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**Where is all this malignant hatred in America coming from? Seattle documentary filmmaker, Liz Latham, explores the profound destructiveness of hate crimes**

Historically, the motivation fueling hatred is based on race, religion and sexual orientation, in that order. When a small town or community prosecutes hate crimes, it almost always results in tremendous financial debt. A new federal bill, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act (LLEHCPA), will soon back-up the police and prosecutors in small towns by providing financial support and other essential assistance, enabling them to effectively take action against those who commit a hate crime. Currently, five states still do not have hate crime laws in their books.

On August 13th and 14th, local Seattle filmmaker, **Liz Latham** (*We're Here to Stay*), joined with Hollywood film director, **Rich Thorne** (*Dr. Doolittle 3 and Mother Ghost*), to complete the filming of her documentary entitled *Remember His Name*. This highly significant film documents the tragic murder of **James Byrd, Jr.**, in Jasper, Texas on June 7, 1998; and how it influenced the passage of the **James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act of Texas in 2001**, the law that contributed to the formation of a National Hate Crimes Bill.

Although hate crimes in themselves frequently make the headlines, Hate Crime Legislation rarely, if ever, does. All the recent media attention and heavy focus on health care reform overshadowed the news that the **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act** recently passed in both the House and the Senate. It's predicted that this national hate crime bill will be signed by President Obama sometime this Fall. Latham hopes to include the footage of that landmark signing in her film.

*"It starts with bullying,"* said Judy Shepard, mother of murder victim Matthew Shepherd of Wyoming, the namesake of the National Hate Crime Law, recently passed by the Senate. Latham's vision is to place her film, along with its curriculum guide, in every middle and high school in America. The curriculum is comprised of two components. The first component will educate students about hate crime law: why it's necessary, who it protects, and what it accomplishes. The second component complements the first by including essential lessons to develop skills of understanding, compassion, and tolerance.

Last week's filming included a deeply moving service held at Ebenezer AME Zion Church, lead by Rev. Patrinell Wright, joined by The Total Experience Gospel Choir singing. Ebenezer AME Zion Church was the first African American church established in Seattle; and also the first church in this city to be bombed during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. The recent filming that took place inside the church, as well as the dramatic re-enactment of James Byrd, Jr.'s murder, were the final pieces needed to complete this eleven year long project. Ebenezer Church is strongly committed to working toward constructive change by spreading the love and stopping the hate through education. They are proud to use Latham's film and its curriculum book as an educational tool in their social justice programs, as well as their national outreach efforts.

*"It was impressive! Liz's actions are a statement of how one person was touched by another person's tragedy and could not let it go and kept on going. Seeing all the people that have rallied (the film crew volunteers and the Hollywood director Rich Thorne) to support Liz's passion stays on my mind. No one had their hand out saying "give me".... every hand reaching out was a helping hand. I was just so impressed that this is simply who Liz is."* - **Reverend Alphonso Meadows, Pastor Ebenezer AME Church, Seattle, WA**

*"We have the God given talent to love and we have the ability to hate. And it is not the people of ill will that I am concerned with so much as it is the people of good will that I am concerned about. When people of good will fail to step forward and to speak and to make things right that they know that they should make right and tell truths where they know truths should be told. It doesn't matter to me what color they are. It doesn't matter what gender they are. When they fail to do that, then the people of ill will, will continue to do the things that they are doing throughout this entire world. So my message of hope today is to keep hope alive for standing for that which is right. Standing for which, that which is truth. And standing for that which you know is best for you and for your neighbor."*  
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** as paraphrased by Willie King, a resident of Jasper, Texas.

Lizard Productions is seeking an immediate influx of \$10,000 from charitable donors who want to be associated with this project intended to stop hate crimes through education. The overall budget for the completion of the film, including curriculum development and distribution, is \$1,000,000. Contributors of \$10,000 or more will receive prominent acknowledgment on each of the marketing materials, such as movie posters and DVD cases, as well as curriculum books. All contributors of any dollar amount will be listed in the credits of the film: font size and slate space will be based on the size of donation.

For more information about the film *Remember His Name*, please visit [www.LizardProductions.com](http://www.LizardProductions.com); or feel free to call the filmmaker, Liz Latham, directly at Lizard Productions: (206) 947-5407.

Financial gifts of all sizes can be made at any U.S. Chase Bank, deposited in the Lizard Productions Account #185-109352-5. It is asked that any donating individual or organization please notify Lizard Productions after making a deposit so they know to add your name to the film credits.