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Program Magazine Success

JUNE 2012

A Beacon of Empowerment

A black man with glasses and a suit is speaking into a microphone. He is the central figure in the background of the cover.

*Allie L. Braswell, Jr.
and the Central Florida
Urban League Give
Hope to Families*

see EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES page 20

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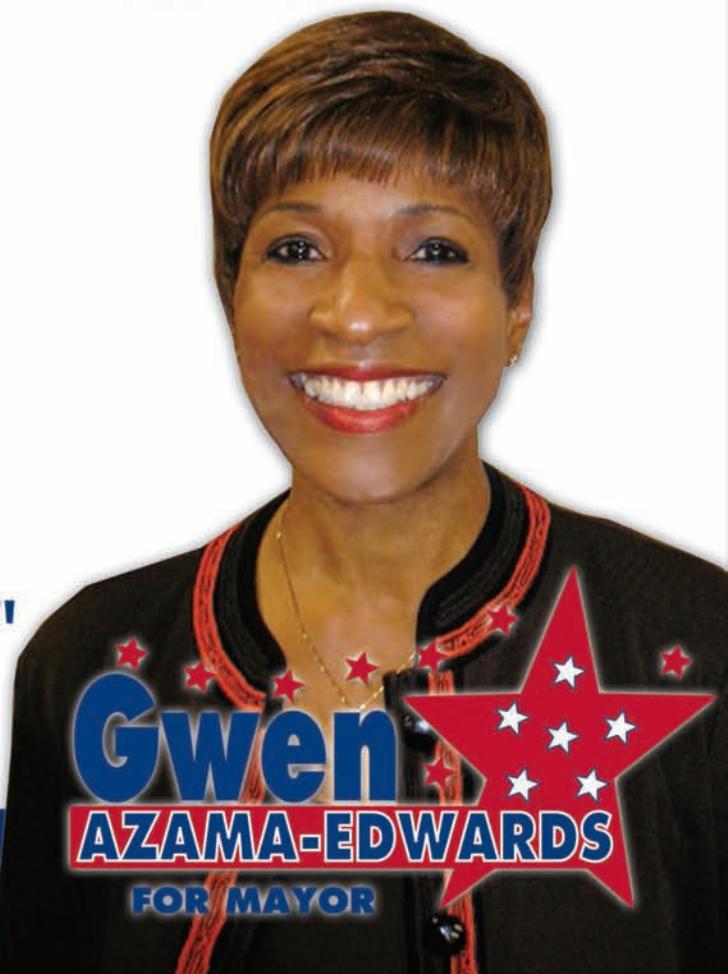
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John Bolton: US Voters agree George W. Bush left Barack Obama with a mess

American voters agree with President Barack Obama's claim that he inherited "a mess" from George W. Bush, according to John Bolton, one of Mr. Bush's best-known former colleagues.



John Bolton said, when faced with the prospect of re-electing Mr Obama, 'people are saying OK, you inherited a mess, well what have you done to fix it?'

Photo: Reuters

**By Jon Swaine
Guest Columnist**

John Bolton, Mr Bush's ambassador to the United Nations, said it would not be helpful for the Republicans to more vigorously defend the former president's record, which Democrats have sharply criticised. Mr Bolton urged Mitt Romney, the party's nominee to face Mr Obama in November, to focus on the future and resist arguing over whether their last president left behind "a big mess or a little mess".

His remarks came as Mr Bush prepared to return to the White House for only the second time since leaving office in January 2009, for the unveiling of his official portrait. "I think people would agree with Obama that he was left with a mess," Mr Bolton told The Daily Telegraph. "They're not arguing about that, and that's why it doesn't pay for Romney to argue whether it was a big mess or a little mess."

Instead, Mr Bolton said, when faced with the prospect of re-electing Mr Obama, "people are saying OK, you inherited a mess, well what have you done to fix it?"

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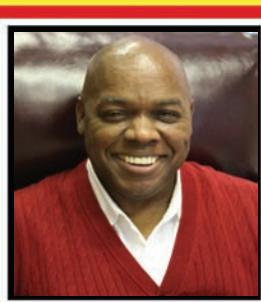
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A Proud Day for Sanford, Florida's Black Residents

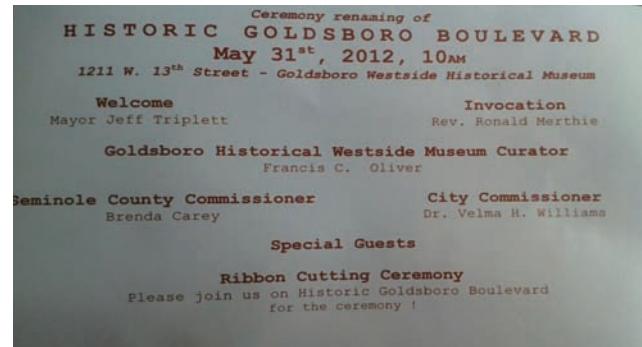
By Faye Henderson
Goldboro - Sandford, Florida



It was a proud day in the city of Sanford for the Goldsboro Community. Not originally from Sanford, my daughter Erin Marie, a junior at Seminole High and I, were elated to be a part of the renaming of West 13th Street to Historic Goldsboro Boulevard. It was a long time in the making but it finally happened on a very hot Thursday morning May 31, 2012. Many of the citizens, pastors, and local officials braved the heat to witness history.

The event took place on 13th Street in front of the Goldsboro Historical Westside Museum. It was a proud moment for me being an entertainer; I performed in the very same spot with my band several months ago for the grand opening of the museum. Francis Oliver, curator of the museum shared facts and knowledge of Goldsboro's history. The community which was a Black town incorporated in Florida had a Black mayor and Black owned businesses. The street was originally named Goldsboro Avenue until the City of Sanford annexed the town in 1911. Other speakers were Mayor Jeff Triplett, City Commissioner Dr. Velma Williams, and Seminole County Commissioner Brenda Carey.

The Ceremony ended with the ribbon cutting and Dr. Williams asked everyone to stand close together for the ribbon cutting ceremony. I shed a tear for so many of our youth who never knew that we had so much, I gain new hope for the community.



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God's Plan: Man & Woman

By Pastor Leon R. Bing
NJFWC.ORG

On this month that we are celebrating Fathers, I feel forced to have to address the issue of Gay Marriages. I know that it has been a sore conversation for many, and the thought is, why it can't just go away! Well, it can't go away without the True Believers making a choice of which side of the line they will stand on.

Before we get started, let me make two things perfectly clear, "God loves the person, but hates the sin". We are very familiar that quote, but it is true, repentance puts a person back in right standing with God, so there is always an opportunity for the sinner to have a way of escape from their sin life. Also, many people of the world, and many church goers, love to bring out the fact that there are other sins, why do we only talk about the sin of homosexuality? Well the truth is we don't. There are many passages that cover many sins, from lying to murder. And many, who give right teaching, cover them all! This article however will deal with the sin and consequences of homosexuality. This is only a brief article; it can not cover the whole matter in this one issue.

In Genesis 2 verse 18, **God said that "it is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helpmate (companion) for him."**

Genesis 2:21-25 NLT

21 So the LORD God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam's ribs and closed up the place from which he had taken it.

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam.

23 "At last!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own flesh and bone! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken out of a man."

24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

25 Now, although Adam and his wife were both naked, neither of them felt any shame.

This is the plan of God for mankind. God does not make mistakes, nor does He fail at anything. But notice verse 25, it says that the man & his wife were both naked and neither of them felt shame. But those who are in the gay & lesbian lifestyle have been in hiding for centuries. But in the past few decades many have, quote, "come out of the closet." This is but one of the many sins of man that has been on the increase in these last days!

Homosexuality is a sin so great, that it defiles the land. Leviticus 18:22-30 NLT

22 "Do not practice homosexuality; it is a detestable sin.

23 "A man must never defile himself by having sexual intercourse with an animal, and a woman must never present herself to a male animal in order to have intercourse with it; this is a terrible perversion.

24 "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the people I am expelling from the Promised Land have defiled themselves.

25 As a result, the entire land has become defiled. That is why I am punishing the people who live there, and the land will soon vomit them out.

26 You must strictly obey all of my laws and regulations, and you must not do any of these detestable things. This applies both to you who are Israelites by birth and to the foreigners living among you.

27 All these detestable activities are practiced by the people of the land where I am taking you, and the land has become defiled.

28 Do not give the land a reason to vomit you out for defiling it, as it will vomit out the people who live there now.

29 Whoever does any of these detestable things will be cut off from the community of Israel.

30 So be careful to obey my laws, and do not practice any of these detestable activities. Do not defile yourselves by doing any of them, for I, the LORD, am your God."

This is where many will want to find whatever they can to justify the sin, because as I said this is not opportunity to fully explain the passage. Some will say this is just for Israel, or that this is Old Testament and it is not valid for today. Well the true believer understands that all of God's word is truth, and we must all learn how to apply it to our lives.

This is where the President has made his greatest mistake. Many say that he gave his approval to gay marriage for political gain. Well what he has done was to make this a national sin! At the moment he gave his approval, as the leader of this nation, it places the nation at risk of God's wrath. Look how many people came out in support of this sin! Many religious leaders, men who lead large congregations as well as small ones jumped on the President's side. Large groups such as the NAACP also were quick to support this sin. Look, don't think that this great country of ours can't be brought down to its knees because of the judgment of God!

Romans 1:18-32 NLT

18 But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who push the truth away from themselves.

19 For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts.

20 From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead.

23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people, or birds and animals and snakes.

24 So God let them go ahead and do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies.

25 Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. So they worshiped the things God made but not the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever. Amen.

26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other.

27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relationships with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men and, as a result, suffered within themselves the penalty they so richly deserved.

28 When they refused to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their evil minds and let them do things that should never be done.

29 Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, fighting, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.

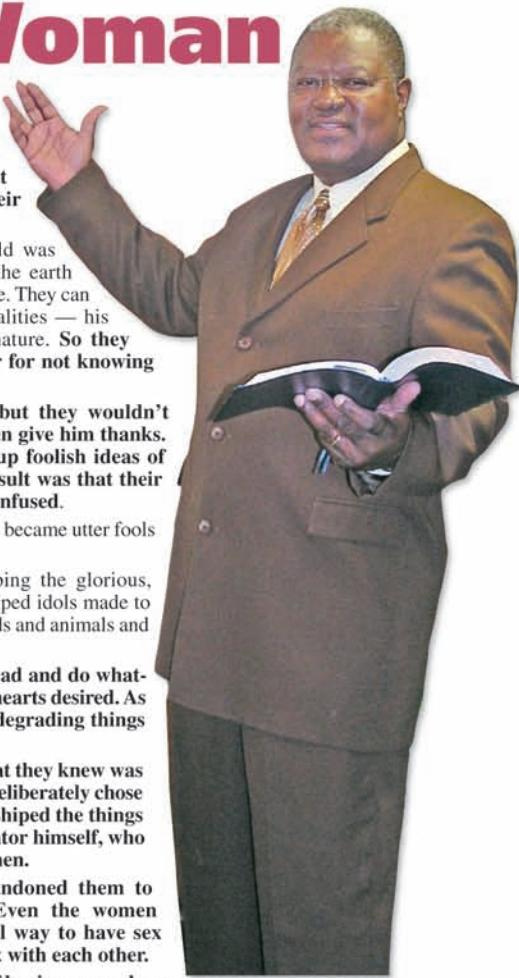
30 They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They are forever inventing new ways of sinning and are disobedient to their parents.

31 They refuse to understand, break their promises, and are heartless and unforgiving.

32 They are fully aware of God's death penalty for those who do these things, yet they do right ahead and do them anyway. And, worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

Because of the length of this last passage, I won't comment long. It is easy to understand in the New Living Translation. We have a generation that takes the gay & lesbian lifestyle as a fad, not understanding the penalty to follow. Not understanding what effect this will have on their children. But there is another issue at hand! We have seen one wave of the HIV virus take many lives; we are now under the next wave, which is even worse! And this great nation is subtly telling Americans through television commercials that they want you to do home HIV testing, why? Because they want to document how great the problem is, and where is the worse location in this nation of ours.

The bottom line is this, because man is choosing his own path rather the plan of God, He is allowing man to also choose his fate! But I encourage the true believers, the remnant of the church in this country, to remain faithful and in prayer! As I said earlier, this cannot be fully explained in one article so don't just think that this is all God says about the matter. With all my love for the people of God, blessings to you all!



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We sponsor a food-tasting celebration, on the Saturday before Father's Day annually, from 11:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. in the Gateway Town Center, 5000-7 Norwood Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32208. The special feature of *Jacksonville Fathers Who Cook* are the volunteer chefs – men from all walks of life (corporate leaders, bus drivers, policemen, bikers, politicians, ministers, entertainers, authors, community leaders, restaurant chefs and other hard-working men) who prepare and serve their favorite dishes, demonstrating their resolve to uplift the community and their families.

The community welcomes the opportunity to this afternoon of sampling from a wide variety of menu items of delicious food, including entrees and desserts. JFWC pays tribute to fathers while promoting "Healthy Eating." Guests will enjoy a variety of food choices from a diverse group of chefs. Our guests purchase taste tickets and participate in the guest Celebrity Chef Presentation that includes special seating and samples of healthy foods available just after preparation concludes.

The event, held the day before Father's Day, utilizing the donated time and resources of guest celebrity chefs and hardworking men, will raise much needed funds from ticket sales and sponsors for scholarships for one-hundred (100) youth to attend summer camp. It will feature not only food, but entertainment, children's activities, health screenings, cooking demonstrations and door prizes, making for a fun-filled, food tasting celebration for all guests.

Please feel free to contact **Rev. Eugene Eubanks at eeub143@aol.com, 904-591-7568 or 904-354-1464**. For more information visit our website at: www.Jacksonvillefatherswhocook.com





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Department of Justice to Florida: Stop the Voter Purge Shenanigans

By Lauren Victoria Burke
Politic 365 Chief Congressional Correspondent

The state of Florida has a history of impropriety at the ballot box. The most memorable example was during the 2000 presidential elections when some say Vice President Al Gore, a Democrat, would have won the presidency were it not for GOP officials in Florida rigging the vote count for then-Texas Gov. George Bush, a Republican. “It was long overdue. I was glad tonight that the Attorney General and the Department put an end to it. It is clearly a violation of the spirit and the letter of the Voting Rights Act,” said Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) as he spoke to Politic365 on DOJ’s action late Thursday.



Florida is also a key swing state in the 2012 race for the White House. Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL), who represents Jacksonville, still very strongly maintains that votes were stolen in 2000 and is worried history could repeat itself. “Keep in mind: they say Bush won by 508 votes in 2000 – but they stole 27,000 votes from my district. I’m not talking about this, that or the other — I’m talking about what I know,” Brown said. The Congresswoman is encouraging constituents to be at the polls in person and watch the way their vote is recorded carefully rather than mail in ballots to protect their vote.

In a letter sent earlier this week to Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Florida Reps. Brown, Alcee Hastings, Frederica Wilson, Ted Deutch and Debbie Wasserman Schultz demanded the governor cease unregistering voters. “If the goal is truly to remove ineligible individuals who were intentionally or somehow mistakenly registered to vote … that process must move forward in a nonpartisan manner with transparency,” the letter read.

Interestingly enough, the Congressional Black Caucus’ lone Republican member, Rep. Allen West of Florida, has been quiet on the subject of the voter purge. Yet, West recently told ThinkProgress.org during an interview that he was adamantly opposed to early voting and absentee ballots, calling the practice unconstitutional. “I think that this early voting thing was something we provided and now some people see it as an entitlement, which is really not consistent with constitutional voting practices and procedures,” said West. A disproportionate number of those being unregistered in the Florida vote purge were minorities. MSNBC reported more than half of those being unregistered were Hispanic.

One particular story of an American citizen who was unregistered in the purge was reported by the Miami Herald. World War II vet Bill Internicola, 91, who was awarded a Bronze Star during the war, was contacted by the Broward Supervisor of Elections by mail saying he was not a United States citizen. Internicola contacted the office asking them if they were crazy and then contacted the press. The letter to Internicola removing him from the voting rolls was in error. Internicola is an American citizen.

A day before the Department of Justice’s Voting Section Chief contacted Florida by letter to halt the vote purge, Attorney General Eric Holder appeared at a summit in Washington D.C. hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus and the Conference of National Black Churches and spoke on the importance protecting voting rights. Many have felt the Department of Justice has been too slow to act on the issue. Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown said this week that until recently Justice had not been paying attention to the issue. “The Justice Department has frankly been asleep,” Brown said during a TV interview. “I maintain that we ought to use every element of the law that we can in order to make sure that no one becomes comfortable trying to discourage people from voting.” Though there is criticism many are starting to feel the Department is awake and are pleased with their involvement.

LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE, *Politic365 Chief Congressional Correspondent*, publishes the blog *Crewof42* on the Congressional Black Caucus. She is heard every Tuesday at 4 p.m. ET on WMCS 1290 in Milwaukee on Earl Ingram’s show *The Evening Rush* as well as on WPFW every Friday at 6:30 p.m. in Washington DC. You can e-mail her at LBurke007@gmail.com follow her on twitter at @crewof42.

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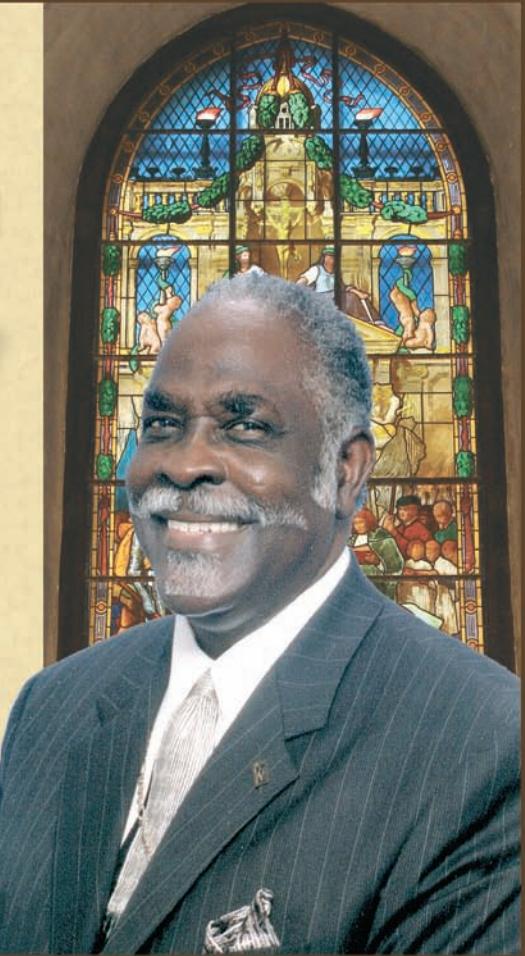
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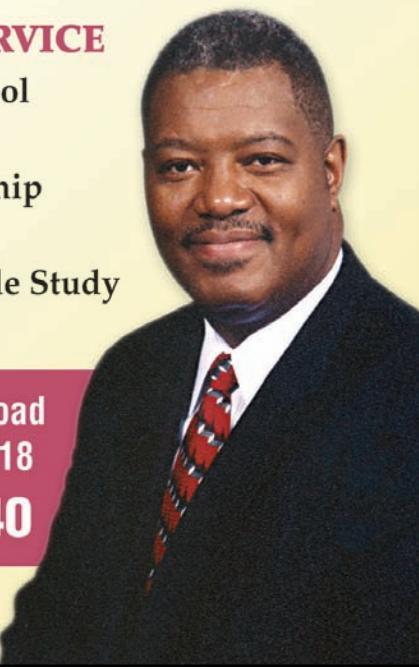
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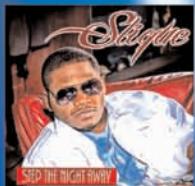
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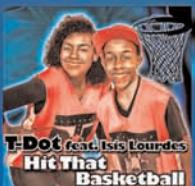
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Black Women's Transitions to Natural Hair

'Natural Hair Short Documentary Film 'Transition'

By Zina Saro-Wiwa

This past week the NYT.com posted an Op-Ed piece and short film “Transition” by the British Nigerian filmmaker, writer and reporter Zina Saro-Wiwa. Zina decided to point her camera toward the droves of black women embracing their natural manes in what is being deemed the “natural hair revolution.”

In an attempt to understand the reasoning behind the movement and why in the past three years more and more women are coddling their curls, Zina made the decision to chop off her own braided extensions.

The film is a brief glimpse into Zina’s journey and the path to understanding what it means for herself and other women to make the transition. “It is not an angry movement,” writes Zina. “Women aren’t saying their motivation is to combat Eurocentric ideals of beauty. Rather, this is a movement characterized by self-discovery and health.”

Read Zina’s full Op-Ed piece over at the NYT.com and check out an extended version of her short film above. And if you’re craving even more au naturel awesomeness, take a look at these images of “The Coiffure Project” by photographer Glenford Nunez.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT OF SUCCESS

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Eatonville Boy Scout Troop 603, based at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, has named eight Eagle Scouts this year. Eatonville Boy Scout Troop's elite 8 are, back row, left to right: Duane Slack, Justin Edge, Calvin Long II and Evan Lewis; front row, left to right: Kerrington Munson, Bradley Porter, Langston Tarver and Ryan Charleston.



Bradley Porter



Calvin Long



EATONVILLE TROOP CELEBRATES 8 EAGLE SCOUTS AT ONCE

If you know anything about the Boy Scouts of America, you know that Eagle Scout is the highest ranking you can get. Not a lot of boys make it to that level. However, last month eight young men make their own history while being inducted in Historical Eatonville, Florida.

The ceremony for the eight Boy Scouts from Troop 603, ranging from the ages of 16 to 18, was at the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. The ranking has been around for about 100 years. In that time, only about two million have received that title or, about four percent. This is the largest group of African-Americans to get this title at one time.

Once an Eagle, always an Eagle – that is what the young men will be known as for the rest of their lives. They've had to dedicate more than 10 years to achieve this, getting 21 life skills merit badges and completing a rather large community service project.

Calvin Long II's project was to raise money so that the local Girl Scouts troop could buy flags and banners, giving them their own sense of identity and helping him attain a new identity of his own. "I don't think it has hit me yet, just how big it is," Long said. "I do understand that it's a big thing and I feel like it's just a matter of time before more and more doors are opened to me. Colleges, military, jobs applications, things that will happen as I step into the real world and actually begin to experience the fruits of my labor."

Another Eagle, Kerrington Munson's project was to raise about 300 books for a local elementary school. "Time management, I would have to say is one of the most important goals that you need to set at the beginning, because with the many things you have to do, quality time must be allocated with anything you wish to succeed in," explained Munson.

The eight said they learned a lot about themselves. They had to rely on each other and their families for support. During the ceremony the Eagles were presented with 30 letters of congratulations which included a very special accommodation from President Barack Obama.



Langston Tarver



James Charleston



Evan Lewis



Justin Edge



Duane Slack



Kerrington Munson

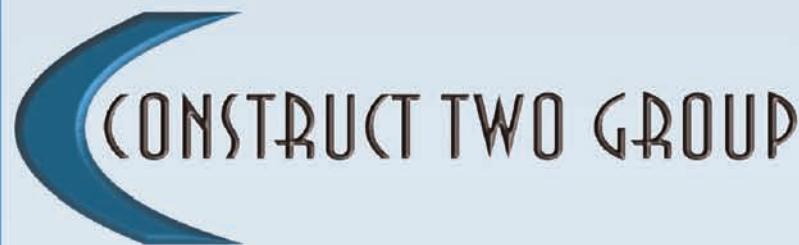


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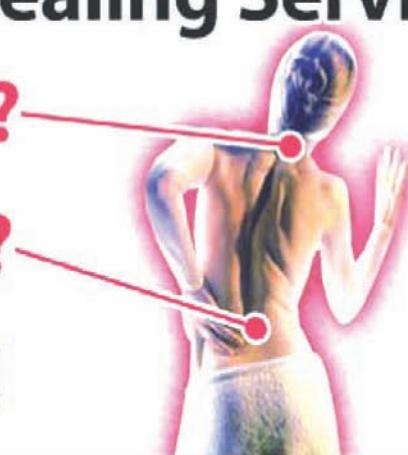
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By Kelsey Tressler



**President Braswell
attends Washington
“fly-in” to meet with
Congressional leaders**

As a technology consultant who flew all over the country closing mega deals in the information technology sector, Allie L. Braswell, Jr. often heard the call — a call to help and to minister to the community. Yet, just as often as he heard the call, he turned it down—that life was for someone else.

Then something funny happened. Braswell was flying over yet another cluster of states to make yet another sale, and he started to look critically at his life. He had a successful job, but he no longer felt any passion for the work he spent hours and hours fulfilling. He was stuck.

“I had everything I was supposed to have,” Braswell recalls from his office near the Amway Center. Beautiful framed photos adorn the room, protecting precious photos of his wife, Rosemary Harris-Braswell and their six children. “A high-paying job, nice vehicles, material things—but I wasn’t happy. I let all of those things define my life and my happiness, when really I needed to live passionately. I wanted to serve the community.”



(l-r) Michael Lewellen, Immediate Past Chair of CFUL Board; O.C. Dist. 2 Commissioner Fred Brummer; O.C. Dist. 6 Commissioner Tiffany Moore-Russell; Allie L. Braswell, Jr.; Rev. Randolph Bracy at CFUL Pine Hills Service Center Open House



Fifth Third Bank team at “2012 Financial Empowerment Summit”

This day spawned a change that would alter the course of Braswell’s entire future. He reconnected with his faith, and began looking for opportunities to help others build their lives.

“By believing in something greater than me, I was able to find the passion in my life and really understand what I was meant to do,” says Braswell, who is now writing a book about his journey.

Following this path, Braswell became President and Chief Executive Officer of the Central Florida Urban

League (CFUL), an organization dedicated to empowering residents to achieve social and economic success for the betterment of the entire region. The CFUL is part of the National Urban League (NUL), a historic civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment in order to elevate the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities.

Founded in 1910 and headquartered in New York City, the NUL spearheads the efforts of its local affiliates through the development of programs, public policy research and advocacy. Today, the CFUL is one of nearly 100 local affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia, providing direct services that impact and improve the lives of more than 2 million people nationwide.

A CEO’s Day is Never Done

The Central Florida affiliate of the NUL was started because community leaders believed the African-American population would benefit from the supportive programs. Today, the CFUL has helped more than 40,000 people — of all backgrounds, races and creeds — create better lives for themselves.



NUL President Marc H. Morial and CFUL President Allie L. Braswell, Jr. at the CFUL's Urban Issues Forum at First Baptist Church of Orlando

office closes. He attends meeting after meeting, function after function, because he deeply cares for this community. Sometimes I don't know how he does it."

In addition to his work at the CFUL, Braswell serves as a member of numerous committees and boards, including the Executive Advisory Board for MyRegion.org, member of the Wells Fargo Community Advisory Board, and the Central Florida Partnership Regional Caucus.

Braswell even dreams about the CFUL, he confides that his best ideas often come to him in the wee hours of the morning. In fact, shortly after he took his position as CEO, one of his biggest ideas yet woke him from his slumber. It was 2 a.m. and he sat up in bed with the concept for a program that would assist Central Floridians in their efforts to return to work, through an "Apprenticeship to Work" model - The Center for Workforce Innovation was born. Concepts like CWI will take the CFUL to heights unseen. He grabbed a notepad and scribbled down the key components before they disappeared from his mind.

The business plan is not the only way in which Braswell has used his own personal experience to enhance the CFUL. As a military veteran who served 13 years in the Marine Corps, Braswell is passionate about veterans returning home. He continues his military service as a U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador, and most recently was appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Center for Minority Veterans by the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veteran Affairs.

The CFUL has worked hard to provide veterans with the help they need to successfully reintegrate into society. It is not always easy. Many veterans return

The non-profit helps families in the areas of Education and Youth Empowerment; Economic Empowerment; Civic Engagement and Leadership Empowerment; Civil Rights and Racial Justice; and Health and Wellness. "We're all about helping families gain a fairer chance at the American dream," Braswell explains. "We're in the business of changing lives."

A self-described 'high-tech, high-touch' leader, Braswell has a big heart and an innate ability to understand people. Many find him a comforting presence, and he has the ability to communicate complicated ideas in an understandable way. "He starts his days early, and stays late," says Shellie-Ann Minnis, Community Relations Director for the CFUL.

"His days aren't over when the



CFUL opens office and learning center in Parramore

suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and a great number of those are African-American or Hispanic service members. Many have trouble asking for help with their disorders, and if they are diagnosed, many have difficulty finding jobs as a result of their mental illness. Braswell, as an US Army Reserve Ambassador, is very dedicated not only to helping veterans, but also to educating employers on the facts of disorders such as PTSD, and the benefits of employing veterans.

"Educating families and church communities about PTSD and helping veterans is essential, but it is also important to educate business owners in the community including barbers, restaurant, gym, convenience store and nightclub owners as well," Braswell wrote in an essay advocating for military veterans. The essay was published in the NUL's *State of Black America* report. "A community-based partnership can greatly expand the support system for veterans."



Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs and Executive Vice President of SAP North America Services, Ross Wainwright, dedicate KaBooM playground



CFULYP helps build SAP-sponsored KaBoom Playground at CFUL Pine Hills Service Center

Braswell hopes to implement a program at CFUL that allows for specially trained caseworkers to focus specifically on helping veterans with job placement and reintegration. If successful, NUL may create similar programs at Urban League affiliates across the country.

A Leader in the Community for the Community

Allie Braswell took the lead in the community and was very vocal about the recent tragedy that took place in Sanford, FL—the untimely death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Professionally as the CEO of CFUL and personally as the father of teenagers,



"Justice for Trayvon Martin" Community Forum at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

he spoke in solidarity with Martin's family and with Sanford residents, calling for the arrest of shooter George Zimmerman and a full examination of the Sanford Police Department.

"I am overcome with dismay when I observe the way that our society unfairly judges our innocent youth," Braswell says. "They are constantly judged for the way they look, for the way they carry

themselves, for the color of their skin. We do our part by encouraging our youth to do well and to stay in school and prosper. But we must also do everything we can to ensure that the environment that they live within is embracing and accepting of them."

As part of his advocacy, Braswell spoke at several rallies with civil rights leaders Rev. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson. Recently, he was invited to participate as a panelist for WESH-TV 2's program, "Race: A Community Conversation." During the program, Braswell emphasized that equality, understanding and empowerment are keys toward racial harmony.

CFUL Stands for Empowering Communities

Since its inception in 1977, the CFUL has been committed to aiding underprivileged families in Central Florida. Helping young people is a significant part of this focus. The CFUL's Youth Education and Prevention department is dedicated to planting the seeds of responsibility, self-worth and hope into the lives of Central Florida's youth. "Through its various programs, the CFUL nurtures more than 1,000 young people a year," Braswell explains.

The Youth Education and Prevention Department coordinates the Black-on-Black Crime Prevention Program (BBC); Project Succeed, a teenage pregnancy prevention program; and the Youth Crime Prevention and Intervention Program (YCPIP), which serves youth between 10-18 years old who are living in at-risk environments.

Each year, the CFUL hosts its Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) that educates, empowers, and develops youth between the ages of 13-18 years old. The YLS covers topics such as entrepreneurship, college prep, health, culture, and healthy relationships. In addition, the CFUL hosts the National Urban League Incentives to Excel & Succeed (NULITES) program, which focuses on providing opportunities for youth from economically and socially challenged backgrounds and diverse cultures to become self-sufficient, competent and contributing members of society.

Homebuyers Educational Program and Emergency Financial Assistance Program offers economic services to families in need. As a HUD-certified comprehensive housing counseling agency, the CFUL helps families looking for affordable housing, mortgage and financial counseling, pre- and post-purchase counseling. "Through



First Time Homebuyer Education Seminar at "2012 Financial Empowerment Summit"



CFUL & Fifth Third Bank partner to host “2012 Financial Empowerment Summit”

minorities and small businesses owners in improving their overall financial situation and guaranteeing them financial success in the future.

As part of its Rental Readiness Program, CFUL educates its clients on understanding a lease, choosing a neighborhood, inspecting an apartment, and renter's insurance options. Finally, in response to the foreclosure crises of the community, the CFUL hosts one-on-one and group counseling sessions.

“People can get help in restructuring debt, establishing reinstatement plans, seeking loan modifications and managing household finances,” Braswell explains. “We want to assist clients who are affected by predatory lending through our foreclosure prevention and education workshops, and pursuing loss mitigation strategies.”

Center for Workforce Innovation (CWI), recently launched allows the CFUL in addition to its youth and economic programs to focus on workforce development. CWI a public/private collaborative providing employability skills and serving as a developmental training center specializing in new economy jobs for Central Floridians in the 21st century throughout the emerging “Super Region.” Through the Center, CFUL aims to increase job availability and connect workers with necessary outside sources.

“Job seekers receive assistance in finding employment, exploring careers and upgrading their skills through education and training,” adds Braswell, who was invited to speak at the White House and on C-SPAN about jobs. “CWI teaches marketable job skills to the newly unemployed, veterans, non-violent ex-offenders and other members of the underserved community.”

The CWI program benefits both local residents and employers by giving residents the training they need to be successful, and providing employers with the skilled talent they need. The CWI structure also allows for creation of a new training curriculum, and provides a “plug and play” tool for local and

this program, we can combat homelessness and help minority and struggling families in this difficult housing market,” Braswell says.

The CFUL’s Comprehensive Housing Counseling Program includes a Budget and Credit Counseling course to help families develop a budget, examine spending habits, reduce existing debt, and develop savings strategies. Many of these same topics are discussed during the CFUL’s annual Financial Empowerment Summit, which is geared toward aiding families, women,



NUL & CFUL Presidents join members of NBRPA during NBA All-Star Weekend



National Basketball Retired Players Association partners with CFUL to mentor youth



Members of NBRPA lend a hand in support of local Urban League youth



Ocoee Mayor Scott Vandergrift attends CFUL KaBoom playground build



It takes a village to build a playground



CFUL client testimonial during its "Bridges to the Future" annual luncheon event

regional employers to execute job-specific training modules to solve current and future workforce needs. Life skills training will focus on developing skills that support changes in managing day-to-day situations and ultimately result in managing the world of work and long-term job retention. Skills covered during the workshops include: money management; professional appearance and conduct in the workplace; career path goals; crisis management; successful self-image and healthcare education. CWI supports the NUL's 8-Point Plan, which focuses on educating people, which will provide for a stronger workforce and ultimately more employment. In having a strong education system and providing for specific job training, the NUL and the CFUL help families navigate the difficult job market.



*Team Braswell makes playground build a family affair
(Allie L. Braswell, Jr., wife Rosemary Braswell and son James Braswell)*



Pine Hills youth create art for playground

There's a Place for You at the Urban League

"We can't do any of this alone," Braswell says solemnly. "We depend on support from the community in order to give back to residents who need assistance most. Of course we need financial support, but we also welcome your gifts of time and talent."

Join Us Today... if you share our vision for a stronger Central Florida economy and community,

consider joining the CFUL as a Member of the Guild, a Volunteer Auxiliary of the Urban League. The Guild engages mature volunteers who possess a diverse cross-section of talents and abilities, and who express a passion for getting involved, empowering communities and changing lives. For younger professionals, there is the **CFUL Young Professionals** group, a network for those ages 21-40 that provides leadership development, economic empowerment and community volunteer opportunities.

To learn how you can be a part of the Central Florida Urban League, visit www.cful.org or call 407.841.7654.

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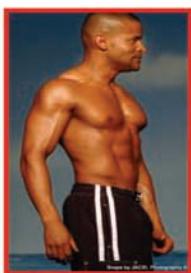


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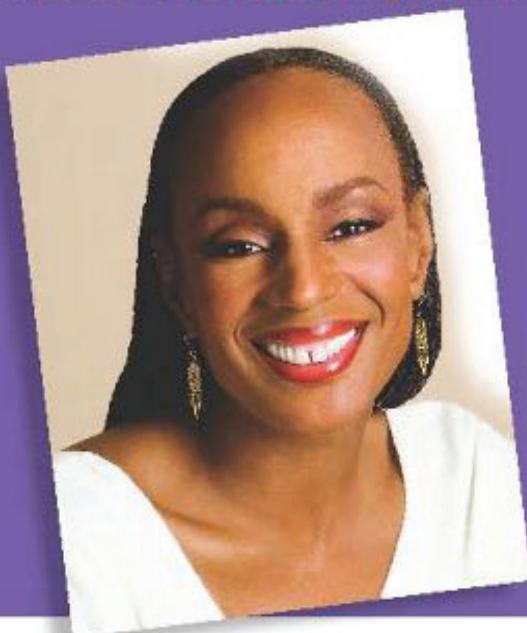


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Women's Health Matters

By Dominique D. Barrs, M.S.M.S

Save Your Child Life by Saving the Umbilical Cord

After, delivery, while the doctor is finding the scissors to hand to the proud father, he leans over to the parents and asks them if they would like to preserve the umbilical cord blood from the newborn, and send it to a blood bank for preservation and possible future use. Umbilical Cord blood contains stem cells, which can differentiate into any type of tissue, organ, or system that you want to culture it to become. This can be great, if an incident occurs during the child's life, or possibly a relative's, where tissues, or an organ, or a system can be needed, and the availability of someone else's is slow or not progressing in the given time frame. With stem cells, the physician can allow the cells to differentiate into the desired organ or tissue, and transplant these cells into the body, in hopes to curing or solving the predicament. So many diseases can currently be cured with stem cells. Inherited metabolic disorders, such as Tay Sachs and Wolman Disease can be treated and cured with these stem cells. All of the bone marrow disorders, blood cancers, leukemias, and lymphomas, are also curable. More common ailments and diseases like Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ovarian Cancer, Testicular Cancer, and Sickle Cell Disease all can use the cord blood as a remedy.

This option, of storing the cord blood, is given to everyone, before delivery, and confirmed at birth. The process is easy. If the parents decide to save and store the cord blood, once the umbilical cord is cut as usual, the blood is collected from the cord, sealed and secured, and immediately shipped off to a blood bank for storage. Families, who participate, have the option of using this blood for their retention, or they could donate the blood for science, or give to a family in need. Relatives of the stored blood

have a high success rate of survival, using the stem cells extracted from the cord blood. In comparison to using donated stem cells, the success rate is double if using your own. Complications can arise more in unrelated, not genetic blood, than using genetic blood; however, donating cord blood, still is a gift that can potentially save a life.

This concept of preventative medicine is a great idea, but not a frugal option because this is an elective procedure. At CBR Cord Blood Registry, the world's leading cord blood registry with offices located in California and storage banks in Arizona, the cost to initially collect, process and join the bank is between 1,500 and 1,900 dollars. Then, each year, the family would pay around \$125 to store the blood. So, if you are looking to house the blood during the developmental ages of birth to ten years of age, you are roughly paying \$3,150. This price isn't too steep, but you definitely have to

make your decision based on "what if" and for how long do you want to store the stem cells.

Despite what anyone feels or thinks, there are documented cases of success stories where stem cells collected were used and they cured the patient. A testimony of how this worked, as documented by CBR Cord Blood Registry, CBR because their facilities were used, includes the story of a little boy named Joseph. Joseph, Jr. was born to a couple after undergoing infertility treatment. His parents, being African American happened to carry the genes for sickle cell anemia, and Joseph inherited this disease. Having this disease, Joseph suffered with all the typical symptoms associated with illness. Tired of seeing their son suffer with the pain, fevers, and swollen limbs, and even the multiple blood transfusions, Joseph's parents decided to look for alternative solutions . For years, Joseph's parents and physicians looked for a match both in stem cells in bone marrow and umbilical cord blood. The search was continuing with no prevail, until Joseph's mother not only found out that she was pregnant, but that the baby was a match for Joseph. When Joseph's baby brother was born, his umbilical cord blood was taken, processed, and stored at CBR. Chemotherapy destroyed all of Joseph's sickled cells, and the stem cells were transplanted into Joseph to rebuild him a new red blood cell bank, free of sickled cells. With much success, Joseph recovered, free of disease, free of pain, free to live a more healthy life.



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Midtown Cultural and Educational Center opens in Daytona Beach



Mayor Ritchey and dignitaries cut ribbon for grand opening.

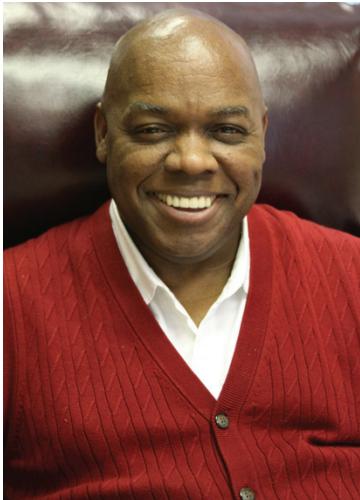
The New Midtown Cultural and Educational Center opened in Daytona Beach on Tuesday May 29, 2012. The new \$4.5 million building is a 23,000 square foot state of the art environmentally friendly facility that replaces the City's old Cypress Street Recreation Center that was originally built in 1949. Funding for the massive new facility came partially from a \$1.2 million Volusia County's Environmental, Cultural, Historic and Outdoors (ECHO) grant along with \$800,000 from city funds and a \$2.5 million loan.

The facility is twice the size of the previous building and will serve the communities Cultural, Educational and Athletic needs. In the cultural and educational wing the building sports a dance studio, computer lab, art room with kiln for pottery, music studio, and culinary arts kitchen.



Program Success Publisher Darryl A. Barrs,
Bethune-Cookman University President Dr. Edison O. Jackson,
and Daytona Beach Police Chief Michael Chitwood

The athletic side of the house which is named for local long time educator and legendary Coach T.R. Faircloth sports a full climate controlled regulation gymnasium with a volleyball over lay for competitive matches and two full cross court hoops layout making it



Percy Williamson
Director of Leisure
Services, City of
Daytona Beach



possible for multiple youth games to be played at the same time.

The gymnasium floor by “Conner” is beautifully done in spruce hardwood with the City of Daytona Beach logo displayed prominently at center court. All the adjacent walls are padded throughout the facility and acoustical tiles adorn the upper portions of the facility to further enhance its multi-purpose capabilities as a concert hall or banquet palace suitable for after five events.

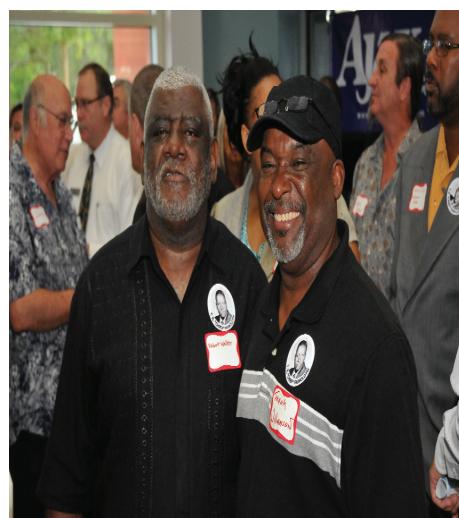
The old Cypress Recreation Building was a hub of community activity back in the day. The new Midtown Cultural & Educational Center will truly pick up where its predecessor left off and then some.



Coach T.R. Faircloth Children
and family



Facility guides tour visiting city residents
throughout the culture



Robert Walker and Frank Williamson
enjoy the mornings



State Representative Dwayne Taylor greets new
president of B-CU Dr. Edison O. Jackson

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Publisher's Editorial



Winners And Losers

The Bible tells us an interesting story in Luke 16:19, of two men; one rich and the other poor. The poor man would have himself carried each day to the gate of the rich man's mansion to beg of the crumbs, which fell from the rich man's table. Not once did the rich man oblige a morsel.

Then one day both men died. At death, the Angels carried the poor man into Abraham's bosom, and the rich man was ushered to hell. From his torment, the Bible says, the rich man could see the poor man resting in comfort. Can you imagine the thought of both men at this reversal of fortune? What a difference a day makes.

That's life. We all can taste the sweet juices of the fruits of the mountaintop of success one-day, and the very next day the abandon shadows of the dark valley of pain and defeat can cover us. Life is not constant, things will either get better for us or things will get worse. Our own personal actions determine the course of direction our life takes each and everyday.

We all want to win. Be better and do better. Tomorrow we want to see ourselves further along than we were yesterday. Closer to our goal. Some basic keys to success are: 1) Plan Your Work & Work Your Plan, and 2) To Thy Ownself Be True.

No matter what your goal in life is - you must have a plan. Where you want to go and how you're going to get there. Everyday you must do something credible that genuinely sets you closer to reaching that goal. Monitor your steps and "To Thy Ownself Be True."

Self-evaluation is very important in life. What does it profit you to lie to you? To correctly evaluate yourself, you must first take away all the gray-areas. The world we live in is Black or White, Right or Wrong, Up or Down. Many times when we evaluate ourselves, we find it hard to admit being wrong, so we pencil ourselves in a gray-area. Not quite Black; Not quite White... Gray! Somewhere between right and wrong – in the middle.

Darryl A. Barrs, Sr., Publisher/Managing Editor

To Thy Ownself Be True. You can't help you when you think nothing is wrong with you. Whatever plans you make in the presence of self-denial are programmed for failure, which is the opposite of Program Success. The truth is that every moment of your life you are at all times, either Right or Wrong, Up or Down, a Winner or a Loser... No Gray-Areas.

In your relationships, don't be afraid to admit being wrong or doing something stupid. You can grow from a negative experience and build a positive future relationship knowing what you did wrong. Don't deny being down in life when things just aren't connecting. Everybody have stages when it's hard paying bills or getting a desirable job. "Constructive Discontentment" is not liking your present situation enough to the point of doing something about it.

Finally, when you plan your work and work your plan, you must evaluate your progress. Everyday you are either a Winner or a Loser. You are a Winner when you do those things you planned to do and they take you closer to achieving your goal. You are a Loser when you fail to do what you planned and expected of yourself.

Don't place yourself in a gray-area saying you're all right when you know you haven't done what you should and are not where you want to be. That's self-destructive behavior and it only attributes to failure and underachievement.

Understand this, as our Bible story teaches us, one day can make a big difference. At anytime a Winner can become a Loser, and a Loser can become a Winner. It's your actions that determine your direction. Only what you do matters towards your success. But first and most importantly, you must know where you are today. Are you Down staying Down? Down going Up? Up going Down? Up going Up Higher? To Thy Ownself Be True.





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