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Guest Book

## Motivational speaker conquers life of adversity



OW photo by Shirley Hawkins

survivor. The author and motivational speaker now shares of life of adversity and triumph with thousands across the country with her message of empowerment. Jervey recently kept the audience enthralled during a speaking engagement with Black Speakers Etc. at the Black Business Expo in Los Angeles.

"My mother was six months pregnant before she realized she was about to give birth to me," said Jervey. "A month later, she was using the bathroom and her water broke. I was almost born in the toilet. I was born a premature baby weighing only two pounds. The doctors told my mother to prepare me for burial because they thought I wouldn't survive."

Jervey survived but several years later, doctors diagnosed her with spinal meningitis. "I was in the hospital for nine months. The doctors said that the likelihood of my survival was slim to none."

Again, Jervey survived. But more adversity was to come. "When I was 7 years old, I was sexually abused by one of my mother's friends," said Jervey. "He said he would kill me if I told anyone that he was abusing me. I was scared silent. I didn't think my mother would believe I was being sexually abused if I told her."

On the home front, Jervey's life was also in turmoil. "My mother was sentenced to jail when I was 8 years old. My brothers also became incarcerated. I realized early that I had to save myself. I had to find a way to escape my environment."

Jervey knew that education was her ticket out. "I knew that education was the key to get out of my environment and I became an overachiever," said Jervey. "I busted my behind in school to get good grades, but my Black schoolmates used to call me 'White' because I did so well in school."

Eventually the determined young woman earned a bachelor of arts in English and a master's in business administration.

Then Jervey fell in love. "Seven years ago, I was engaged to be married. Three months before the wedding, my fiancé announced that he had impregnated another woman who attended my church. I broke off the engagement. I realized that I valued myself too much to marry a man who had cheated on me. I knew I deserved better."

To conquer her traumatic past, Jervey said she underwent years of therapy. It was her unshakable faith in God that helped her to heal the wounds of her upbringing.

In the meantime, Jervey began to climb the ladder in the business world. She became a vice president with a financial services company earning a six figure salary.

Twelve years later, Jervey quit her job and joined Mary Kay cosmetics. She rose through the ranks to become an executive sales director with the company. "I earned five Mary Kay cars. Two of them were Cadillacs," she said. "I acquired over five carats of Mary Kay diamonds."

But despite her professional success, Jervey felt her true calling was to inspire other people. "I wanted to share my past with others who might be hurting, so I wrote a book, If You Understood My Past You Would Understand My Praise."

"The book is about my path to self-discovery," said Jervey. "You cannot conquer what you are not willing to confront. You have to conquer your past before you can confirm

### Darnielle Jervey motivates thousands through life story

Los Angeles, CA -- "I'm not supposed to be here."

With those compelling words, motivational speaker Darnielle Jervey unfolded the story of her turbulent life. Sporting a bright yellow jacket, her hair coiffed to perfection and with her shiny high heels clicking across the stage, Jervey looked every inch the professional. But beneath the polished veneer, Jervey is a true

#### HOME

- King of Pop' dies
- Building up a nation
- A joyful family reunion
- One on One with Kirk J. Albanese
- 'L.A. Speaks Out' about KJLH's Jacquie Stephens' departure
- Watchdog police group keeps eye on police
- More than fried chicken
- Motivational speaker conquers life of adversity
- Zatarain's Carnival Jambalaya

#### Editorial

- Practical Politics
- The Hutchinson Report

#### Local

- H.U.F. Awards
- Youth to learn the art of television production

#### OW Web Exclusive

- Assemblyman Mike Davis' Reflections on California's Budget Crisis
- 'God sent the shooter'
- Councilman Wesson announces free movies
- Activities for youth
- Mayor Villaraigosa decides to stay!
- California's budget crisis

#### Community Feature

- Helping hand

#### Addiction & Recovery

- Support/Volunteer Opportunities

#### Health & Wellness

- Ridley-Thomas launches stop smoking effort

#### Religion

- Jazz Vespers

#### Entertainment Feature

- 'Do the Right Thing'

#### Game & Book Review

- 'Maneater'

#### This Week's Highlights:

 Guest Book

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your future."

Ten years ago, Jervey formed a motivational company called Incredible One Enterprises. She now crisscrosses the country imparting inspiration and hope to thousands.

"People hear about me through word of mouth," said Jervey, who said she speaks to corporations, Fortune 500 companies, non-profits and youth groups.

Jervey also said she also helps people define and unleash the incredible person inside by sharing what she calls her PACE method. "P stands for purposeful passion, A stands for attitude of abundance, C stands for consistent confidence, and E for enthusiastic expectation."

During her motivational talks, Jervey realized that many people are unwilling and unable to let go of the hurt and pain in their past. "As a motivational speaker, author and consultant, my goal is to help people stop giving their past permission to speak. Basically, I tell my audience that the things that happened to them in the past are over. No man can add an hour to his life by worrying. You have to let go of the past and move past it."

Darnyelle Jervey's website can be accessed at [www.darnyelle.com](http://www.darnyelle.com).

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- 25.JUN.09 One on One with Kirk J. Albanese
- 25.JUN.09 'L.A. Speaks Out' about KJLH's Jacquie Stephens' departure
- 25.JUN.09 Watchdog police group keeps eye on police
- 25.JUN.09 More than fried chicken
- 25.JUN.09 Motivational speaker conquers life of adversity
- 25.JUN.09 Zatarain's Carnival Jambalaya
- 18.JUN.09 Science versus Religion
- 18.JUN.09 100-year recognition
- 18.JUN.09 Young, bright and incarcerated
- 18.JUN.09 Inglewood elections
- 18.JUN.09 Julian Bond and the NAACP still going strong
- 18.JUN.09 Double prostate cancer survivor urges Black men to get checked
- 18.JUN.09 Urban gardens are abloom in South Los Angeles
- 11.JUN.09 'Gang Talk' makes radio debut
- 11.JUN.09 Montford Point
- 11.JUN.09 Inglewood elections
- 11.JUN.09 Negro-head Mountain
- 11.JUN.09 Vernon Jordan 'wows' crowd at CAAM
- 11.JUN.09 Sheryl A. Flowers mourned
- 11.JUN.09 Angel Hair Pasta with Shrimp & Rosemary
- 11.JUN.09 'Imagine That'

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AT&T, in partnership with Greenlining Institute, is seeking proposals to expand the capacity of Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) that provide business assistance and capital to Women of Color entrepreneurs in low and moderate communities in California.



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