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Louise Bennett (cont'd)

Miss Lou given a warm tribute

By PETER SCOTT

One of the Caribbean's greatest sources of pride and inspiration was honored Saturday in a fitting tribute.

Louise Bennett, affectionately known as Miss Lou, was honored on her 50th year as a performing artist with all the warmth and affection Toronto's black and West Indian community could muster.

Long speeches, multiple floral presentations, poetry, song and a dinner were all part of the presentation at Downtown Holiday Inn. Miss Lou, Jamaica's foremost poet, storyteller and actress,

beamed in appreciation.

"She is one of the prime sources of energy for what we claim to be at this time," said Rex Nettleford, who came from Jamaica for the occasion. "She's far more important than she herself knows."

Nettleford, founder, director and principal choreographer of the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, added that Bennett will be remembered long after "the politicians are duly forgotten."

"Lou's work will remind us that we do belong to a

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January, he has only received \$250 in donations. "People are so negative," he said. "I don't know what they want to see."

Humphreys, who has also received a donation of about

ment Centre.

World Concern is a non-denominational Christian humanitarian agency specializing in emergency relief, self-help development and rehabilitation in developing countries.

Miss Lou tribute

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civilization, that we are a people capable of exercising creative imagination," said Nettleford, also a professor of extramural studies at the University of West Indies.

Nettleford argued that the Caribbean must find "institutional and operational frameworks" to demonstrate its creative talents, both to itself and to the world. He stressed that, in a world "that continues to be hostile to us," the only way to beat racism is through creative intellect and imagination.

Other speakers included Dwight Whyllie, a longtime friend of Bennett, and Ontario Housing Minister Alvin Curling.

Trinidadian poet Paul Keens-Douglas, who played

with Bennett in a performance Sunday evening, described Miss Lou as a genius. With her contribution to Jamaican dialect, Bennett has a "joy of performing and a joy of doing what one loves best."

Also during the program, Jamaican Consul General Oswald Murray brought greetings, Lillian Allen performed a special poem for Bennett, and the Heritage Singers performed a moving folk song.

MC Maud Fuller, who once worked in pantomimes with Bennett, organized the program. The sponsor was Klassique Enterprises, a newly-formed company that intends to promote cultural activities in the black and West Indian community.