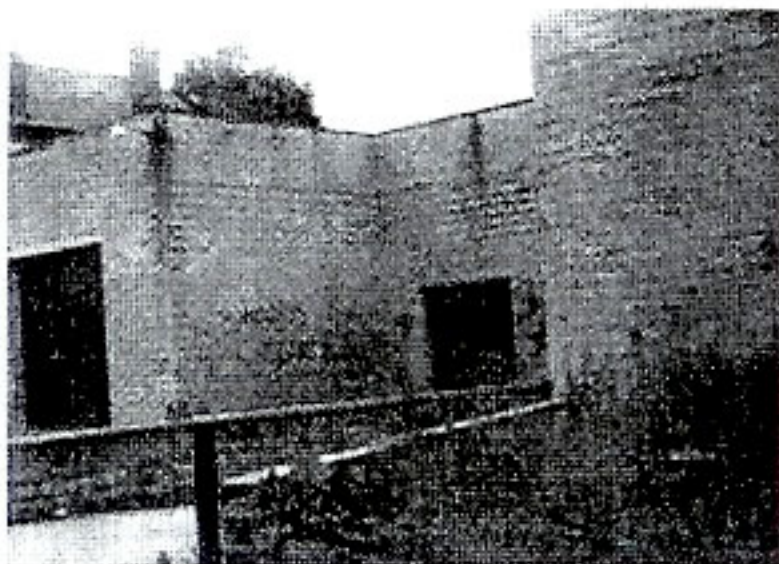
Earth Temple airs the television

programs "Earth Temple Speaks" and "Earth Temple Crusade" on the Community 21 cable channel and maintains a Web site at www.earthtemple.org.

Earth Temple also facilitates Operation Get Off Drugs (GOD), a rehabilitation, prevention and awareness program, as well as the Ho Ho Ho program, an annual Christmas toy giveaway for families on welfare. On Oct. 1, the organization will open a bingo hall at the former site of the Rockwell/McDonnell Douglas Union Hall next to the C&S Lounge on Fifth Avenue and is seeking volunteers.

For more information about how to order "The Story Must Be Told" or Earth Temple's programs, call 231-5595.

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