



ATLANTA INTERFAITH BROADCASTERS

For Immediate Release

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ATLANTA INTERFAITH BROADCASTERS TURNS 40

Atlanta, GA – May 21, 2009 – Forty years ago, Rev. John H. Allen had a progressive idea to provide programming that represented people from ALL faiths, socioeconomic backgrounds and cultures. Although this idea was seen as controversial in 1969, Rev. Allen pursued his vision and in May, 1969 Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters was born. Rev. Allen, a Presbyterian minister, was named as AIB's first president and remained in that position until his death in 1999.

In the early years and throughout the 1970's focus was on the origination and distribution of community service programs. Hundreds of programs were produced and ran on network affiliates and independent television and radio stations. Two of the most notable programs were *Midnight Minister* and *Sound of Youth*. *Sound of Youth* is still airing and just received its second Emmy nomination.

In 1981, AIB was granted a channel on Cable Atlanta and by the end of the decade AIB could be seen by cable viewers on 12 different cable systems. From humble beginnings of 3,000 homes and only 20 hours of programming per week, AIB has grown to 24 hours a day 7 days a week and reaches 19 metro counties from N. Georgia to just outside of Macon.

AIB currently produces over 200 hours of original programming a year in their 1600 square foot studio and is the recipient of numerous awards, including 3 Emmy award nominations and one Emmy award win. One of their award winning documentaries, *Printing the Dream: 75 Years of Atlanta Daily World* is now archived in the Chicago Museum of Broadcasting.

Their unique programming model of promoting dialogue between people of all faiths has generated international curiosity and has become a "must see" for international dignitaries and media representatives visiting the Atlanta area. "Many visitors are amazed that people of different faiths can sit down together to discuss their views, beliefs and similarities in a comfortable non-confrontational manner," said Collie Burnett, Jr, President and CEO of AIB.

AIB televises a combination of programming that includes original programming, large and small faith based organizations and community programming from non profit organizations like the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and The Carter Center. They estimate that they have provided media access to more than 1,000 faith based and non profit organizations throughout the metro Atlanta area.

Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters is a self supporting non profit organization and does not allow the solicitation of funds or attacks on other faiths. "It has been a remarkable 40 years and we hope to continue providing metro Atlanta with programming that inspires and lifts the human spirit for many years to come," said Mr. Burnett.

AIB can be viewed on Comcast – Channel 5 and Charter Communications (Smyrna, Roswell) – Channel 22 as well as VOD at aibtv.com and streaming network AIBNet.tv.

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About AIB: Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, Inc. is the nation's largest regional interfaith cable network and is celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year. AIB has been providing faith-based communities and nonprofit service organizations access to a larger audience since 1969. AIB remains a destination for international dignitaries and media representatives due to its unique programming platform which promotes dialogue between all faiths, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. Seen in over 1,000,000 homes across 19 metro area counties, AIB is a self-supporting organization and does not allow the solicitation of funds or attacks on other faiths. Viewers can find Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhists, Hindus and others presenting their views. **www.AIBTV.com**

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