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Success**

MAY 2012



Loretta Faith Harris

Her car was brutally struck broadside by a stolen vehicle running from the police. One of her two student passengers died at the scene. She was air-lifted to a trauma unit where she passed from life to death three different times. Her mangled organs, internal bleeding, and crushed bones from that day forever defined her life as one of

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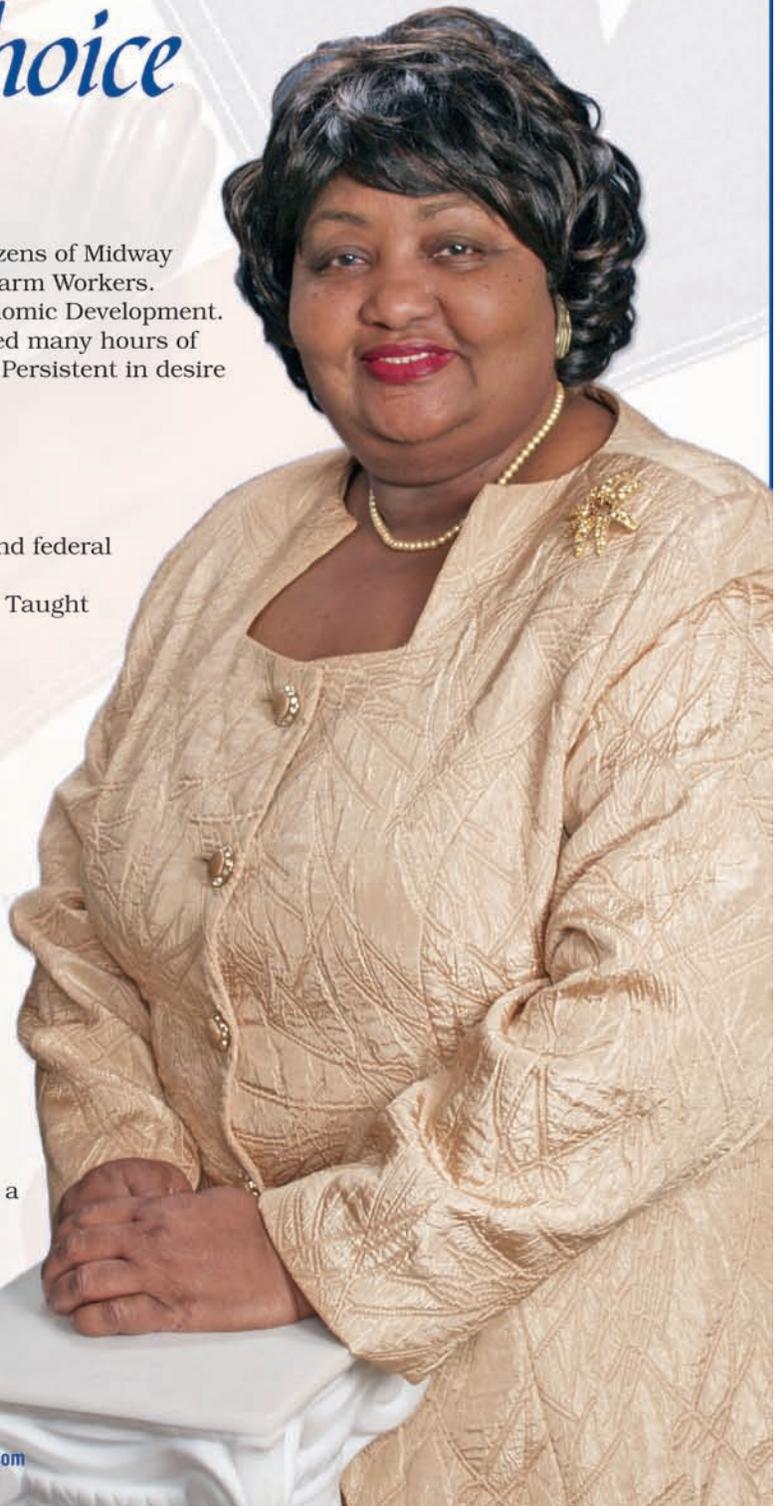
Practice law since 1977 in county and circuit courts; state and federal appellate courts and agencies. Practice civil, criminal and administrative law. Received many awards and recognitions. Taught Litigation Skills. Law Lecturer.

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Small Business Marketing Mistakes

By: Robert M. Spooner, Th. D.

Executive Director/CEO, African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida

Most small business entrepreneurs operate with a limited budget and I have determined that when an entrepreneur has a limited budget, committing too many mistakes equates to lost dollars. It is an open secret in the business world that most of the mistakes that can be committed in business have been committed; so why not just learn from them, saving you the agony of committing them yourself. With that said, here are 5 costly small business marketing mistakes every entrepreneur must avoid:

1. An Incongruent Marketing Message

To effectively sell your product or service, your customer has to “get” the marketing message. A customer-centric marketing message educates your prospects and persuades them to become customers. Too many small businesses make the mistake of focusing their message on the product or company, instead of how the prospect would benefit by purchasing their product. Prepare the right marketing message with some of these in mind:

- Identify the prospect’s problem.
- Explain to the prospect why the problem should be solved immediately and explain why your product or service is the right solution to their problems.
- List the benefits your prospects would enjoy upon purchasing your product and provide an unconditional guarantee to allay any fears they may have.

2. “Spray-and-Pray” Marketing Instead Of Precision Marketing

The days of marketing as a zero-sum game are over. You must demand accountability from your marketing efforts, expecting tangible results in the form of a healthy ROI (return on investment). Differentiate your marketing messages and target them to meet the specific needs and wants of your prospects and customers.

Many small businesses are guilty of the dreaded “spray-and-pray” marketing ideology, which inevitably drains their resources to the point where it very often leads to their demise.

Do not commit this same mistake, but instead practice precision marketing, where every aspect of your marketing and advertising efforts are measured and tracked for maximum returns.

3. Failing To Realize Marketing Is About Value Creation

To create a sustainable small business, you have to market something of value to the prospect and customer. Marketing is your business and creating value for your customers should permeate through all your marketing efforts. Strive to always over-deliver because customers love to receive more than they expect and the easiest way to do so is to develop a thorough understanding of their wants and desires.

4. Selling Instead Of Educating

Most people have heard the age-old principle “people love to buy but hate being sold to.” It is a principle that will continue to hold true for ages to come, but unfortunately, many small businesses still fail to adhere to it. The fastest way to get rid of a prospect is to try forcing a sale on him or her.

Education-based marketing, however, is a powerful marketing strategy to overcome this problem of being sold to. This strategy makes use of giving away valuable information, educating your prospect about the benefits of owning your product or using your service, offered to them as free reports, video cassettes, CDs, or DVDs in exchange for their contact information.

It is a strategy that builds trust with the prospects resulting in a much higher closing ratio. So, forget about using a pitch and try educating your prospects with the goal of obtaining a higher conversion rate.

5. Not Following Up With Prospects Or Customers

Small businesses spend a great sum of money acquiring customers, which makes it all the more difficult to understand why many of them don’t follow up with their customers, or even their prospects after the “front end” sale.

It has been well documented that true riches are to be found in the backend sales and the reason for this is simple. If a customer or prospect raises his or her hand to do business with you, it means an element of trust has been established and a business relationship is ready to be formed. They are more than likely to buy from you repeatedly if you make it a point to capture their contact information and develop a follow-up system for communicating with them frequently.

6. Selling To The Wrong Target Market

Never assume that your product or service will appeal to a general audience because this assumption has profoundly resulted in many small businesses shutting up shop. Large businesses are guilty of this too, but you can save yourself from committing such a rash mistake by asking yourself these two questions:

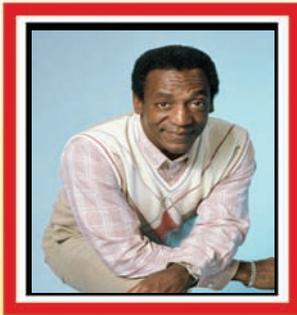
- Who are your customers, or who is your target market?
- Who will use your service, or who will buy your product?

Answer these questions with absolutely clarity and segment these markets by demographics and psychographics to zero in on your ideal customer. The time spent doing this correctly will add nicely to your bottom line. Just remember that to succeed, you must be prepared to fail, so don’t fear the eventual mistake but learn from it.



Dr. Robert M. Spooner

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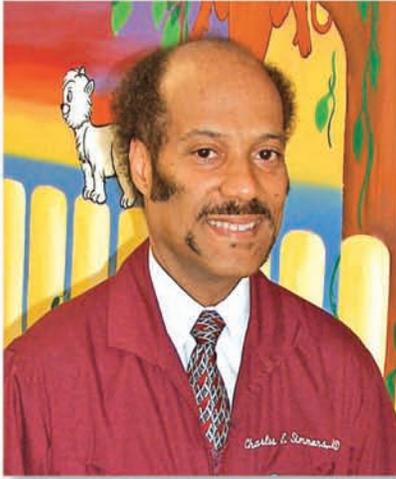
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Dr. Charles E. Simmons

CESAREAN SECTION

By Dr. Charles E. Simmons
 Simmons Pediatrics, Jacksonville, FL
 Assisted By Dominique D. Barrs
 Medical Student

Once used during the Egyptian times solely as a method to remove the baby after its mother died during delivery, the cesarean section (C -section), is now an option for the doctor as a method for childbirth now in the 21st century. A cesarean section is the delivery of a baby through a surgical incision in the mother's abdomen and uterus. In some cases, the doctor will schedule a C-section in advance. In other cases, there is no planning period, and is needed due to an unforeseen complication. This is a major abdominal surgery, and unlike what its popularity may suggest, it is riskier than a vaginal delivery.

Some women may have conditions that will require them to plan having a cesarean birth before she even goes into labor. For women who have had a myomectomy, the surgical removal of the fibroids, or any other type of uterine surgery, the doctor may opt to automatically schedule the C-section birth. Also, women carrying more than one baby generally deliver in this manner. Twins can be delivered vaginally, but all other high-order multiples may require a C-section. If the mother has a condition such as heart disease that could be made worse by the stress of labor, or if she possesses an active infection such as herpes, which can be passed during a vaginal birth, a C-section could be planned. Also, if the baby is positioned in a breech, bottom first position, or transverse, sideways position, the doctor will schedule to have the baby removed by C-section.

Sometimes, during labor, complications may emerge that make continuing or inducing labor risky, and the doctor must remove the baby. There are times that a mother's cervix stops dilating or the baby stops moving down the birth canal. After all other attempts to stimulate contractions to get things moving again have failed; the physician then takes over and completes what the body has failed to do. The baby's heart rate is also a key indicator in the birthing process. Whether too fast, or too slow, if the baby shows any sign of distress, then the preparation for a cesarean section goes underway. The baby must have a constant flow of oxygen present both before and during delivery. If at any time the mother's placenta starts to separate from the uterine wall (placental abruption), or if the umbilical cord slips through the cervix (a prolapsed cord), the baby must be delivered immediately. Both of these scenarios cut off the baby's oxygen supply and can result in fatality.

The preparation for having a cesarean section is very similar to having a vaginal birth, with a few modifications. You will be asked to sign a consent form before surgery, to ensure that you are aware of why the c-section is necessary for your delivery. You may be given an epidural or spinal block, which will numb the lower half of your body, but allows you to be alert and conscious. The mother will still feel pressure and tugging, but no pain. A catheter is inserted into the mother's urethra to drain urine during the procedure, and an IV started. The mother is then cleaned and further



prepped for surgery. Anesthesia is administered, and a screen is raised to prevent the mother from seeing any cuts that will be made. The "bikini cut" is the first incision that is made in the skin above the pubic bone. The doctor will then cut through the tissue making its way to the uterus. At the uterus, another horizontal incision is made in the lower section of it. This is called a low transverse incision. At this time, the doctor will reach in and remove the baby, briefly show the mother, then allow the pediatrician to examine the newborn. The doctor will then deliver your placenta and begin closing the mother.

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Dr. Wendi K. Wardlaw

Dr. Wendi K. Wardlaw is no stranger to dentistry. She has devoted over 20 years growing and establishing herself in her profession. Dr. Wardlaw served her country spending 10 years active duty while serving in the US Army Dental Corps. She worked as a dental assistant then trained for extended duties as a hygienist with expanded functions to place and carve dental restorations. She has managed several dental offices and explored many avenues of dentistry before reaching her goal of attending dental school.

Dr. Wardlaw attended Howard University where she graduated from the College of Dentistry in Washington, DC and went on to complete an Advanced Education in General and Cosmetic Dentistry at Columbia University in New York City. Dr. Wardlaw cares about the health of her patients and the community at large. She cares about the disparities in healthcare and dentistry and has a community outreach focus. She is committed to continuing education and healthy lifelong care for her patients. From school visits on oral health education to overseas dental missions, Dr. Wardlaw is involved.

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Wealth Gap Widens for Women, Especially Minorities

Jennifer Frazier can point to the exact moment when her financial stability came crashing down. It was November 2010 and Frazier, a lead inspector with the Bridgeport Health Department, got caught in the middle of the city's plan to plug an \$8 million budget gap through union concessions or layoffs. "I got laid off and that pretty much started my downfall for me," said Frazier during a rare break in the middle of a recent spring afternoon.

When her \$38,000 salary went away, Frazier also lost her health insurance, got months behind on her mortgage payments and had to stretch an unemployment check to pay for utilities, child care, groceries and other expenses. All too quickly, the 36-year-old single mom realized that the \$4,000 in her savings account was just not enough.

"Financial planners say you should have at least six months of monthly payments (in savings) but that's not realistic," Frazier said. "Not for me. And not for anyone, I think." After the layoff, Frazier was one unemployment check away from disaster. Many women are.

Women are far more financially vulnerable than men. Not only do women in Connecticut earn 76 percent of what men earn, but women are less likely than men to have the assets — home, savings account, car, anything that can be used to pay bills — to help keep them afloat if income disappears, according to research by former Harvard University professor Mariko Chang. She spoke recently about women and the wealth gap at a Women's Day forum at the state Capitol.

For minority women such as Frazier, who is African-American, the gap is even worse. Chang's research shows women are less likely than men to have jobs that offer benefits like health insurance or retirement accounts. They are also more likely to financially support a child or parent. And while the median income for men and women is narrowing, the picture is worse when comparing median wealth, which is measured by subtracting a person's debt from his or her assets.

Data show men's median wealth is nearly \$20,000, while women's median wealth is a ghastly \$1,550. For African-Americans, the median wealth was just \$100 in 2007 and for Hispanic women it was \$120. New data to be released soon will likely show even more mind-boggling numbers, said Chang, author of the book "Shortchanged: Why Women Have Less Wealth and What Can Be Done About It."

Thankfully for Frazier, her life settled down when the city of Bridgeport hired her back in June 2011. But being unemployed for nearly seven months changed her life forever. She is still struggling to catch up and will soon have new debt to pay off — \$100,000 in student loans when she completes her studies toward a master's degree in social work from Fordham University.

It's time government officials turn their attention to narrowing the wealth gap and put in place policies that can help women and minorities build up their assets. Frazier tried to do everything right. She tried to save money, pay her bills on time and earn a degree that could get her out of the soul-sucking, paycheck-to-paycheck existence. She should be able to get ahead and have a fair chance at an income — and wealth — level that men are able to enjoy.





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Mitt Romney addressing a crowd in Prattville, Alabama on Monday, April 23, 2012, made the follow statement:

I understand how difficult it can be for an African-American in today's society. In fact, I can relate to black people very well indeed.

My ancestors once owned slaves, and it is in my lineage to work closely with the black community.

However, just because they were freed over a century ago doesn't mean they can now be freeloaders.

They need to be told to work hard, and the incentives just aren't there for them anymore.

When I'm president I plan to work closely with the black community to bring a sense of pride and work ethic back into view for them.

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A Forgotten Mother

By Pastor Leon R. Bing

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Gen 16:7-15

7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar beside a desert spring along the road to Shur.

8 The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I am running away from my mistress,” she replied.

9 Then the angel of the LORD said, “Return to your mistress and submit to her authority.”

10 The angel added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.”

11 And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard about your misery.

12 This son of yours will be a wild one — free and untamed as a wild donkey! He will be against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live at odds with the rest of his brothers.”

13 Thereafter, Hagar referred to the LORD, who had spoken to her, as “the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have seen the One who sees me!”

14 Later that well was named Beer-lahairoi, and it can still be found between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael.

New Living Translation

First I would like to say Happy Mother’s Day to all of you wonderful ladies who are mothers. This is your special time where we celebrate you! But in reality, you are celebrated everyday!

Last year we had a young minister to speak at our church on Mother’s Day, and she spoke on the above passage of Scripture. This was a powerful message and I want to share some key points of that message with you. It takes place after Sarah has given her handmaid, Hagar, over to her husband Abram (who we know becomes Abraham). But after Hagar discovers that she had become Pregnant, she had contempt for Sarah. This caused Sarah to treat her harshly. Well now Hagar begins to go through a state of depression, and she goes out to a desert place where something amazingly happens to her.

7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar beside a desert spring along the road to Shur.

8 The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I am running away from my mistress,” she replied.

9 Then the angel of the LORD said, “Return to your mistress and submit to her authority.”



We see in verse 7, that the angel of the Lord finds her “**beside a desert spring**”.

How many mothers find themselves in a desert place because of life’s challenges? It seems at times that you are all alone and there’s no one who understands what you are going through. Well ladies God knows, and he cares for you! Then in verse 8, a very profound question is asked, “**Where have you come from and where are you going?**”

Sometimes ladies there are times when you have contemplated this same question, right? Your problems can seem so large that you see no way out! But know this God is a god that cares for us all!

Let’s take a moment to look at Hagar. Hagar is the first single parent mentioned in the Scriptures! And she is the first non Jewish person that God has spoken to and gives his blessings to. I know that the Jewish race is in its infancy stage, but I think you follow me with this. Now back to the message.

The end of verse 8 Hagar states that she was running away from her mistress, Sarah. In verse 8 the angel of the Lord tells her to return back to Sarah. It is God that tells us to stop running from our issues and to face them! The thing is when we face them in obedience to God, we don’t face them alone! He is with us to lead us and guide us in the way we should go!

10 The angel added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.”

11 And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard about your misery.

12 This son of yours will be a wild one — free and untamed as a wild donkey! He will be against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live at odds with the rest of his brothers.”

Verse 10 says that “**the angel added.**” He did not just send her back, but the angel sends her back with blessings. When God sends you back to face your issues, you do not go empty handed, there are blessings following you! In verse 11, the angel tells her what to name her child, **Ishmael, for the Lord has heard about your misery!** God hears your cry ladies, he counts your tears, and you are NOT alone! All of your struggles to make ends meet, God knows them. But many of you just flat out give up! Trust in the Lord! In

See MOTHER page 14

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MOTHER continued from page 13

verse 12, we actually see why there is trouble today in the Middle East. The descendants of Ishmael are the Arabs; they are fighting against the Jews. This is a battle that will not end until Jesus returns!

13 Thereafter, Hagar referred to the LORD, who had spoken to her, as “the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have seen the One who sees me!”

14 Later that well was named Beer-lahairoi, and it can still be found between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael.

Now Hagar begins to recognize the Lord God by giving him a special name, “EL ROI, the God who sees me”, when Hagar thought that she was all alone. God reassured her that He was there. And that he cared.

In verse 14, we see that the place where Hagar was met by the Lord as been named. And then at the appointed time Hagar became a Mother. A mother with a promise from God!

Many women find themselves in desert places, but know that you don't have to remain there. God desires to bless your lives, will you allow him to? Remember, you are not forgotten, God knows your name. I pray that this blesses someone out there, who may be in a desert place, EL Roi sees you, for He is the God who sees you!

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The reward is widespread recognition; the punishment, fierce denial and detraction. When a man's work becomes a standard for the whole world, it also becomes a target for the shafts of the envious few. If his work be merely mediocre, he will be left severely alone. If he achieve a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues a-wagging.

Jealousy does not protrude its forked tongue at the artist who produces a commonplace painting. Whatsoever you write, or paint, or play or sing, or build, no one will strive to surpass or to slander you, unless your work be stamped with the seal of genius.

Long, long after a great work or a good work has been done, those who are disappointed or envious continue to cry out that it cannot be done.

Spiteful little voices in the domain of art were raised against our own Whistler as a mountebank, long after the big world had acclaimed him its greatest artistic genius.

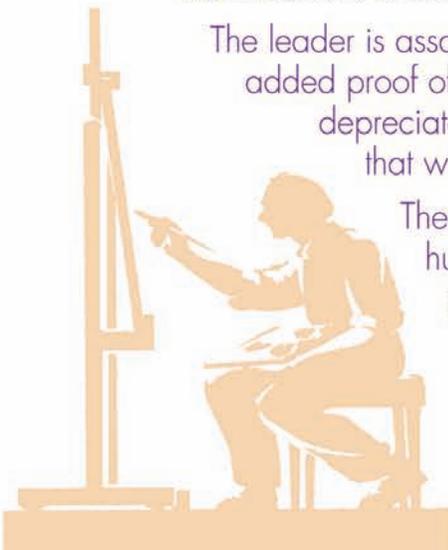
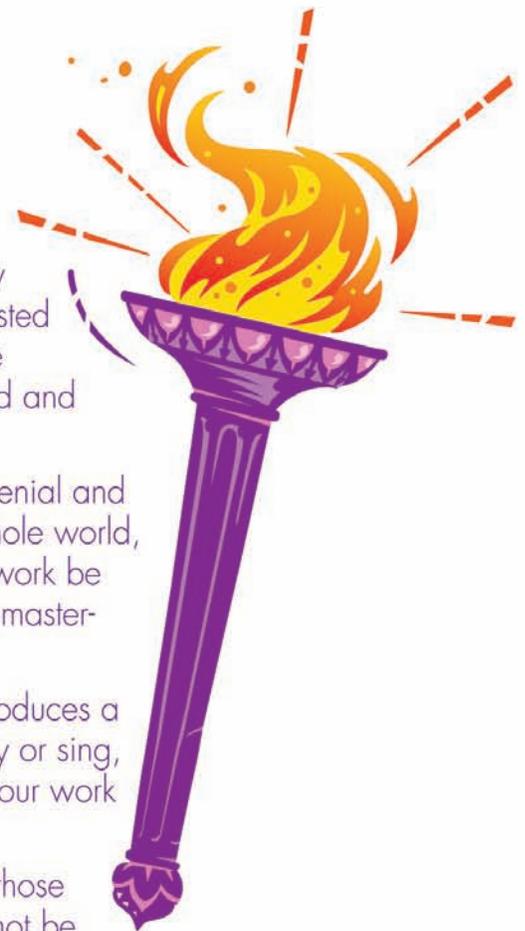
Multitudes flocked to Bayreuth to worship at the musical shrine of Wagner, while the little group of those whom he had dethroned and displaced argued angrily that he was no musician at all.

The little world continued to protest that Fulton could never build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the river banks to see his boat steam by.

The leader is assailed because he is a leader, and the effort to equal him is merely added proof of that leadership. Failing to equal or to excel, the follower seeks to depreciate and to destroy - but only confirms once more that superiority of that which he strives to supplant.

There is nothing new in this. It is as old as the world and as old as the human passions: envy, fear, greed, ambition, and the desire to surpass. And it all avails nothing.

If the leader truly leads, he remains the leader. Master-poet, master-painter, master-workman, each in his turn is assailed, and each holds his laurel through the ages. That which is good or great makes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. That which deserves to live - lives.



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Is there a Food Desert near your Community?

Maybe. The fact is millions of Americans live in what the USDA defines as a Food Desert: a low-income census tract whose residents have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. To see where the closest food desert is to your home, check the USDA's interactive map <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FoodDesert/fooddesert.html>

Nutrition has been a core element of The Junior League's Mission going all the way back to Mary Harriman and her work with poor immigrant families in New York City 110 years ago. The Kids in the Kitchen program is AJLI's signature program on fighting childhood obesity, of course, but individual Leagues are finding a wide array of ways to tackle nutrition issues, from educational programs to providing needy children with backpacks full of healthy food to bring home for weekends and vacations.

The Junior League of Greater Orlando is tackling the problem from a wider perspective that has the potential to create "lasting community impact" across all of Florida, the 4th largest state in population and one of the most densely populated. The hoped-for solution: bring investment in fresh-food retailing into Florida's poorest neighborhoods.



State Senator Gary Siplin and members of The Junior League of Greater Orlando

Although the state is the source of much of the nation's fresh fruit and vegetables, says JLGO member Katherine Martin, "There is a great need in Florida to bring healthy food into food deserts here. I have worked in low-income communities where children did not know what a red pepper looks like and had never tasted yogurt. Just having access to healthy food in schools is not enough."

Food insecurity is a problem in JLGO's core community – Orlando and surrounding Orange County have nearly 44,000 people who live in food insecure homes, with more than a quarter of them children – but also Florida as a whole. The League says that 17.5% of children there live in food insecure homes and that more than 27.5% of all Floridians are food insecure. So JLGO went for a solution (or at least the start of one) that addresses the problem from a statewide perspective rather than just an Orlando perspective.

To that end, JLGO worked with Senator Gary Siplin, who introduced Senate Bill 852 in the Florida Senate. The bill provides critical one-time grant and loan financing to help fresh food retailers overcome the higher initial barriers into underserved, low-income communities, and also supports renovation and expansion of existing stores so they can provide the healthy foods that communities want and need. A major first step in its ultimate passage came in January with the unanimous approval of the bill by the Senate Agriculture Committee, sending it to the Senate Budget Subcommittee on General Government Appropriations.

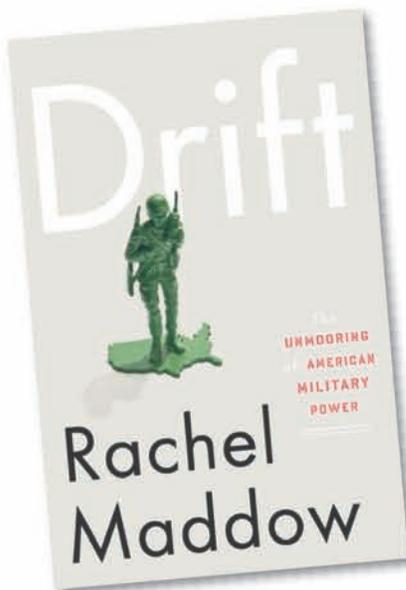
Recently language from Senate Bill 852 was also adopted by Senator Ronda Storms who amended her Senate Bill 1658 to include the Healthy Food Retail Act which hopes to increase chances of the bill passing out of the Senate and into the House. Will Senate Bill 852 ultimately pass and become law? Time will tell. But this initiative is an important part – but by no means the only one – of JLGO's new core cause: Childhood Health, Hunger and Poverty.

Memorial Day – A Time to Appreciate Veterans



By Dominique D. Barrs
Program Success Staff Writer

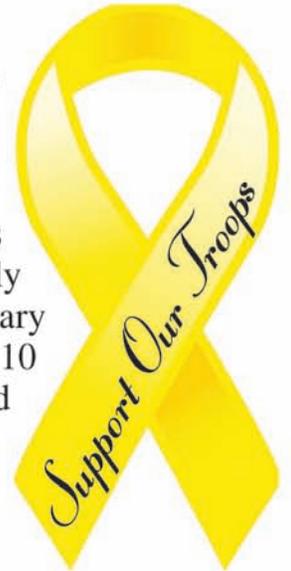
Remember back-in-the-day, when you would have to seek out a Veteran, and ask them about War? What was it like? What did you see? Before you could even ask your next question, you could see that proud twinkle in their eye, as they knew they had done a good deed. After trying to visualize what they had seen, you thanked them for their hard work and service to our country. Today, for that same experience, you can ask a classmate, a neighbor, and close relative. They are the New Veterans in these times of war.



In a recent interview, MSNBC host Rachel Maddow, promoted her new book. It is called *Drift (The Unmooring of American Military Power)*. In an attempt to explain her book, she pointed out the following facts.

- We have been at war since September 11, 2001
- War in Iraq ended in December 2011

If you are in a civilian family, you may not pay that much attention to the war and the troops. It has been going on for some time, and the headlines you read, have become slightly redundant. If you are a military family however, for the past 10 years, you may have witnessed multiple deployments. You restlessly await for your loved one to return.



So her question was, when did we get so desensitized? When did the war become an everyday occurrence? She adds, “We used to be a COUNTRY at war, now we are a country that SENDS military to war.”

Alarming, but true, how sad is this to have to point out? After World War II ended in 1945, and the Gulf War ended in 1991, streamers of red, white, and blue cascaded down buildings across the United States, as we welcomed home our troops. Happy to have them home, celebrations, parties, and parades, were held in their honor. The streets of New York and Washington, D.C., were filled to capacity with proud citizens of the United States. However, this December, just 5 months prior, the War on Terrorism ended, and troops were sent home to be reunited with their families. They were welcomed with small-scale parties, banners, and only personal touches from family.

Some may try to defend the lack of public celebrations by stating that until all the troops are brought home, there should not be any parades. About 91,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and



Marines are in Afghanistan, battling a stubborn Taliban insurgency and struggling to train Afghan forces so that they eventually can take over security.

Hitting close to home, I have a best friend who just returned from Afghanistan. Having a tour that lasted 6 months, everyday I had to update myself on the status of the war. Every time my phone rang, displaying a ridiculously long telephone number with no dashes, your heart stops as you warily pick up the phone. To add insult to injury, another close friend just left, and his return is set for the beginning of 2013. There definitely wasn't a celebration for their departure, but will there be one for their return?

the final Monday in the month of May, the United States take the day off to remember our fallen soldiers. As gloomy as the day may be to some, this federal holiday will exhibit the streamers of red, white, and blue that we have been missing. Patriotism will be on high.

This Memorial Day, I will not be celebrating death. Instead, I will celebrate LIFE. The lives of those whom at times, we may take for granted. The lives of those whom I may not know, but are the fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, sisters, and brothers of someone. Regardless of whether I condone these wars, who started them, or when they will end, I will do my part to celebrate the service and safety that was provided for me. I will not participate in the *Unmooring of American Military Power*.



*Now **Faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

When parents give their children names, much thought have been put into it long before their child is born. Some are named after other loved ones, some are named from things, and some are named just because it sounds good. Whatever the reason behind her name you can be sure her parents put in a lot of thought and maybe even discernment.

Tragedy:

On May 24, 2006, Loretta 'Faith' Harris' name was put to a test. I'm sure throughout her entire life here and there her faith have been tested, but not like it was going to be tested starting on this day.

After spending a wonderful lunch with two of Loretta's students, congratulating them on their academic achievements, Loretta got into her car and proceeded to drive. That's when tragedy struck. A vehicle running from police struck her car. The accident was one of the most horrific accidents in the Orlando area. Pulled from the mangled wreckage, Loretta was airlifted by Critical Care Transport to Orlando Regional Medical Center. She was taken to the Burn Trauma Unit in a critical state. In shock from the multiple fractures, and multiple areas of bleeding, Loretta lays there unstable in the operating room while services was being conducted on her. Aggressive resuscitation and attempting to slow down the bleeding while keeping her airways open.

Loretta's mother got the call from an ER staff notifying her of the devastating accident. Not willing to give out details over the phone, Loretta's mother told him to contact Loretta's youngest sister Cassandra. Meanwhile her mother was also contacting Cassandra. Lovingly known to her family by her middle name of Faith, Faith's mother told Cassandra of the phone call she just received from the hospital. Other friends were learning of the accident through the news on T.V. As family and friends started to arrive at the hospital the Chaplain entered the room to tell them that she was in critical condition and might not make it. He told them of the internal bleeding that could not be stopped and the multiple crushed and

broken bones to her body. Prayers were already being prayed, but Her Pastor made sure her church had started an immediate prayer chain.

Meanwhile in the operating room the orthopedic surgeons were trying to control her unstable bones. They began by closing the 15cm wound on her upper left arm. They placed an external fixate on her left leg to allow proper alignment of the broken bones. Faith had what they call abdominal compartment syndrome. Doctors made a long vertical incision down the center of her stomach from the breast to the bikini line to alleviate pressure due to free fluid collecting at the abdominal cavity. If untreated the results can be multi-system organ failure and death. After several hours passed the doctor came forward to produce a medical update of the list of injuries Loretta had sustained. A complex laceration of the liver, extra peritoneal bladder rupture, mul-





tiple pelvic fractures, left tibia-fibula fracture with the bones protruding through the skin, and a crushed anklebone. Not stopping to answer questions, he continued on, a mild brain injury, fracture to the left forearm, upper arm lacerations, multiple lacerations to the left face and lower extremities, right tibia wound down to the bone, and left knee trauma. The doctor also stated she might not be able to see out of her left eye. The most troubling news of all is Faith might not survive the night. Prayer was definitely in order because it would take a miracle.

FAITH:

Now that Faith's family knew her prognosis, Prayer was the key. With heavy hearts burdened it was immediate intercession. Death was not an option. Prayer Chains formed throughout the State of Florida also in other states due to family and friends. Late in the night the family was told it was time to come forward to identify the victim. Faith's mother, Pastor, and other relatives entered the cold Burn Trauma Unit. Words could not express what they saw. Faith was swollen three times the normal size, and she was beyond recognition. Only her face was uncovered. Horrified at what they were seeing, the pastor walked up to her and whispered in her ear, "You can't die because you are not done yet." Bishop Edward Harris, Faith's grandfather received the call about his granddaughter. Upon hearing the news he lifted his hands to heaven and offered a sincere cry to the Lord, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Faith!"

There were no other words suitable to this level of emergency. Bishop Harris along with Faith's grandmother called upon the Lord for healing. With faith and petitioning the Lord a Sweet Presence of Peace allowed him to know that Faith would be alright.

Faith's family struggled to keep faith in God but doctors constantly told them to expect the worse. Her body kept going through different levels of trauma. Orlando Regional Medical Center revealed over one dozen surgeries were performed on Faith's body.

"What am I doing here?" and "what is going on?" were the questions Faith asked trying to recall the events leading up to her hospitalization. Her family tried to help her refresh her memory. Slowly things began to come to her mind. One of her first connections to memory was of her students working on a class project, needing to publish their books. While trying to build upon the memory of her students, she was also trying to remember other situations. She did recall having lunch with her students and colleagues right before the accident.

After weeks of surgeries and getting better, the time came for Faith to be transferred to Rehab. Doctors chose the Lucerne Hospital. Meeting new nurses and staff wasn't easy, not to mention the excruciating therapy she had to endure. She kept a diary of her goals so she could monitor her progress. Finally feeling energetic and enjoying the facility her Social Worker announced she needed to meet with her. Faith's mom and another sister Michelle was there with her. During the meeting, Michelle told her that there were two students in the car with her on the day of the accident. One student had suffered a broken arm, but worst of all the other student E.C. who was Faith's godson, was killed. Hearing herself yelling No, No, No, she began to blame herself. It's all her fault. She was saying she could never forgive herself. She never knew the full extent of the



accident so to hear news like this at a time when things were getting better was definitely a setback. The grief was unbearable. She felt the burden for both families and could not imagine how they were coping with the situation. For two and a half months her family had been instructed not to bring up the accident. She was devastated.

Faith's mother reassured her that the child's mother did not blame her. Her godson's aunts had even come to the hospital to see her while she was in intensive care. They express their joy in knowing their nephew shared his last few hours happy and loved by his favorite teacher. This brought comfort to Faith; however she still grieved for months to come. Faith read the book of Job a month before her accident. Many of you know the story. Through all the tragedy Job endured his faith stayed strong. Not fully understanding Job's faith at that time, being now that her faith is being tested, reading Job gave her a better understanding of the turmoil she was going through.



As Faith regained her strength and anticipated her release from rehab there still was a constant battle in her mind. She had to keep her mind busy so she could stay out of the danger zone. Constantly asking herself was this her fault. She had to recite to herself “It is not your fault”, words that was often spoken to her by her mother and sisters.

TRIUMPH

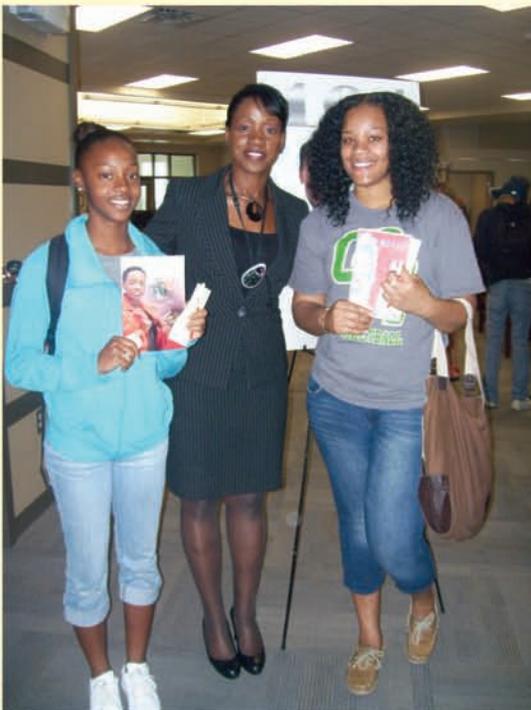
There were times Faith wanted to give up, throw in the towel, and refuse to perform her exercise during therapy. Realizing it was only hurting herself, she was stopping herself from completing her goal of 110% recovery. In 2007 she gave birth to her new motto, “Live life to the fullest and have no regrets”. She worked from home completing her students ‘chapter books. She started her own publishing company, Children’s Heart Publishing, and purchased her dream truck a salsa red Toyota 4Runner. She completed her Masters Degree from Stetson University only 3 months after her release from therapy. In 2008 she earned her Doctorate Degree from Nova

Southeastern University.

The time had come. One year later, Faith’s and E C’s mother had to finally talk. Holding the cell phone to her ear she waited to hear an answer on the other end. His mom expressed her son’s love for her. Faith told of the glow that surrounded his face during his final hour. They cried together sharing the joy they both new about him. His mother told Faith it was not her fault. Things happen for a reason, and for whatever reason, God allowed my baby to be with Him. He allowed you to stay so that you can continue to make a difference in the lives of children. She sobbed even more as Joy flooded her heart.

Anthony Williams vs. State of Florida. The hearing took place in the fall after Faith’s return to school. She got cold feet from just the thought of having to see the person who caused such tragedy in her life. Motivated for a passion for justice she decided to prepare a statement to the killer. As she took the stand she saw how cold the killer’s eyes were and how he showed no remorse. She read her statement, with confidence. She asked for the maximum of 30 years. E C’s mom made a statement, along with his aunts and football coach. Not needing much time the judge immediately announced his sentence of the maximum 30 years.

Faith’s survival of a dozen surgeries, intensive rehabilitation, and six months of outpatient surgery, emotional grief, depression, anger, frustration, made her realize this journey is not about her. Many have gone down this path and did not survive. But she knew she would. Just like her name, she had Faith!





Dr. Loretta Faith Harris
Inspirational Speaker,
Award-winning Author,
& Entrepreneur

Dr. Loretta Faith Harris today is a highly acclaimed inspirational speaker, award-winning author, and successful entrepreneur. With a personal story of overcoming death-defying odds, Dr. Harris' platform extends to educational institutions, community organizations, and church affiliations. Dr. Harris' signature oration includes *The*

Virtuous Woman, 7 Steps to Developing a Conqueror's Mentality, Candidate for Promotion, Motivating Struggling Readers, and FCAT Success. Audiences agree Dr. Harris charismatic presence will leave you on the edge of your seat wanting to hear more from this gifted speaker.

As Host of, "Dr. Loretta Faith Harris Radio Show" Dr. Harris interviews local and national guests for "Triumphant Living"

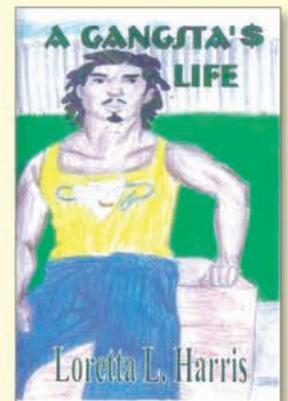
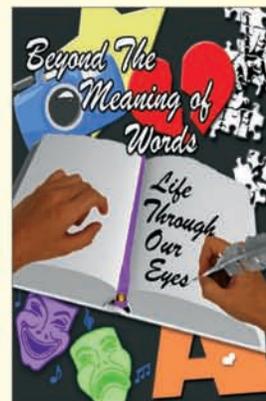
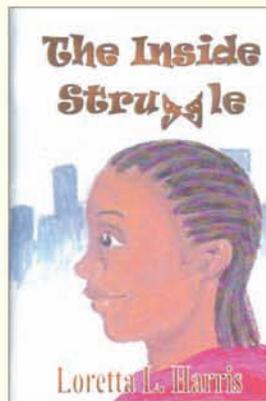
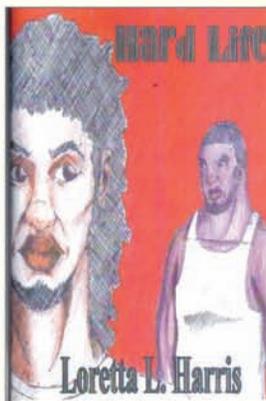
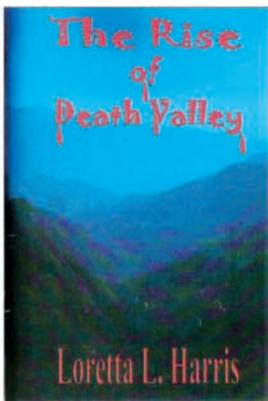
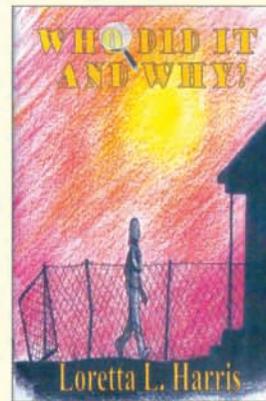
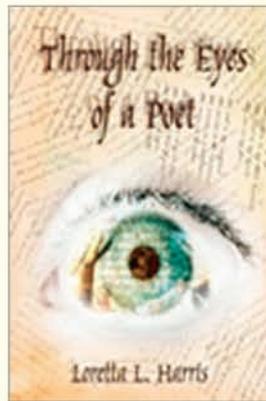
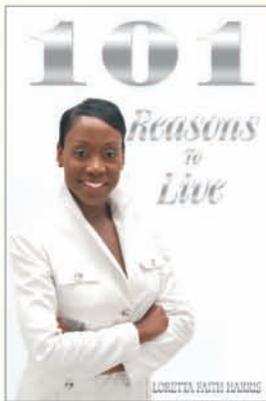
weekly broadcasts on the Blog Talk Radio Network. Dr. Loretta Faith Harris Radio Show motto, "Empowering you to live the triumphant life" captivates thousands of global listeners. Dr. Harris award-winning memoir, "The Journey Less Traveled: Choose to Turn Your Tragedy into Triumph," provide readers with practical steps to overcome adversity. Her latest book, "101 Reasons to Live," is an interactive journal designed to guide readers to discovery of life's purpose and destiny. Dr Harris publications are a part of educational curriculums throughout Central Florida School Districts.

Dr. Harris is the President and CEO of CHPublishing, Inc., an independent publishing company that serves as a catalyst for gifted authors to share their life's experiences in literary form. This multifaceted entrepreneur has won several prestigious accolades, *Florida's Finest, Distinguished Minority Educator of the Year, and The Network Orlando's Woman of the Month.* Dr. Harris recently established, Journey Less Traveled Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization in 2011. Journey Less Traveled Foundation provides outreach services to assist families of children who have lost their life to tragedy.

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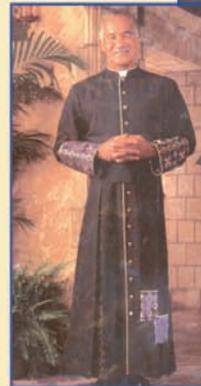
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Gala Honoring B-CU President Trudie Kibbe Reed Gathers Special Guest

As the sun set over Daytona Beach on April 19, approximately 280 special guests began to arrive at the Hilton Ocean Walk Village Resort to honor B-CU's retiring president, Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed.

B-CU Trustee Lee E. Rhyant, the emcee for the evening, kicked off the program while the guest of honor – Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed – entered the room, escorted by Dr. Hiram Powell, B-CU's vice president for institutional advancement.

Special remarks and fond memories were provided by B-CU Chairman Larry R. Handfield, Esq.; Dr. Irving Matthews, B-CU trustee and former chairman; Mr. Steve Hogan, CEO of Florida Citrus Sports; Dr. Dennis Thomas, commissioner of Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Yolanda Cash-Jackson, Esq., of Becker and Poliakoff; Dr. Henry Lewis, III, president of Florida Memorial University; Dr. Belle Wheelan, president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and Dr. Lenny Springs, senior advisor of the U.S. Department of Education, FSA.

Gala guests included several HBCU presidents; Sen. Tony Hill; Volusia County Council Vice Chair Joyce Cusack; and the Rev. Dr. Gerald Lord, associate general secretary from the United Methodist Church General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Upon addressing the audience, Dr. Reed expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the fifth president and second woman of the "Great" Bethune-Cookman University. Later, Trustee Joyce Anne Hanks Moorehead, Esq., who is also a B-CU alumna, presented the president with a gift from the board. Moorehead eloquently wove together the determination of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune with the hard work of Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed.

Dr. J. F. Bryan, IV, provided the champagne toast and closing remarks were brought by Dr. Rhyant and Dr. Reed. To everyone's surprise, particularly that of Dr. Reed, a small group from the "Marching Wildcats" band serenaded Dr. Reed with familiar tunes, including the B-CU alma mater.



President Trudie Kibbe was celebrated for her eight years of dedicated service to B-CU.



Trustee Joyce Anne Hanks Moorehead presented Dr. Reed with a gift from the board of trustees.



The audience of 280 people applauded the president with a champagne toast.

'The Cosby Show' – Where Are They Now?

Twenty years after the series finale aired, we catch up with the iconic show's stars.



Bill Cosby: Then

Heathcliff was the jazz-loving, pinochle-playing and fix-things-until-they-were-broken-just-a-little-bit-more (remember that doorbell?) husband and father of the Huxtables. He was always giving his children some life lessons. But also, he was always, always showing so much love to his dear wife Clair.



Bill Cosby: Now

After *The Cosby Show*, the comedian and actor produced several TV shows including *The Cosby Mysteries*, *Cosby* and *Little Bill*.



Phylicia Rashad: Then

Clair Huxtable is one of our all-time favorite television mothers in history. She was sharp, poised, beautiful and was always ready with that "motherly" look — the "if you say one more thing or move a muscle" face that will whip any kid into shape. It's exactly why Cosby wanted her to play his wife.



Phylicia Rashad: Now

She's currently filming the all-black version of *Steel Magnolias* and will play Clairee (Olympia Dukakis' character in the original). She also just picked up a role in a new NBC drama pilot, *Do No Harm*. In 2010, she appeared in three films: *Frankie & Alice*, *Just Wright* and *For Colored Girls*.



Sabrina LeBeauf: Then

Sondra Huxtable was the eldest child of the Huxtable clan. She was the smart, driven and, for the most part, rational child of the family. However, it was very hard for the Huxtables to understand why she was so in love with Elvin, why they'd decided to live in this dump of an apartment and then, later, why she would drop out of law school to open a wilderness store.



Sabrina LeBeauf: Now

In recent years, she's appeared on stage at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in a production of *Love's Labour's Lost*. In 2004, she appeared in another Cosby television show, *Fatherhood*, opposite Blair Underwood, about the Bindle-beep family.



Lisa Bonet: Then

Denise Huxtable was the eccentric daughter whom every young Cosby fan either wanted to be like or be with. She was even a budding fashion designer! Well ... she made one really terrible knockoff. After she went off to college — and to a different world — she was mostly off the series until she returned with her Navy man, Martin Kendall.



Lisa Bonet: Now

In 2008, she appeared in the TV series *Life on Mars* as Detective Maya Daniels. And in the early 2000s, she was in a few movies, including *Enemy of the State* and *Biker Boyz*. Her daughter with ex-husband Lenny Kravitz, Zoe Kravitz, has appeared in *Californication* and is a young starlet.



Malcolm-Jamal Warner: Then

Theo, the only son of Cliff and Clair, struggled in school, struggled to keep his room clean, but swore he could make it on his own at a really early age. Cliff set him straight. And later in the first season, he got a real-life lesson in living, courtesy of the whole family.



Malcolm-Jamal Warner: Now

Last year he starred opposite Tracee Ellis Ross in BET's *Reed Between the Lines*, a sitcom based on two professionals trying to raise a family. (Sound somewhat familiar?) He also has a recurring role on NBC's *Community* as Yvette Nicole Brown's husband.



Tempestt Bledsoe: Then

Vanessa was the fourth child of Cliff and Clair. She was an excellent student, but a terrible clarinet player. She was also always asking for a dog and bickering with Rudy and Denise. But even though Vanessa did well in school, don't forget when she got too drunk at a party playing the alpha-bet game.



Tempestt Bedsoe: Now

In 2009, she took the reality-show route and appeared with her beau, Darryl M. Bell, yes, Ron Johnson from *A Different World*, in *Househusbands of Hollywood*. A few years after *The Cosby Show* ended, she hosted her own talk show called *The Tempestt Bledsoe Show*. Right now, she's filming a TV movie called *DILFs*, a Jimmy Fallon project.



Keisha Knight Pulliam: Then

Little Rudy Huxtable was supposed to be played by a boy until Pulliam stole the hearts of Cosby and the casting agents. She also stole the role from Jaleel White. Rudy came of age on the show, and a couple of her most memorable moments were when she sang "Night Time Is the Right Time" and "I Got the Feeling."



Keisha Knight Pulliam: Now

After graduating from Spelman College in 2001, she appeared in several movies including *Beauty Shop*, *The Gospel* and *Madea Goes to Jail*. Since 2007, Pulliam has starred in Tyler Perry's *House of Payne* on TBS.



Raven-Symone: Then

Olivia entered the Huxtable house in 1989 as the cute, fresh-faced daughter of Martin Kendall. With Rudy in her early teens, Olivia provided all the “aww-ain’t-she-cute” moments in the series’ final seasons.



Geoffrey Owens: Then

Elvin didn’t make the best first impression to the Huxtables. He was clearly a male chauvinist in the early episodes and was always butting heads with Sondra. And how could you forget when Clair read him from head to toe in a renoun scene?



Joseph C. Phillips: Then

Lt. Martin Kendall swept Denise off her feet while she was in Africa, but ever the rebel, Denise didn’t tell her parents until she returned to Brooklyn as Mrs. Martin Kendall. And if you’re a true, die-hard fan of the show, you’ll remember that Phillips earlier appeared in an episode as a suitor of Sondra.



Erika Alexander: Then

Cousin Pam was Clair’s distant cousin who came to live with the Huxtables after her mother had to move to California. She wasn’t too fond of the Huxtable rules at first — they ran a tight ship — but she eventually became just another member of the family.



Earle Hyman: Then

Russell Huxtable was Cliff’s trombone-playing father. His best show is of him trying to get his trombone-playing chops back in order to perform with his old band.



Clarice Taylor: Then

Anna Huxtable was Cliff’s loving mother. She had a recurring role as the character David’s (Northern Calloway) grandmother on *Sesame Street* from 1976 to 1990.



Deon Richmond: Then

“Buuuuuuuddd” was Rudy’s best friend whose brother knew everything there was to know about women and relationships. As they grew up, Rudy started calling him by his real name, Kenny, and he was insanely jealous of Rudy’s relationship with Stanley (Merlin Santana) — so much so that he tried to make Rudy jealous with another woman.



Carl Anthony Payne II: Then

Cockroach was Theo’s righthand man. They studied Shakespeare together, got into snowball fights together and thanks to Cockroach, Theo saved himself a bit of humiliation. (Remember when Cockroach shaved himself “bald”?) Interestingly, Payne was later fired from the show because he refused to cut his hair.



Raven-Symone: Now

Early this year, she made her Broadway debut as Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act*. Last year, she acted in her own short-lived TV series, *State of Georgia*. From 2003 to 2007, she starred in Disney’s *That’s So Raven*. With her work on Disney alone, which also includes *The Cheetah Girls*, Raven-Symone has made her mark as an influential young actress in Hollywood.



Geoffrey Owens: Now

Since *The Cosby Show*, Owens has worked steadily — including appearances on TV series such as *That’s So Raven*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and, recently, ABC’s *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.



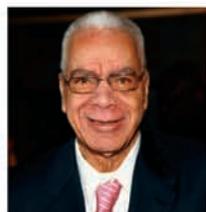
Joseph C. Phillips: Now

Since his time on *The Cosby Show*, he’s had roles on several hit TV series including *The District*, *General Hospital* and *The Young and the Restless*. He’s a conservative commentator and writer and his work can be seen on Townhall.



Erika Alexander: Now

She played the colorful Maxine Shaw, attorney-at-law, on *Living Single* from 1993-1998. Alexander’s currently filming *The Magic City* with Keith David and Jamie Hector. In 2010, she had a recurring role on *In Plain Sight* as Theresa Simmons.



Earle Hyman: Now

In 2001, he appeared in a TV series called *Twice in a Lifetime*. And in 1997, he appeared in an episode of Cosby’s ‘90s sitcom, *Cosby*.



Clarice Taylor: Now

Taylor, who died last May of heart failure at age 93, last appeared on-screen in 1998.



Deon Richmond: Now

Richmond went on to play opposite Tia and Tamera Mowry in *Sister, Sister*, as Tamera’s boyfriend, Jordan. And in 1999, he played Greg, a high school student who was always daydreaming about dating the hottest girl in school and becoming a success, in the movie *Trip-pin’*. You might remember seeing him in *Not Another Teen Movie* or *Scream 3* in the early 2000s.



Carl Anthony Payne II: Now

In the last season of BET’s *The Game*, he played Reynaldo Saint James, a prostitute and Tasha’s (Wendy Raquel Robinson) boy toy. But his most notable role is as Cole Brown, the dim-witted, colorful-hat-wearing, Pacer-driving friend on *Martin*.

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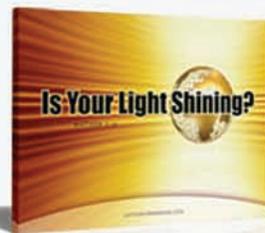
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Michelle Thomas: Then

"Justine! Justine!" Justine was Theo's love interest while he was in college. When they broke up, Cliff taught Theo a lesson in heartbreak through the blues. Thomas and Warner dated in real life.



Dondre T. Whitfield: Then

Need we say more than "Robert"? Vanessa couldn't get enough of Robert Freeman and was even able to record a song with Stevie Wonder to profess her love.



Karen Malina White: Then

Charmaine Brown was Cousin Pam's smart, fast-talking friend. And she loved her some Lance (Allen Payne). After her short stint on *Cosby* ended, she went on to co-star in *A Different World*. In 1994, she played Jewel, Jazz's girlfriend-turned-wife, on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. In the late '90s and early 2000s, she co-starred with a fellow *Cosby* alum, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, in *Malcolm & Eddie*.



William Thomas Jr.: Then

Surprise, Vanessa's engaged! Enter Dabnis Brickey, Vanessa's late-20-something fiancé whom she met at college. After deciding they weren't ready to be married, they played the "just friends" card throughout the rest of the series. Thomas had also previously appeared alongside Keshia Knight Pulliam and Phylicia Rashad in the television movie, *Polly*, in 1989. Random fact:

He has the same name as the actor who played Buckwheat.



Peter Costa: Then

Peter was always running away from something, wasn't he? He was Rudy's childhood best friend and seemed to always get outta Dodge whenever trouble was lurking. He was also the only boy allowed at Rudy's sleepover.



Merlin Santana: Then

Stanley was one of Theo's students who was having reading problems and he was also the apple of Rudy's teenage eye.



Mushond Lee: Then

Lee's first on-screen role was in *Lean on Me*, in which he played Karen Malina White's boyfriend. The next year, he gained a recurring role as Slide, Cousin Pam's on-again-off-again boyfriend.



Allen Payne: Then

Charmaine looooved her some Lance. He was thoughtful, charming and somehow managed to keep up with Charmaine's gift of gab. But the couple later broke up in an episode of *A Different World*, where he couldn't even get on the train to see her face to face to end the relationship.



Michelle Thomas: Now

In the mid-'90s, Thomas played opposite Jaleel White on *Family Matters* as the zany and lovestruck Myra Monkhouse, girlfriend of Steve Urkel. She also had a recurring role on the *Young and the Restless* as Callie Rogers. Thomas was diagnosed with stomach cancer and died in 1998 at the age of 29. Malcolm-Jamal Warner was reportedly at her bedside. (Random fact: Her father, Dennis D.T. Thomas, is a founding member of Kool and the Gang.)



Dondre T. Whitfield: Now

Whitfield has had a steady career in Hollywood since stepping on the scene in the late '80s. His credits include *Between Brothers* and *All My Children*. And of course, as Joan's sex-addict boyfriend, Sean, in *Girlfriends*. This year, he's had a recurring role on ABC Family's *Make It or Break It*, and appeared on the short-lived ABC drama *The Event* in 2010.



Karen Malina White: Now

You may not have seen White on-screen in a while, but if you've ever watched Disney's *The Proud Family*, you've definitely heard her voice. She was the voice of Penny Proud's loud, blond friend, Dijonay. In 2011, she appeared in two short films, *Kissed by the Devil* and *Aurora Borealis*.



William Thomas Jr.: Now

After *Cosby*, Thomas had a few one-off appearances in television shows including *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Hangin' With Mr. Cooper*. He was last seen on-screen in *The Bold and The Beautiful*, where he had a recurring role as an INS worker.



Peter Costa: Now

Costa will probably forever be known as Rudy's silent friend — after his stint on *The Cosby Show*, he didn't appear in other TV shows or movies. But he didn't give up entertainment. He's a percussionist in three bands: Torrential Downpour, PT Grimm and Kreptatka Bar Band.



Merlin Santana: Now

After playing Rudy's boyfriend, he appeared as Steve Harvey's student, Romeo, on *The Steve Harvey Show* for six seasons. You may also remember him in the short-lived series, *Under One Roof*, with James Earl Jones and Vanessa Bell Calloway. In 2002, Santana was murdered while sitting in a car in California. He was 26.



Mushond Lee: Now

After his recurring role on *The Cosby Show*, Lee had a somewhat steady career in Hollywood. Remember him on the short-lived soap opera *Sunset Beach*? If not, you might remember him as an FBI agent in *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* in 2003.



Allen Payne: Now

Most recently, Payne starred as C.J. Payne in Tyler Perry's *House of Payne* on TBS. After *The Cosby Show*, he appeared in several films including *Jason's Lyric*, *Vampire in Brooklyn* and *Double Platinum*. Currently, according to IMDb, he's working on a film called *Phenom* with Regina Hall, Dennis Haysbert, Chris Brown and Lance Gross.

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A Black Woman Wrote The "Matrix" & "The Terminator"



Sophia Stewart

This little known story has met a just conclusion, as Sophia Stewart, African American author of *The Matrix* will finally receive her just due from the copyright infringement of her original work. Monday, October 4th 2004 ended a six-year dispute involving Sophia Stewart, the Wachowski Brothers, Joel Silver and Warner Brothers. Stewart's allegations, involving copyright infringement and racketeering, were received and acknowledged by the Central District of California, Judge Margaret Morrow residing.

Stewart, a *New Yorker* who has resided in Salt Lake City for the past five years, will recover damages from the films, *The Matrix I, II and III*, as well as *The Terminator* and its sequels. She will soon receive one of the biggest payoffs in the history of Hollywood, as the gross receipts of both films and their sequels total over 2.5 billion dollars.

Stewart filed her case in 1999, after viewing the *Matrix*, which she felt had been based on her manuscript, "The Third Eye," copyrighted in 1981. In the mid-eighties Stewart had submitted her manuscript to an ad placed by the Wachowski Brothers, requesting new sci-fi works.

According to court documentation, an FBI investigation discovered that more than thirty minutes had been edited from the original film, in an attempt to avoid penalties for copyright infringement. The investigation also stated that "credible witnesses employed at Warner Brothers came forward, claiming that the executives and lawyers had full knowledge that the work in question did not belong to the Wachowski Brothers." These witnesses claimed to have seen Stewart's original work and that it had been "often used during preparation of the motion pictures." The defendants tried, on several occasions, to have Stewart's case dismissed, without success.

Stewart has confronted skepticism on all sides, much of which comes from *Matrix* fans, who are strangely loyal to the Wachowski Brothers. One on-line forum, entitled *Matrix Explained* has an entire section devoted to Stewart. Some who have researched her history and writings are open to her story. Others are suspicious and mocking. "It doesn't bother me," said Stewart in a phone interview last week, "I always knew what was true."

Some fans, are unaware of the case or they question its legitimacy, due to the fact that it has received little to no media coverage. Though the case was not made public until October of 2003, Stewart has her own explanation, as quoted at aghettotymz.com:

"The reason you have not seen any of this in the media is because Warner Brothers parent company is AOL-Time

Warner... this GIANT owns 95 percent of the media... let me give you a clue as to what they own in the media business... New York Times papers/magazines, LA Times papers/magazines, People Magazine, CNN news, Extra, Celebrity Justice, Entertainment Tonight, HBO, New Line Cinema, Dreamworks, Newsweek, Village Roadshow... many, many more!... They are not going to report on themselves. They have been suppressing my case for years..."

Fans who have taken Stewart's allegations seriously, have found eerie mythological parallels, which seem significant in a case that revolves around the highly metaphorical and symbolic *Matrix* series. Sophia, the Greek goddess of wisdom has been referenced many times in speculation about Stewart. In one book about the Goddess Sophia, it reads, "The black goddess is the mistress of web creation spun in her divine matrix"

Although there have been outside implications as to racial injustice (Stewart is African American), she does not feel that this is the case. "This is all about the Benjamins," said Stewart. "It's not about money with me. It's about justice."

Stewart's future plans involve a record label, entitled Popsilk Records, and a motion picture production company, All Eyez On Me, in reference to God. "I wrote *The Third Eye* to wake people up, to remind them why God put them here. There's more to life than money," said Stewart. "My whole to the world is about God and good and about choice, about spirituality over 'technocracy'."

If Stewart represents spirituality, then she truly has prevailed over the "technocracy" represented in both the *Terminator* and the *Matrix*, and now, ironically, by their supposed creators.

Stewart is currently having discussions with CBS about a possible exclusive story and has several media engagements in the near future to nationally publicize her victory. June 13th 2004. Sophia Stewart's press release read: "The *Matrix* & *Terminator* movie franchises have made world history and have ultimately changed the way people view movies and how Hollywood does business, yet the real truth about the creator and creation of these films continue to elude the masses because the hidden secret of the matter is that these films were created and written by a Black woman... a Black woman named Sophia Stewart. But Hollywood does not want you to know this fact simply because it would change history. Also it would encourage our Black children to realize a dream and that is... nothing is impossible for them to achieve!"



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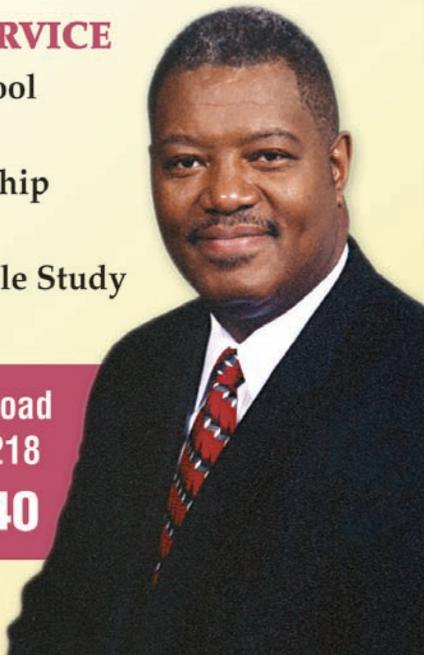
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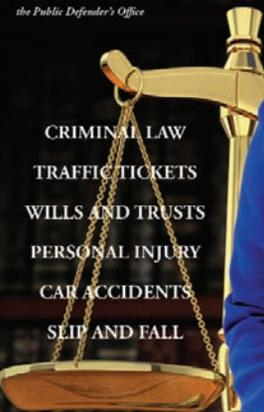


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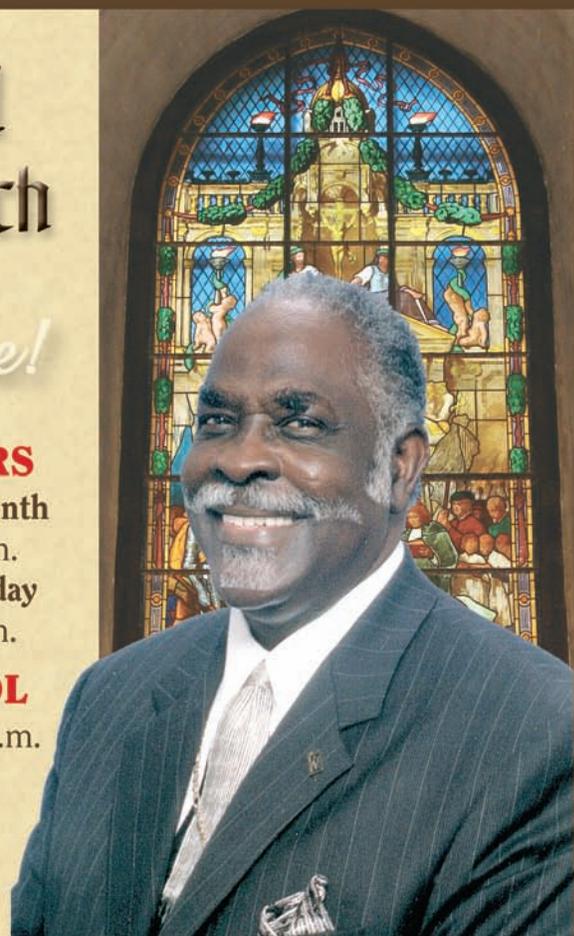
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- 2 1/2 cup(s) sugar
- 2 tablespoon(s) pure vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoon(s) strong-brewed espresso
- 6 ounce(s) (1 cup) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup(s) walnut halves, lightly toasted and coarsely chopped optional



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a 9-by-13-inch glass or ceramic baking dish with cooking spray. In a double boiler, melt the butter with the chopped chocolate over low heat. In a small bowl, whisk the flour with the baking powder and salt.
2. In a large bowl, using a handheld mixer, beat the eggs with the sugar at medium-high speed until pale and thick, 4 minutes. Beat in the vanilla and espresso. Add the flour mixture and beat until just incorporated. Beat in the melted chocolate at medium speed. Using a spoon, stir in the chocolate chips and walnuts.
3. Scrape the batter into the prepared baking dish. Bake in the center of the oven for about 1 hour, until the top is shiny and lightly cracked, the edges are set and the center is still a bit jiggly. Transfer the dish to a rack and let cool completely. Cut the brownie into 12 large rectangles and serve.

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Be sure to do something special for your Mom this Mother's Day. There are lots of fun ways to celebrate this special day. Planning ahead helps make the occasion delightful, fun and relaxing. Whether cooking a meal at home or setting up an extravagant weekend itinerary, you'll benefit from having a checklist of important points to have covered in advance: tickets, reservations, what to buy, and so on.

Here are some ideas for planning your Mom's fabulous weekend. Remember, too, that you can always make up your own! Make this Mother's Day one to be remembered by Mom for years to come.

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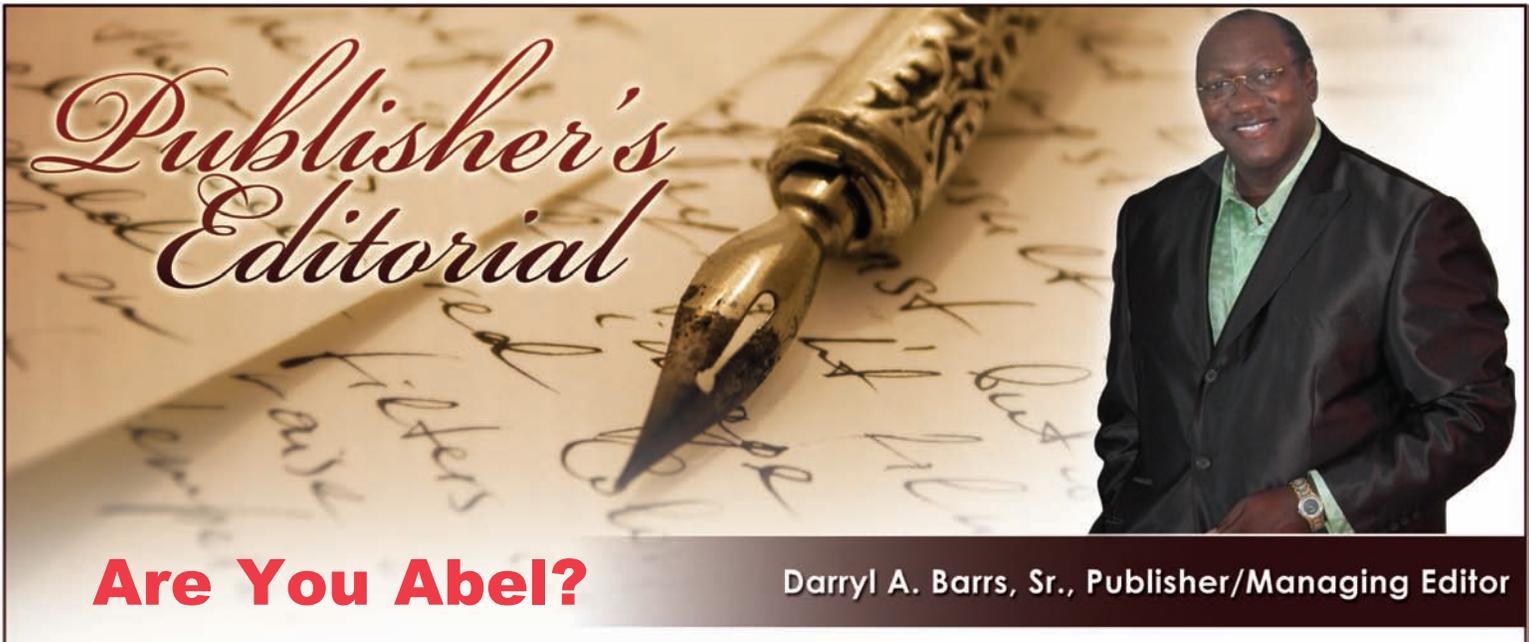
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Darryl A. Barrs, Sr., Publisher/Managing Editor

It seems these tough economic times have everyone discombobulated. Will I keep my job? Where can I get a job? How long can my business hold on? Is it time for me to seek other options to provide for my family? How long is this current economic crisis going to last, six months more, another year... two years?

The fact that tough times have come in the past, and that they came to past, is no consolation to those going through it now, many who have never seen things this bad their entire life. To make it through, you will have to be at your best and do things you may have never had to do before in order to succeed. The question is, Are You Able?

Adam and Eve began the population of the world with two sons. Abel was the second child born but the first to obey God. The Bible says Abel was a Shepard and brought an offering unto the Lord of the firstling of his flock and the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering. Abel knew what was expected of the Lord for his life and he followed God's general guidelines and specific directions.

Are you Abel to perform your work in a manner that is excellent and pleasing to God? The work you do in life tell the most about the person you are. You should be your very first critic setting a very high standard for yourself to achieve. Then others will be baffled with brilliance by your work.

Are you Abel to fulfill your service to the world? Your job in life is not necessary your service in life. What you do to make money is what you do to provide for you and your family. Your service is what you do to make life better for others. The world is a better place only when we collectively work in our specific areas of service whether it is cutting the grass of a Senior Citizen; grocery shopping for a disable person; volunteering at a center for retardation and deformity; tutoring children after school; sponsoring summer educational trips; taking a group of your children friends to dinner to teach etiquettes.

Are you Abel to commit to your goals until you succeed? Many

have made resolutions which over the years have proven to be exercises of infertility. We must be careful of the tones which come from our mouths. They become talk, talk, and only talk. Simply saying it is not enough. Now is the time to talk less and do more. Let your accomplishment sang the praises of the life you live.

Are you Abel to endure the criticism and envy of others in response to the success of your labors? When you do what the Lord requires of your life, your success become a mirror to others they look in and many will see themselves not doing what the Lord requires of them to do. Sadly enough, instead of stepping-up, many choose to break the mirror. Success breeds Success. It also creates strife and jealousy, and you may find yourself rejected and ostracized.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man that did what the Lord required of him to do. Few of us today would want to be tasked with his burden of service nor would we want to offer his supreme sacrifice. However, still today some choose to discredit Dr. King's message and accomplishment by punching holes in his character as if that changes the fact that he was a man that allowed God to use him in a way all of us today is blessed. Martin Luther King, Jr. indeed was Abel.

Are you Abel to live beyond your life? People will forever remember what you did for them and how you made them feel. Abel is the first name mentioned in God's Hall of Fame (Hebrews 11:4), "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous. God testifying of his gifts and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

Are you Abel? The world today more then ever before needs Abel people. Those that rise early and work late. Those that understand that failure is not an option. Those that see life as an Obstacle Course; mountains to climb, troubled waters to swim across, valleys to jump over, storms to endure.

Are you Abel? I hope so and hope you have H.O.P.E. in these difficult and enduring times. Hope is the feeling of expectations that what is wanted to happen will happen. One way to ensure this is to follow H.O.P.E. the acronym: Helping Other People Endlessly.

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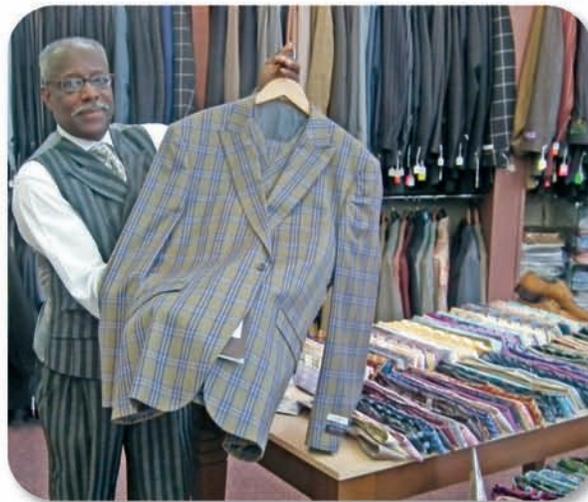
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