

# Christian Reader

Vol. 15 No. 11

HOLIDAY EDITION 2007

FREE MONTHLY

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called*

Wonderful  
Counsellor  
The Mighty God  
The Everlasting Father  
The Prince of Peace



In the two millennia since His birth, the luster of the story of the birth of Jesus Christ has lost none of its fascination for those who have glimpsed its significance. "For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the LORD" (Luke 2:11). Whatever secular history or ecclesiastical tradition has made of Christmas, Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Greatest Gift to Humanity. "For God so loved the world, that He have His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life" (John 3:16). The centrality of the theme of God manifesting His Son in human flesh to save us from ourselves and sin will never be forgotten by those who have submitted themselves to the Love of God. "And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His Name JESUS:

for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Why but Love would the Divine Father offer His Only Begotten Son to rebellious and sinful man?

And why but Divine Wisdom would God Only Wise see the necessity for His Beloved Son to actually become human flesh to redeem humanity and demonstrate the ability of Believing Man to live "holy, acceptable unto God" (Romans 12:1). "For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-4).

# Congresswoman Corrine Brown To Host Stop Foreclosure and Save Your Home Workshop

## Did You Know?

- \* One million families face losing their homes to foreclosure.
- \* More than 6 in 10 delinquent homeowners are not aware of services that mortgage lenders can offer a person behind in their mortgage.
- \* Property values drop significantly on homes neighboring a foreclosed house.
- \* More than 60% of American families live paycheck to paycheck escalating their risk of financial crisis.

ORLANDO – Congresswoman Corrine Brown is assembling a group of banks and credit unions, credit counselors and others to help Central Florida residents stop losing their homes through predatory lending practices and foreclosures.

This free workshop offers one-on-one counseling sessions from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007 at the Dr. James R. Smith Center, 1723 Bruton Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811.

Representatives from area financial institutions, credit counseling agencies, and other home ownership agencies will be available to offer one-on-one help to residents who are facing eviction and foreclosure. Area agencies will offer assistance and information on refinancing current high interest or adjustable rate mortgages.

For more information contact the Orlando District Office at 407-872-0656.

## Participating Agencies:

Orlando Housing Authority, Central Florida Hands, Inc., Home Heritage Mortgage, Consumer Credit Counseling, Inc., Mortgage and Credit Center, Metropolitan Orlando Urban League, SunTrust Mortgage, NAACP, ACORN, Neighbor Works, The Savage-Gaston Law Firm, P.A. A & T Title Group, Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, Reginald D. Hicks, P.A., ZIP Realty Banks, Federal Agencies and Mortgage Lenders

## FORECLOSURE ACTIVITY UP 30 PERCENT IN THIRD QUARTER

By RealtyTrac Staff

Foreclosure Actions Filed Against More Than 446,000 Properties Activity Up Nearly 100 Percent From Q3 2006

IRVINE, Calif. - Nov. 1, 2007 - RealtyTrac® (realtytrac.com), the leading online marketplace for foreclosure properties, today released its Q3 2007 U.S. Foreclosure Market Report, which shows a total of 635,159 foreclosure filings - default notices, auction sale notices and bank repossessions - were reported on 446,726 properties nationwide during the third quarter, a 30 percent increase from the previous quarter and an increase of nearly 100 percent from the third quarter of 2006. The report also shows a foreclosure rate of one foreclosure filing for every 196 U.S. households for the quarter.

RealtyTrac publishes the largest and most comprehensive national database of foreclosure and bank-owned properties, with over 1 million properties from nearly 2,500 counties across the country, and is the foreclosure data provider to MSN Real Estate, Yahoo! Real Estate and The Wall Street Journal's Real Estate Journal.



Congresswoman Corrine Brown

“August and September were the two highest monthly foreclosure filing totals we’ve seen since we began issuing our report in January

2005,” said James J. Saccacio, chief executive officer of RealtyTrac. “Although not all areas are being hit as hard as others, the rise in foreclosures is quite widespread, with 45 out of the 50 states documenting year-over-year increases in the third quarter. Given the number of loans due to reset through the middle of 2008, and the continuing weakness in home sales, we would expect foreclosure activity to remain high and even increase over the next year in many markets.”



## Nevada, California, Florida post top foreclosure rates

Nevada posted the nation's highest foreclosure rate for the quarter, one foreclosure filing for every 61 households. A total of 16,817 foreclosure filings on 12,982 properties were reported in the state during the third quarter, up 23 percent from the previous quarter and more than triple the number reported in the third quarter of 2006.

California's third-quarter foreclosure rate of one foreclosure filing for every 88 households ranked second highest among the states. A total

See **CORRINE BROWN** page 8

# B-CU icon continues to give back to her students

## Dr. Rebecca Walker Steele Scholarship Established To Aid Chorale Students

By Christine Preston



**DAYTONA BEACH** – At the great Bethune-Cookman University, one professor stands out as an institution unto herself — Dr. Rebecca Walker Steele.

Dr. Steele’s petite size and gentle manner belies the many roles she plays on campus. She began her B-CU career 29 years ago. Her titles alone seem a bit overwhelming — Coordinator of Cultural Affairs for the School of Arts and Humanities, conductor of the B-CU Concert Chorale and a professor of music. She takes personal interest in every student under her watchful eye and nurtures each of them to understand the importance of giving back.

Her fundraising efforts on behalf of the Concert Chorale are astonishing. For starters, everyone knows they can find Dr. Steele and the Concert Chorale **every day** at 4 p.m. in the rehearsal hall. The dedication to rehearsals definitely pays off. The Chorale has a stellar reputation throughout Florida and beyond, and is sought for performances regularly.

To that end, Steele receives letters of request from churches statewide. Her ‘contract’ with each church states the cost of transportation must be covered. Then, every Sunday in the school year, chorale members board a bus at 5 a.m. and head to a church engagement somewhere in Florida. There are no overnight stays and Steele makes certain everyone is fed.

“The best part is we always return home with donations larger than just transportation costs,” she said with an easy laugh. “We also return with invitations for engagements further along in the year, possible recruits for the University and often with new benefactors.”

The money earned is divided three ways. A portion goes into a scholarship fund that Steele started many years ago. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need to students enrolled in the Concert Chorale for credit. Each applicant must carry a 2.2 GPA (or higher,) and sign a form promising his or her commitment to the Chorale. The rest of the funds are designated for the cost of meals and transportation expenses.

Because Steele’s work and dedication has significantly increased the number of unfunded scholarships for Concert Chorale students and athletes, Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, President of B-CU, recently established the Dr. Rebecca Walker Steele Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“The endowed scholarship in Dr. Steele’s name is available to assist musically talented students with tuition costs and to help off-set some financial responsibilities as they secure a higher education,” said Dr. Reed.

“We all know how costly this journey can be,” Reed continued, “and our goal is to assist those deserving and qualified students to walk that path as comfortably as possible.”

The opportunities for giving in the various levels of giving for the Dr. Rebecca Walker Steele Endowment are as follows:

Category	Amount
Solo	\$50.00-\$499.00
Ensemble	\$500.00-\$999.00
Chorus	\$1000.00-\$2499.00
Mass Choir	\$2500.00-\$4999.00
Chorale	\$5000.00 and up

Awards from the endowed scholarship are based on both talent and need.

“It’s wonderful to be able to provide for both our students and the communities they will serve after they leave this university,” Steele said.

For more information on the endowment contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 386-481-2953. To learn more about the B-CU Concert Chorale, go to [www.bethune.cookman.edu](http://www.bethune.cookman.edu) or call the Office of Cultural Affairs at (386) 481-2772.



*Come hear a live performance by the Bethune-Cookman University Concert Chorale on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 4 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Bethune-Cookman University. The event, a Christmas Concert, entitled “A Rhapsody of Christmas”, is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the Center for Civic Engagement, 740 W International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach, just west of the Performing Arts Center.*

Serving North & Central Florida

# Christian Reader

The "Good-News" Newspaper

The *Christian Reader* is a monthly publication that seeks to strengthen our community through the knowledge of God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and The Holy Spirit our Guide.

It is our goal never to criticize, condemn, or complain, but instead to inspire, encourage, and enhance the lives of all people through Christian principles, teachings, examples, and knowledge.

Our purpose is to renew the total person - mind, body, and soul, that he/she may be well equipped to experience without hindrance the "life more abundantly" that Jesus promised to all that seek His face and do His will.

Our mailing address is:

**P. O. Box 9604, Daytona Beach, Florida 32120.**

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## THE CHRISTIAN READER

*The Good-News Newspaper*

Serving North Florida and Central Florida

### Main Office

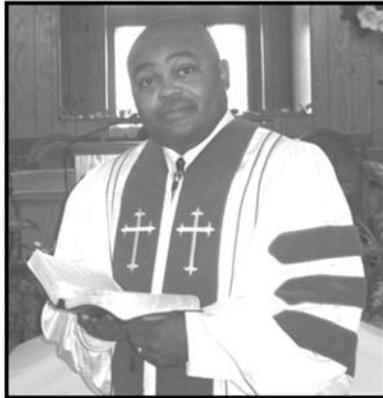
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## New Zion Missionary Baptist Church

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Sundays 6:50am on 89.5FM



## The First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce

1725 Oakhurst Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32208  
Ph: 904-652-1500 / Email: info@fcaacc.org

The First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) Internal Revenue Service designated tax-exempt organization. The Chamber relates and interprets government regulations, laws, policies, procedures, guidelines, principles and practices to the minority commercial and business community. It acts as a marketing and resource liaison for its members by encouraging and assisting the grassroots section of the community to participate and become involved. It also develops and implements programs, partnerships and strategic alliances. It informs businesses of incentives and tax credits available and targeted for under-utilized areas and under-served communities in Jacksonville such as Enterprise zones, HUB zones and Empowerment zones.



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- \* Financial support (loan programs)
- \* Potential partnership opportunities (our partners are looking to educate and partner with you)
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- \* Opportunity to partner with our Workforce Program; Mentor Program; and/or Minority Outreach Programs
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# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MRSA TO AVOID IT

## What type of infections does MRSA cause?

- In the community most MRSA infections are skin infections that may appear as pustules or boils which often are red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. These skin infections commonly occur at sites of visible skin trauma, such as cuts and abrasions, and areas of the body covered by hair (e.g., back of neck, groin, buttock, armpit, beard area of men).
- Almost all MRSA skin infections can be effectively treated by drainage of pus with or without antibiotics. More serious infections, such as pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or bone infections, are very rare in healthy people who get MRSA skin infections.

## How is MRSA transmitted

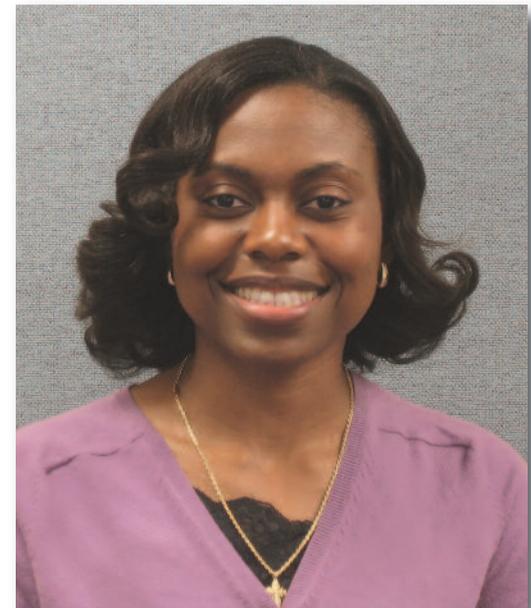
- MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with shared items or surfaces that have come into contact with someone else's infection (e.g., towels, used bandages).

## In what settings do MRSA skin infections occur?

- MRSA skin infections can occur anywhere.
- Some settings have factors that make it easier for MRSA to be transmitted.
  - These factors, referred to as the 5 C's, are as follows: Crowding, frequent skin to skin Contact, Compromised skin (i.e., cuts or abrasions), Contaminated items and surfaces, and lack of Cleanliness.
  - Locations where the 5 Cs are common include schools, dormitories, military barracks, households, correctional facilities, and daycare centers.

## How do I protect myself from getting MRSA?

- You can protect yourself by:
  - practicing good hygiene (e.g., keeping your hands clean by washing with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and showering immediately after participating in exercise);
  - covering skin trauma such as abrasions or cuts with a clean dry bandage until healed;
  - avoiding sharing personal items (e.g., towels, razors) that come into contact with your bare skin; and using a barrier (e.g., clothing or a towel) between your skin and shared equipment such as weight-training benches;
  - maintaining a clean environment by establishing cleaning procedures for frequently touched surfaces that come into direct contact with people's skin.



*Kateesha McConnell*

### Have you been diagnosed with a *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA infection? Below are answers to some common questions...

#### What is *Staphylococcus aureus* or Staph?

Staph is a type of bacteria. It may cause skin infections that look like pimples or boils. Skin infections caused by Staph may be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage. Some Staph (known as Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA) are resistant to certain antibiotics, making it harder to treat. The information on this page applies to both Staph and MRSA.

#### Who gets Staph infections?

Anyone can get a Staph infection. People are more likely to get a Staph infection if they have:

- Skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a Staph infection
- Contact with items and surfaces that have Staph on them
- Openings in their skin such as cuts or scrapes
- Crowded living conditions
- Poor hygiene

#### How serious are Staph infections?

Most Staph skin infections are minor and may be easily treated. Staph also may cause more serious infections, such as infections of the bloodstream, surgical sites, or pneumonia. Sometimes, a Staph infection that starts as a skin infection may worsen. It is important to contact your doctor if your infection does not get better.

#### How are Staph infections treated?

Treatment for a Staph skin infection may include taking an antibiotic or having a doctor drain the infection. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses, even if the infection is getting better, unless your doctor tells you to stop taking it. Do not share antibiotics with other people or save them to use later.

#### How do I keep Staph infections from spreading?

- Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Keep your cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages
- Do not touch other people's cuts or bandages
- Do not share personal items like towels or razors

If you have any questions about your condition, please ask your doctor.  
For more information, please visit: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa.html).



*Kateesha attended the University of Florida for BA (Anthropology) and Florida A&M University for MPH (Public Health – Epidemiology).*

# FLORIDA GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC. RENEWED and READY!!!

By Marjorie Cody  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Leadership! Vision! Skill! Strategic Planning!** These are some of the attributes to describe Dr. James B. Sampson, newly elected President of Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. A native of Jacksonville, Florida and Pastor of First New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Sampson was elected president in April 2007. There is no modest acceleration under his leadership. Florida General Baptist Convention goals are to burn up the track as it moves forward with initiatives that will promote an environment for achievement.

Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. is holding its' Mid-Winter Board Meeting in Tallahassee, Florida December 10-12. The purpose of the Mid-Winter Board Meeting is to transact business and set the agenda for the Annual Session to be held in Jacksonville, Florida April 7-11, 2008.

This two-day meeting is expected to draw approximately 800 persons representing members of the churches of Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. During this meeting delegates will hear the second reading of the revised constitution which should be ratified at the Annual Session. The Convention will also continue dialogue regarding new initiatives through the **"Power of 20"**, updating registration and contributions records through technology, enhancement and expansion of ministries, and restoration of the Indian Lake Retreat Site in Palatka, Florida.

The **"Power of 20"** is a joint commitment of churches and members to produce income through shared giving, contributing weekly or monthly to ensure revitalization of the State Convention, including, but not limited to the retreat site and auxiliaries.

The Women Auxiliary and Young People Department will meet at Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church starting at 7:00AM Monday morning. Rev. Craig P. Riley is the pastor and the church is located at 850 Golden Street.

The Executive Committee, Officers, Moderators and Pastors will meet throughout the day on Monday at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. R. B. Holmes, Jr. is the pastor and the church is located at 222 Marin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The Opening Musical featuring choirs from the local churches will be held Monday evening at 7:00PM at Bethel and the general session will run throughout the day Tuesday at Bethel from 9:00AM-4:00PM. .

While the purpose of the Mid Winter Board Meeting is to conduct business of the Convention, the meeting also serves to educate and inform attendees of the state of the Convention and provides members with the opportunity to connect in Christian fellowship. One of the major highlights of the board meeting is the Solidarity Banquet that



*Rev. Dr. James B. Sampson  
President  
Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc.*

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will be held at the Tallahassee Civic Center on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:45PM. Churches from across the state will display unity as they represent with \$2.00 per member of their congregation to support the Convention and its' ministries.

Since it's inception in 1874 Florida General Baptist Convention has grown to serve Missionary Baptist churches in Florida, the Virgin Island and the Bahamas. The heart of the Convention is equipping church leaders. The Mission of the Convention, the largest African American religious body in Florida, is to inspire and assist Churches and associations by providing appropriate training for churches and members so they can be led to a transforming lifestyle through Christian education, evangelism, mission and leadership development.

There is a common bond of basic Biblical beliefs and a commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Dr. Sampson's philosophy is "we must not leave God out of our preparation and planning. We must Put God First!"**

All churches of Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. are encouraged to join hands and hearts as we embrace our future with NEW knowledge....NEW ideas....NEW Solutions! Remember "without a vision the people perish."

For information regarding Florida General Baptist Convention and its Ministries contact:

**Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.**

347 North Ridgewood Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Phone: (386)-681-1042, Fax: (386) 255-7713

Email: fgbc@bellsouth.net Web site: fgbc.org

*Please send mail to:*

P. O. BOX 11706, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

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-Chairman Jim Greer  
Republican Party of

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## **CORRINE BROWN**

**continued from page 2**

of 148,147 foreclosure filings on 94,772 properties were reported in the state during the third quarter, up 36 percent from the previous quarter and nearly quadruple the number reported in the third quarter of 2006.

Florida documented a third-quarter foreclosure rate of one foreclosure filing for every 95 households, the nation's third highest state foreclosure rate. A total of 86,465 foreclosure filings on 60,992 properties were reported in the state during the third quarter, up more than 50 percent from the previous quarter and more than double the number reported in the third quarter of 2006.

Other states with foreclosure rates among the top 10 included Michigan, Ohio, Colorado, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana and Texas.

California and Florida registered the top two state foreclosure filing totals for the quarter, followed by Ohio, which came in third with 46,818 foreclosure filings on 35,242 properties. With 44,092 foreclosure filings on 26,773 properties, Texas documented the nation's fourth highest total. Michigan's total of 43,786 foreclosure filings on 29,655 properties was the fifth highest total.

**Other states with foreclosure filing totals among the top 10 included Georgia, Arizona, Illinois, Colorado and Nevada.**

### **Report methodology**

The RealtyTrac U.S. Foreclosure Market Report provides the total number of foreclosure filings nationwide and by state, along with the number of households per foreclosure filing. Data is also available at the individual county level.

The household numbers are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 estimates of total housing units. Foreclosure filings include foreclosure-related documents in all three phases of foreclosure: Default - Notice of Default (NOD) and Lis Pendens (LIS); Auction - Notice of Trustee Sale and Notice of Foreclosure Sale (NTS and NFS); and Real Estate Owned, or REO properties (that have been foreclosed on and repurchased by a bank).

Beginning with the Midyear 2007 report, the report also includes counts of unique addresses in some stage of foreclosure. This new metric only counts a property once, even if there were multiple foreclosure actions filed against the property during the time period covered by the report.

# THE JENA - 6 : INCENDIARY VISIONS OF "THE OTHER AMERICA"

By Carrol Waymon, PhD  
& Debbe Deane, PsyD

Across the world the news about the "JENA-6" has once again caused people everywhere to re-examine both the image of what America is supposed to be like and the constantly imposed reality garnered from multiple media reports of what America really is like...that other side of America. One of the most imposing realities this year has been that of the JENA-6...highlighting a twisted, unique legacy in U.S. history. Whether you compare the JENA-6 story to that of the long lasting Katrina disaster, or NFL football star Michael Vick and friends, or to other stories of those minorities who have suffered deep personal losses or tragedies, the JENA-6 experience stands imposingly as a disgusting monument to the flagrant mishandling of the nation's criminal justice system!

## JENA: THE OTHER 'AMERICAN DREAM' TO SOME

For these and related historical reasons, many individuals are now convinced that perhaps "JENA Is America." It is that other "American Dream" for those who espouse the decision of the Jena, Louisiana district attorney and many of the town's citizens, because such race-related incidents are so familiar and habitual in so many places that it is not just the mainstream media that have become "indifferent" to reporting these stories, but all too often, so have many citizens, especially since nothing is "meaningfully done" about stopping these heinous crimes and bringing those who are guilty to justice. Such open attacks on Blacks are a putrid continuation of the Pre and Post-Civil War era of with all of its ugliness regarding "Legal and Illegal" crimes against slaves and ex-slaves.

## THE JUSTICE SYSTEM'S LABOR SAVING DEVICE: ON THE BACKS OF BLACKS

It is well documented in historical annals that the United States became a 'superpower' as a result of African Slave Labor when it could be seen that native Indians and white indentured servants were inadequate to carry out the gargantuan tasks associated with the back-breaking, de-humanizing labor required. Today, the JENA-6 attacks are representative of what could be called an ugly glimpse of the 'Second Industrial Revolution;' one designed to fill our nation's prisons with as many Blacks, male and female, as these mind-numbing, dignity-draining dungeons will hold, in exchange for essentially free labor. By 1993, half of all federal and state prisoners were Black. Granted, there are those in state prisons who committed crimes, but there are far too many who are also innocent of the crimes for which they were found guilty.

In the prisons and penitentiaries are tens of thousands of Black human beings who point out daily that so many of our national leaders and locally elected officials choose to remain conspicuously silent about demanding that our government take whatever measures necessary to stop these ongoing and organized attacks on Blacks under the umbrella of 'justice served' when it is often justice designed to continue modern-day slavery. It is no stretch of the imagination to conclude that the prison system in the United States is another form of slavery for the Labor Machine in this country. Prisoners in the 21st Century serve corporate America's interests. They produce far more than license

plates. This tattered group of 'modern-day slaves' could easily point out that JENA-type incidents happen every day, as mentioned earlier, all across America.

## THE "NEW NOOSES": A SHORT REVIEW

In JENA, it was a 21st Century noose incident that set off the most explosive phase of this sad story. JENA was the most recent culmination of several racial incidents perpetrated upon Blacks in the town. Just as in the "olden" days before and after slavery, it was The Noose that ignited a fire to be free of past degradation. Not much is said about the fact that it was a Black student who asked the white principal at Jena High School if he could sit under the "white tree" where white students hung out during break times, and the principal said, Purvis (the Black student) could sit where he liked. The next day Purvis and his cousin Bryant stood under the tree and the rest is history, as the saying goes.

The next morning three nooses dangled from the tree in the school yard. The meaning was clear in terms of the hate it generated. Yet, the overwhelmingly white school board decided to call the incident a youthful prank and punished the culprits with a few days of suspension. Those who are familiar with U.S. history would know that the so-called prank was really a throwback to slavery. For more than 200 years the hanging of 'nooses' was also considered a prank by various white civic and social 'boards' of this or that ilk...if you were

See JENA 6 page 16

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# Don't Ask the Blessing, Offer One

By, Dr. Ralph F. Wilson  
Contributing Staff Writer

In your mind's eye I want you to picture Jesus at the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Hungry multitudes cover the hillside. Jesus takes the little boy's lunch, lifts it up, and says the familiar prayer: "Bless this food to the nourishing and strengthening of our bodies. Amen." I'm here to tell you that it just didn't happen like that. No way!

Since when did we begin to bless our food, anyway? Frankly, our food's been blessed to the point that most of us – how shall I say this – are "over-nourished."

You find two words in the New Testament used in connection with praying before meals.

## Offering Praise

Here's what really happened at the Feeding of the Five Thousand. "Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves" (Mark 6:41). The Greek word for "gave thanks" (NIV) or "blessed" (KJV) is "eulogeo," from which we get our English word "eulogy." It means, "speak well of, praise, extol." The word commonly translates the Hebrew word, "barak," "to bless." But it wasn't the food Jesus was "speaking well of" or "blessing," it was his Father.

Every faithful Jew would offer this blessing before partaking of bread: "Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the world, who has caused bread to come forth out of the earth." Before partaking of wine, the blessing was said this way: "Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the world, who has created the fruit of the vine." The first word, "eulogeo," reminds us to eulogize or praise God before we eat.

## Offering Thanks

The second praying-before-meals word is the Greek word "eucharisteo," from which we get our English word "Eucharist," often used as the name of Holy Communion. "Eucharisteo" means, "be thankful, offer thanks," and was used at the Last Supper.

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks (eulogeo) and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks (eucharisteo) and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you' " (Matthew 26:26-27, NIV).

What Jesus was doing at this Passover meal was offering to his Father the traditional blessings when bread and wine were eaten. It was common for Jews to offer a blessing for each food served during a meal.

## The Bless Me Club

So how did we Christians end up blessing the food instead of God? Tradition? Habit? Some of the confusion may have come from a mistranslation of the passage I just quoted. In the King James Version, Matthew 26:26 reads: "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' "

Notice how the tiny word "it" was added after the word "blessed"? The word "it" isn't part of the Greek text – that's why it's in italics in the King James Version. But "bless it" implies something far different than "bless God." That addition of one little word may have twisted the way we pray before meals into something Jesus didn't intend at all.

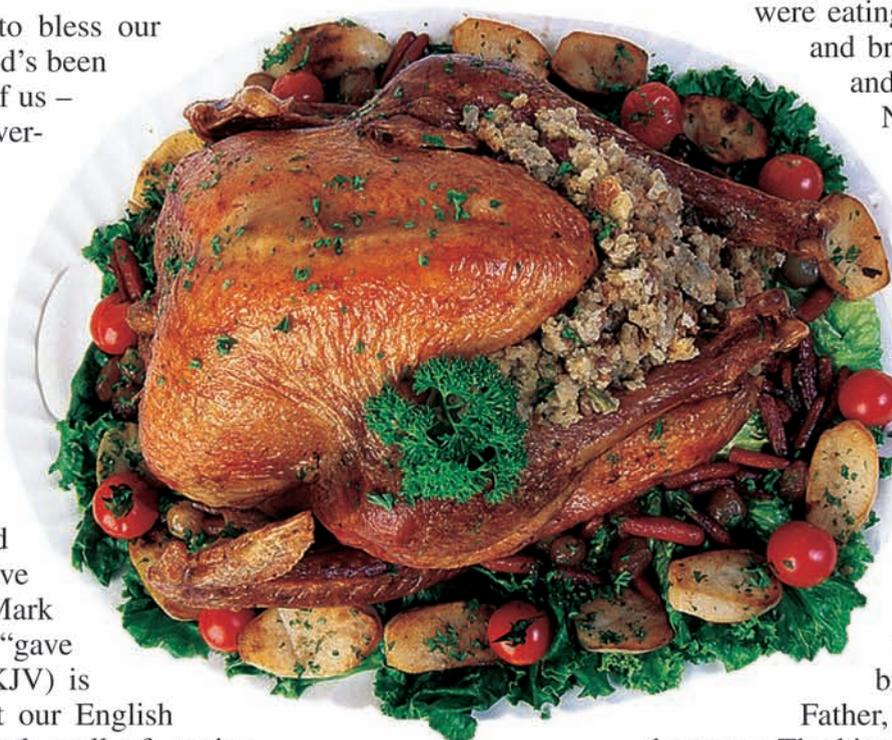
Not that there's anything wrong in asking a blessing from God. There's not. Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" – but only after praise: "Our

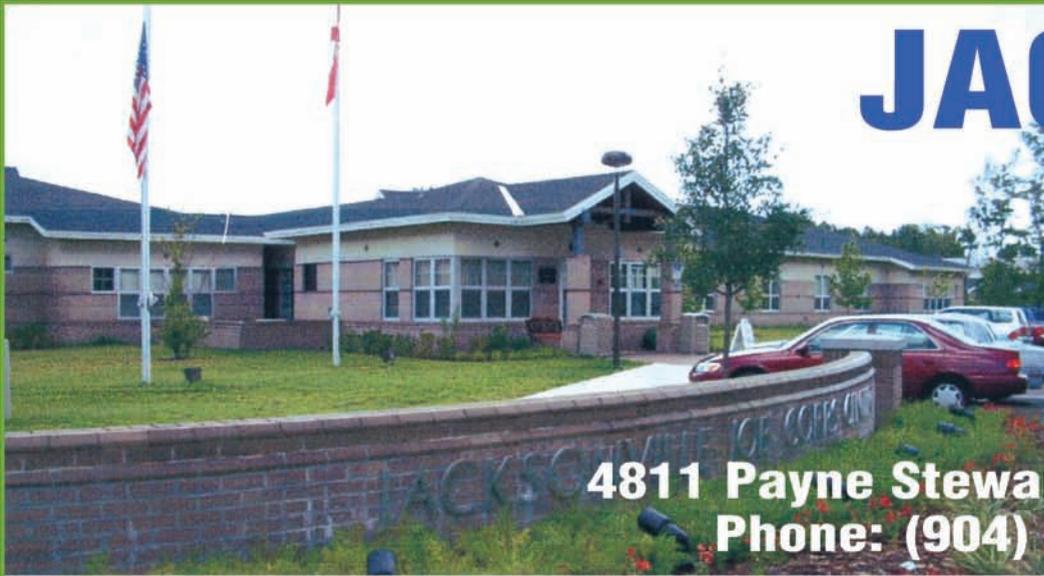
Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...." No, asking favors from God isn't wrong, but it shouldn't be the primary part of our prayers, or we become like greedy little children: "Gimme this! Gimme that!". Those prayers are essentially selfish rather than self-giving. They don't fulfill either the First Commandment, to love God with all our heart, or the Second, to love our neighbor as ourselves.

## How Should We Pray?

The Apostle Paul put it in this perspective. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). Notice the phrase "with thanksgiving" tucked in there with "present your requests to God." It's essential to keep prayer God-centered rather than self-centered. It's also the key to praying with real faith.

So when you pray, remember that your food doesn't deserve a blessing nearly so much as God who gave it. You can bless like Jesus did, "Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the world, who has caused bread to come forth out of the earth." Or offer a simple prayer of thanks to God for the food. Next time, don't "ask the blessing," but offer one to your Father.





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## FROM GOD'S CORNER



# IT'S COMING UP AGAIN

## The Martin Anderson Case

By Aundra Bryant  
Tallahassee, Florida

The recent trial in Bay County where seven guards and a nurse were acquitted has sparked unrest not only in Florida but across the country. After the verdict was read, I can just imagine the defendants saying, "Whew! it's over now". However, Paul's letter to the Galatians 6: 7 states, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked. A man reaps what he sows".

In our discussion today, it's not a matter of is it coming up again but when, where and how? In the Book of First Kings Chapter Twenty One there is an account of King Ahab trying to persuade Naboth to sell him his vineyard. However, Naboth does not want to sell his valuable property to Ahab and is plotted against and eventually murdered by King Ahab's lynch mob. In verse twenty one the Lord warns Ahab, "I am going to bring disaster on you. I will consume your descendents and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel, slave or free". Ahab pleaded with the Lord to have mercy on him and the Lord answered in verse twenty nine, "I will not bring disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son". Isn't it amazing that the same spot where Naboth's blood was shed, Ahab son's blood was shed?

Firstly, we don't know when it's coming up again? Rev. C. K. Steele was a civil rights activist in Tallahassee striving to persuade the status quo that blacks should be able to ride the city bus and sit where they wanted on that bus. Rev. Steele's life was threatened, his family's safety place in jeopardy but he pressed on because he believed in the authority of Micah 6: 8 which reads "He has showed you, Oh man what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". Isn't it ironic that Charles Carter, the owner of the bus company at the time of the protest in the 1950's, son was the director of the bus company when they named the city bus terminal in honor of Rev. C. K. Steele?

Secondly, we don't know where it's coming up again? Joseph, in the Book of Genesis, Chapter Thirty Seven is sold into slavery by his mean brothers who wanted to destroy his dreams for good. Joseph had to go through years of shame and degradation, yet he lived to be promoted to Governor in Egypt. One day during the famine years, his brothers had to come to him and plead for assistance. Joseph named his second son Ephraim because he said, "The Lord has bless me in the land of my affliction".

Finally, we don't know how it's coming up again? As Jesus was hanging on the cross, his enemies did not realize that the stone which they had rejected would become the cornerstone. There can be no structure without a cornerstone and you and I have no salvation without Jesus Christ. He was bruised for our transgression, chastised for our iniquities and by

his stripes we are healed. The songwriter says, "I'll rise again, ain't no power on earth can tie me down, death can't keep me in the ground".

In conclusion, one day there was a couple shopping in the grocery store and each time the wife would throw an item into the shopping cart, the husband would begin to frown. The wife stopped and said, "Why are you frowning up every time that I put something into the cart? The husband replied with a shout! Because I know it's coming up again at the cash register".

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# AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY, STILL AN UNTOLD STORY

**I**t is commonly known that school American history textbooks have many omissions of facts about the important and most significant historical role of African-Americans in the settlement and development of this country. Textbook writers, seem dimly aware or completely unaware of black involvement in the Civil War. A documentary film presently in production will make a difference.

Storyteller/Reenactor Mary Fears and Tyrone Young, an award winning filmmaker, together are producing a documentary titled, *Filling The Gap*. Contents of the film will do exactly that, "fill the gap" of omissions about the service of "people of color" in the Civil War. Never before has a Civil War film treated the subject from the perspective of this documentary.

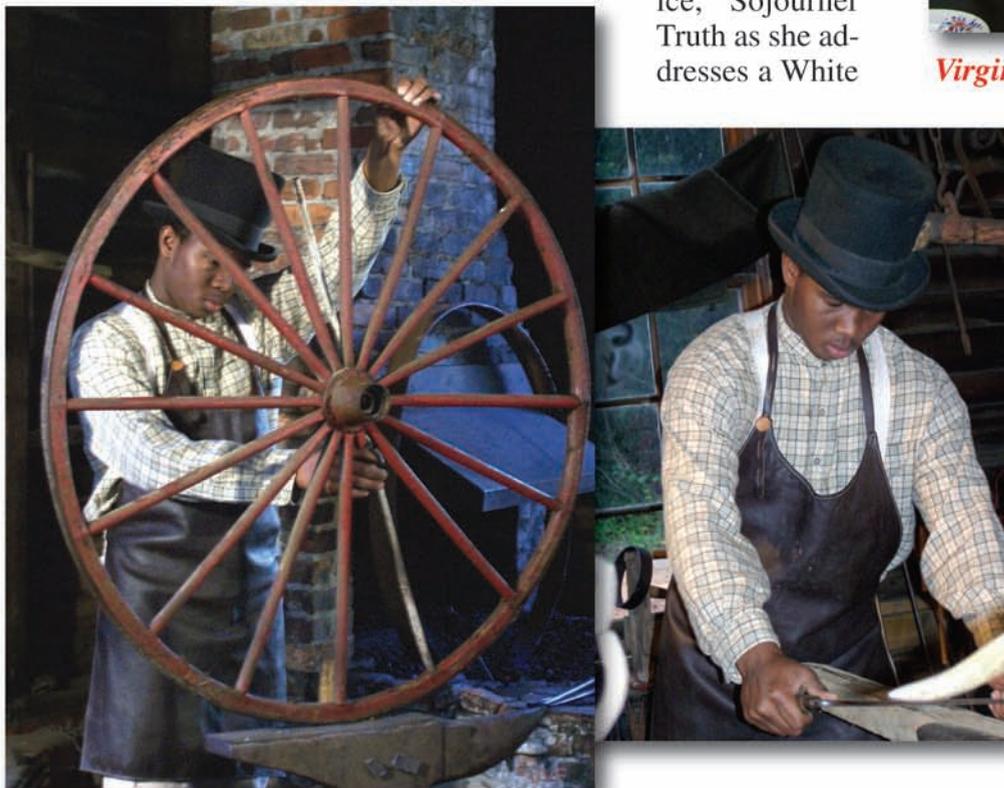
The film will feature in detail many examples of, "people of color," both slave and free, who served in the Civil War with courage, not only in the military of the Union Army and Navy, but in non-combat service as well. The film will show how the slaves, who became known as "contrabands" served the Union Army which not only assured the Union victory, but led to their own freedom. The fugitive slaves who escaped the toil of their plantation life, became the eyes and ears of many regiments serving as spies and guides. They used their skills as blacksmiths, as cooks, as teamsters, builders of fortifications, and as boot and shoemakers as examples. The film will show slave inventors and outstanding artisans such as Dave, a slave potter, Horace King, a slave builder of bridges and Thomas Day, a free man of color who was a most successful furniture maker. Viewers of the film will delight in seeing familiar characters like Harriet Tubman during her Civil War service, Sojourner Truth as she addresses a White

Women's Convention in 1852 and hear the tremendous voice of Frederick Douglass. Release date for the film is February 2008.

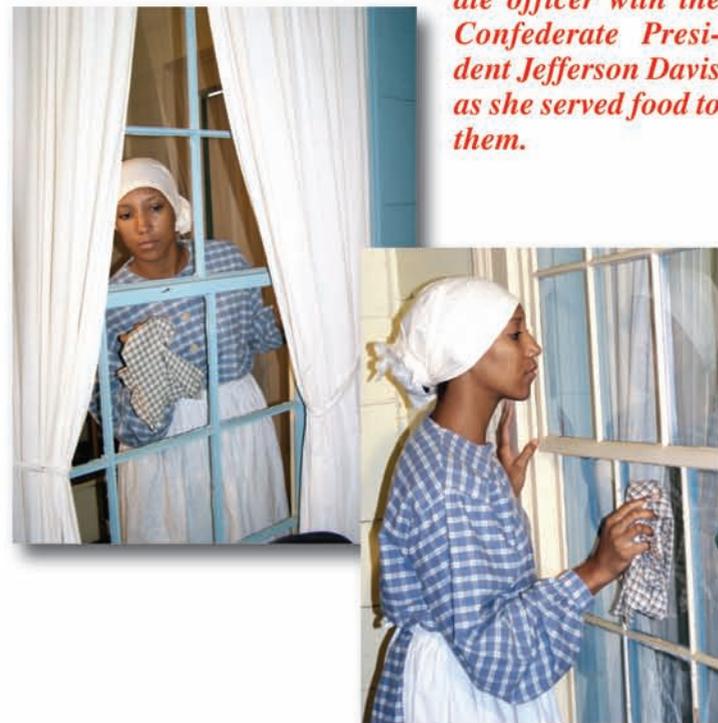
**To assist with production cost of the documentary, a Negro Spirituals program will be presented at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Saturday and Sunday, December 8th & 9th at 3:00 p.m. on Museum Blvd. in Daytona Beach. Admission is \$20.00. Storyteller Mary Fears will share the stories behind the creation of Negro Spirituals and two soloists, Diedra King and Darrel Williams, will be the featured soloists. Seating is limited, please call soon for ticket information: (386) 253 1516 or (386) 843 2807.**



*Virginia Smith as Elizabeth Bowser, disguised as a spy in Richmond, VA, in the Confederate Capitol eavesdropping and listening to troop movement plans of a Confederate officer with the Confederate President Jefferson Davis as she served food to them.*



*Mickel Brown as Gilbert Hunt, a skilled slave blacksmith who became famous as a maker of carriages in Richmond, VA prior to the Civil War.*



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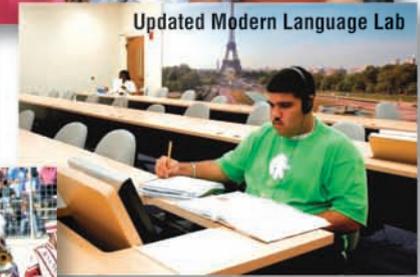
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**A**s we begin to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, this month ushers in our beautiful colors of red, green, royal, purple, gold, black, white, silver, burgundy and ivory. We have many new styles available; high collar angel wings, asymmetrical swag shawl collar blouses and leotards. Angel wings have zipper back with high neck and arm cuffs. Many colors are available with a variety of fabrics to compliment your dance uniform. Try metallic, polyester or even georgette. The wing blouse is available in full circle or high-low cascade styles.

Leotards are available in many styles and colors - oval, v-point,



and cascade shawl collars with ruffle sleeve. We also have scoop neck long and short sleeve leotards. You may prefer a higher neck such as high neck with zipper back, boat neck, crew neck, as well as u-neck. You can even request a wrap style leotard.

Unitards are available in short, three-quarter or long sleeve with the same varying neckline as our leotard.

Leggings are available to match any of our garments.

Skirts are from knee length, calf ankle or floor. The style of skirts ranges anywhere from flare to circle to double circle. Fabrics vary from chiffon; poly chiffon; georgette; polyester or crepe. Most skirts are without ruffle and are also available with ruffle.

Dresses are beautiful and graceful. They range from high neck to scoop neck with short or long sleeve, knee length, calf or ankle length.

Palazzo, culotte and baggy pants vary from fabrics of metallic; polyester; lycra and crepe.

Ephod overlays and breastplates range from v-front with open side to straight front with tie sides from waist to knee length. Styles range from camouflage to priesthood. Fabrics range from georgette to polyester to lyra.

Shoes are not limited. We have available for you, ballet, sandal sole, lace up, slip on, jazz, modern, character and tap shoes.

The male praise dancer is very special at Ultimate Dancewear. We offer loose fitting tops, bottoms, and ephods in every color imaginable. Dance shoes are available in many styles and colors.

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## **JENA 6 continued from page 9**

Black, they were deadly pranks. The soulful blues singer Cassandra Wilson, in her recording *New Moon Daughter* (Blue Note, 1995), sang of the monstrous practice of lynching in the song "Strange Fruit" [Hangin' from the Poplar Tree], first sung by the legendary Billie Holliday, as a Civil Rights protest: "Scent of magnolia sweet and fresh...Then the sudden smell of burning flesh."

There was a chronology of events leading to the Jena noose incident that seems to have gotten lost in the majority of mainstream media stories. In Jena, Justin Sloan, a white man, had attacked Black students who tried to go to a white party. Sloan was later charged only with battery and placed on probation. A few days after that incident, a white boy pulled a gun on three Black students in a convenience store. One of the Black students wrestled the gun from the white boy and took it home. So what happened? The Black student was arrested and then charged with 'theft of a firearm, second-degree robbery, and disturbing the peace' for trying to protect himself and his friends. The white student who had produced the gun? He was not charged with any crime.

### **AND THESE ACTS CONTINUE...ONE MORE ITEM IN THIS LIST TO HIGHLIGHT 'JENA JUSTICE'**

Later, in the case, and in a separate and particular charge against the six Black students, the district attorney of the town levied attempted second-degree murder charges. But, this charge, in order to stick, required that the perpetrator be charged with the illegal use of a deadly weapon. In JENA Justice, this was no problem: the D.A. simply argued that the sneakers used to kick the white student "were indeed deadly weapons." It was some comfort however, to know that this conviction was overturned by a Louisiana State Appellate Court. After a massive public outcry the Appellate Court ruled that the Black student should not have been tried as an adult in the first place.

### **LYNCHING AND TOWN CELEBRATIONS**

In the "olden days" it was usual for a town's white people to witness and then celebrate the lynching of Black brothers and sisters hanging from trees. In joyful glee the citizens donned 'souvenir' nooses around their necks as part of having a good time. These towns' people, including many participating officials, also left nooses on the doors of the next targeted Black as warning signs regarding whose hanging body would be the next "Strange Fruit Hanging From the Trees" unless Blacks 'stayed in their place.' This type of domestic terrorist activity went on for more than 200 hundred years; every year until 1952. It was an annual news worthy event for Tuskegee Institute to report in its journal headlines that 1952 was the first year of NO LYNCHING's in 71 Years in the USA! Every year from 1881 to 1952 there was at least one lynching in the United States of America.

### **'NEW NOOSES' THAT MUST BE EXPOSED AND DESTROYED**

From local to national leaders there has been little outcry or demand to continue marches and mass demonstrations in JENA, or the use of any other organizational Civil Rights or anti-hate crime strategy. Louisiana may not have any 'hate crime' statutes, but the Federal Government certainly does. Where is the Justice Department in the JENA-6 scenario? It has remained conspicuously silent! There should have been an immediate investigation as soon as the nooses were hung & the D.A. gave an obligatory slap-on-the-wrist to the perpetrators.

Only recently has anyone at the Justice Department spoken. MSNBC.com reported that Terrorism and Immigration are their current priorities. It begs the question: What do they think a HATE CRIME qualifies as? The hanging of nooses is a HATE CRIME, not a prank; one that has been documented through centuries of Black Americans' blood, guts, and tears. The meaning of nooses is just as cruel as a swastika on a Jewish synagogue, home, or business would be in the eyes of the law and decent human beings.

Since the JENA-6 incident made headlines, a number of other 'NOOSE' incidents have appeared, including two high-profile crimes; one in a Black Coast Guard cadet's bag on a Maryland college campus, and another on the office door of a Black professor at Columbia University in New York. Incidents have occurred in at least three other states. Democratic lawmakers have denounced the Justice Department for not intervening after investigating; deciding that the JENA matter could not be prosecuted. According to Donald Washington, the first Black U.S. attorney for Louisiana's western district, "the federal government typically does not bring hate crimes charges against juveniles."

It is a testament to those who organized and participated in the Jena demonstrations. They should be congratulated for doing such a superb job of mobilizing tens of thousands of outraged citizens to march in the streets of Jena. It is those demonstrations, as well as other organized protests, that should be continued until justice is served. The Reverend Al Sharpton of New York, who spoke before the House Judiciary Committee investigating the NOOSE hanging incident, decried the JENA-6 episode, saying "there was unfairness in a criminal justice system that declined to charge white students for a hate crime because they are minors, but [initially] chose to charge the six Black teens in the beating incident that followed, as adults." Sharpton pointed out that "These nooses were hung over a year ago...I know that the wheels of justice turn slow, but they seem to be at a standstill...that's why we're seeing nooses all over America." The Justice Establishment in Louisiana has spoken with its eyes wide shut and all across the nation their inept response to this type of domestic terrorism must be challenged.

*Dr. Carrol Waymon is President of the San Diego Chapter of the National Association of Black Psychologists. Dr. Debra Deane is a Clinical Psychologist, multi-award winning broadcast journalist, former news director, anchor, and is on the board of the San Diego Association of Black Psychologists.*

**For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

**- Romans 8:18**



# Onyx Community Awards On Tap For 2008

Jacksonville, FL - The 3rd Annual Onyx Awards of Northeast Florida will be presented January 12, 2008 and promises to be the most prestigious gala of the New Year. Sponsored by Winn-Dixie, LBS Foundation, Inc. and ONYX Magazine, proceeds from the black-tie, red-carpet event benefit children with sickle cell disease.

The gala will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront at 225 East Coastline Drive and kicks off with the VIP reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.. The awards ceremony begins promptly at 8 p.m. Rob Sweeting, anchorperson with WJXT Jacksonville's Channel 4 news, will be the master of ceremonies.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the various community awards to persons on the First Coast who demonstrate excellence and leadership. The competitive categories include Business, Communication, Education, Community Involvement and Music/Performing Arts. In addition, there are four non-competitive categories: Humanitarian, Lifetime Achievement, Diversity, and Publisher's Award. A Posthumous presentation will be made to the family of Mrs. Olivia Gay-Davis, a former Jacksonville educator and community activist.



### 2008 Onyx Awards Gala Committee

pictured left to right: **David Williams**, Fund Raiser chair;  
**Rita Perry**, Public Relations;  
**Margie Cody**, Logistics/Registration;  
**Theda Jackson**, Consultant/Logistics;  
**Jean Reddick**, Secretary/Public Relations;  
**Theresa Hodge**, General Chair/Publicity/ Fund Raiser;  
**Sandra Lane**, Hospitality/Registration/Fund Raiser;  
**Ben Green**, Financial Treasurer

Dr. Theresa Hodge, chairperson for the Northeast Florida Awards committee, says, "We are excited about this opportunity to showcase some of the great leadership from this area while we also bring attention to the sickle cell disease that historically strikes mostly African Americans. There is no cure for the disease which is hereditary, but through your financial support, we are able to offer an opportunity to help educate the community and provide care for those children who are afflicted with the disease."

Winners from the Onyx Awards of Northeast Florida will automatically be eligible for nomination for the statewide coveted Onyx Award. The ceremony for the statewide event will be held March 29, 2008 in Orlando, FL and is the brainchild of Lester and Lillian Seays, publishers for ONYX Magazine. It is their goal to host the Onyx Community Awards in at least eight markets throughout the state of Florida.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, contact Dr. Theresa Hodge 904-764-0981 or [principalhodge@aol.com](mailto:principalhodge@aol.com), or Jean Reddick, at [Jredd326@yahoo.com](mailto:Jredd326@yahoo.com). Individual tickets cost \$75 and a corporate table of 10 cost \$1,000.

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# The Chocolate Nutcracker: A Multi-Cultural Christmas Holiday Event

**S**outhwest United Communities, Inc. (SWUC) and Universal Childcare Development Center For The Arts in Orlando, Florida debut the first Multi-Cultural Christmas Holiday Event of the season. Beverly Bradford, the Executive Director of Southwest United Communities', extensive background in drama and special education, along with SWUC management and board of directors, felt the need within the community to bridge the gap between the arts and student achievement.

The Chocolate Nutcracker is not just another performing arts production or project; it is linked to the principles of the Florida Standards in Theatre, Dance and Music. It is an education in the arts, youth development, and community building strategy that ensures that all the youth, children and parents have an opportunity to appreciate value and participate in all forms of the arts. By teaching choreographed movement and the history of the Chocolate Nutcracker, the children will link to the elements of Math, Science, English, Language Arts, Technology, and the FCAT.

The audience will take a fantastic journey with a little girl named "Claire" through her enchanting dream with the Chocolate Nutcracker. This journey will take audiences to the exotic lands of Mali, North Africa, Egypt, The Caribbean, Brazil, The Orient, the imaginary land of Starflight Ballet, Toyland, The Rain Forest, Jazz Land and the Land of Gospel. The scenes from this wonderful Holiday Legend are filled with the pageantry of dazzling costumes, exciting dance movements, spectacular sets, rhythm, and sounds from Duke Ellington's "Nutcracker Suite." This voyage will display multiple forms of dance, including Ballet, Tap, Modern, Swing, Jazz, African, American Pop and yes, even Hip Hop!

The Chocolate Nutcracker is a LaVerne Reed production. This interpretation of Tchaikovsky's classical Nutcracker is written by Debbie Allen and LaVerne Reed. Mrs. Reed has written, directed, choreographed and produced children's dance and music for many years. She is well known throughout this country, for her creative genius in blending raw talent with professionals to produce a flawlessly creative production of wholesome family entertainment and holiday spectaculars. Considered the "Grande dame" of children's dance theater, Reed has dazzled the audiences of many theaters with her "Orpheus", "Adventures of Pan", and "Chocolate Nutcracker".

This "Arts in Education Initiative" is designed to give the youth of the community a rare opportunity to interact with local professional artists and nationally recognized artists who have performed with Alvin Ailey's American Dance Theatre, Arthur Mitchell's Dance Theatre of Harlem, Joffrey



Ballet and The Miami Ballet. The Chocolate Nutcracker will offer hundreds of children and young adults, ages 4-21, access to serious, progressive instruction in the performing arts, dance and music that will provide an educational experience to help them develop an appreciation of history, culture and dance, while displaying discipline, confidence, self-esteem, pride and positive images to their peers.

The youth performers of this production have been learning and rehearsing their parts since the beginning of July, when Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Commissioner Lynum, and Commissioner Sam Ings proclaimed the start of The Chocolate Nutcracker Season at a city council meeting. Many of the professional talent who are choreographing, teaching or consulting have been traveling into Orlando for months. They are:

- **Monica Richardson** who portrays "Claire," is trained in modern, ballet and jazz. Ms. Richardson has performed lead roles in both Debbie Allen's "Pepito". Background dancer for Gloria Estafan; rap artists Ja Rule and Missy Elliot;
- **Lloyd Whitmore**, Choreographer, Modern Dance Instructor, Graphic Designer has served on the faculties of City College of New York The Washington Ballet, American University, Howard University and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.
- **Vincent Bingham**, Guest Tap Artist has studied under legendary "Tap Masters" Savion Glover, Gregory Hines and Letang. Original cast member and principle dancer in the touring company for the 9-time Tony Award Nominee Broadway production, "Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk."
- **Jai Henson**, Resident Director-Choreographer, founder and President of Life Force Cultural Arts Academy and Artistic Director of Dunde Dole Urban African Ballet. Mr. Henson has per-

**see CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER page 36**

# *Touch of Elegance*

**C**hristmas represents the love of God, who gave the Christ Child to the world. On the birthday of our Lord, shepherds brought praise and the wise men brought their riches. There was great celebration!

When it comes to Christmas, we are already getting ready for celebration. We all love this time of year. It is crisp. There is a feeling in the air that wakes up all of our senses. It is a time to share with family and friends, bring out the good china, the silver, and all of the things that add sparkle and excitement.

We get a huge amount of satisfaction out of creating lasting memories. When we really throw ourselves into preparing something that we share with other people, something that comes from the heart – we create a memory that lasts forever.

Every time we celebrate one of the traditional holidays, we become part of a whole chain of memories that came before us and those that follow. Celebration gives us the chance to have fun, try something new or a reason to celebrate the excitement we felt in our childhood.

It is always nice to give each celebration its own personality. You do not need vast resources to be creative. You just need to be resourceful. Beauty can come from the simplest beginning. Take inspiration from anything that is unique and special about you, your family and friends.

Embrace the season. Add an extra special touch to your holiday celebration. Anything that individualizes the celebration will make the space feel more comfortable and intimate. Play with ideas, have fun.

- ❖ Buy special flowers or colored candles for tables.
- ❖ Use colorful napkins.
- ❖ Make a bouquet of balloons.
- ❖ Sprinkle candies or glitter in the center of the table.
- ❖ Put a small gift at every place setting.



**Marjorie K. Cody**  
**President/CEO**  
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In all of our individual celebrations, we must not lose perspective of the reason for the season. Thank God for the season. As the banquet table is set, as friends and loved ones gather from far and near, let us rejoice. Let us remember that the Lord is a GREAT God, and a GREAT KING above all gods. Remember JESUS is the reason for the season.

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# "COME SEE A MAN, COME SEE A REAL MAN"

By, Reverend Doctor Carlton D. Jones  
Jacksonville, Florida

Webster's Dictionary states that man is the compound idea of infinite Spirit; the spiritual image and likeness of God; the full representation of Mind as one man. The King James Version of Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

God gave man dominion over the earth and everything on and above the earth, and God created man in His image and likeness. Men have an awesome responsibility to women who God created in Genesis 2:21-23, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept and He (God) took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord, God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: This is now the bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of man." I can only imagine when God presented this masterpiece of a woman Eve to Adam, what Adam must have said, WO-man, Praise the Lord for she is beautifully created in God's own image and likeness.

That is why men have to take our responsibilities seriously. We have to stop blaming women for the great fall and our plight in life. I am tired of Theologians blaming Eve the woman for the fall of mankind, because God gave Adam dominion over the earth and dominion over Eve, Adam did not have to eat of the fruit in the garden of Eden, the fruit of Knowledge of good and evil.

Adam, man fell out of God's grace when he did not take responsibility for tending the garden as God instructed Adam to do. Adam had dominion over the entire earth. He had dominion over everything that walked and creped upon the earth, which included Eve and the serpent. Are men of today taking on the responsibilities that God has given us? I want to say no, but that is not true. There are real men, trying to be Christ like, and though we may come short of God's glory, we are under Jesus dispensation of grace and mercy. God wants us to repent when we fall short, all we have to do is ask God to forgive us and ask the one's we may have hurt or disappointed to forgive us. Love is having, to say I am sorry.

God told Adam and Eve not to touch or eat the fruit of the tree of good and evil or they would surely die. God could have physically killed Adam and Eve. But, this was God's first act of grace and mercy. Adam and Eve did receive the curse of God and did surely die spiritually. God, from that day on, sought to restore a personal relationship with His creation.

Because of Adam and Eve's fall from God's grace, we now have a free will and the knowledge of good and evil. We now have to make good choices and if you believe in God, the Father through Jesus Christ the Son, we will receive the power of discernment through the power of the Holy Spirit. God has given us the power

to decide and the power to receive His discernment.

Men still have dominion over the earth, but it is not automatic. We have to exercise our will to have dominion over the things in our lives. According to scripture we are the head and not the tail, that we are the head of our family. We have to exercise our free will. We have to put it into action. Men wake up and take control of our situations through the power of the Holy Spirit. We can't do it alone, we need God the Father, through Jesus Christ and through the power and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

God could not come into contact with sin, but He loved us so much that He wanted to restore a spiritual relationship with His creation man, who He created in His image and likeness. God needed a pure and perfect blood atonement for the sin of Adam. So He sowed Himself into flesh and blood in order to come to us, God sowed His seed into the virgin Mary and the world reaped Jesus

who came so that He could restore a spiritual relationship with man. God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Holy trinity working with us and through us.

I do not know if we really can understand this kind of love. Jesus came so that we can live life more abundantly and through

His blood atonement for the sin of Adam, so that we can live under the dispensation of Jesus grace and His mercy. Jesus blood atonement for our sins and the sins of Adam and Eve had to take place, because all of the other covenants that God made with man, yet we still disappointed God.

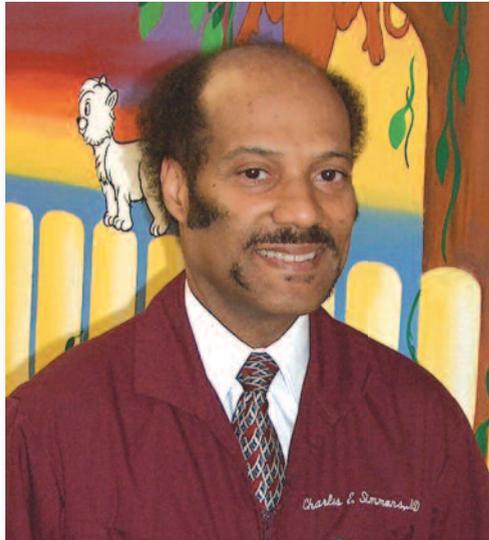
We as men need to understand, the awesome responsibility that God assigned to man in Genesis chapter one, in order for us to understand why the scriptures in John chapter four are so important. We can not receive and understand the word of God until we understand that the scriptures in the Old Testament complement the New Testament and confirms Jesus coming, miracles, death, resurrection and His coming back again.

The text John chapter 4 centers around a woman at Jacob's well. The woman at the well was a Samaritan who the Jews had very little to do with. Jesus asked the woman at the well for a drink of water, but she was amazed that a Jew would have anything to do with a Samaritan. Jesus also revealed to the woman who He was and that if she believed He would give her living water. The woman question Jesus further because she knew the well was deep and Jesus had nothing to draw the water. But, Jesus told her that who ever drank of this water would thirst again but the water He offered she would not thirst again, but a fountain would spring up and into everlasting life. The woman said to Jesus, give me this water so that I would not thirst again and have to come to this well. The woman



*The greatest honor  
a woman can bestow upon a man  
is to say "come see a real man  
a man that is created in the  
image and likeness of  
Jesus the Christ".*

see **CARLTON JONES** page 24



**Dr. Charles E. Simmons**

# Endometriosis

By **Dr. Charles E. Simmons**  
**Jacksonville, Florida**  
 Assisted By **Dominique D. Barrs**  
**Medical Student**

The word endometriosis comes from the word endometrium. The prefix *endo-* means “inside” and *-metrium* means “mother”. Endometrium is the tissue that lines the uterus (womb), and women with this problem have tissue that look and acts like the lining of the uterus, but grows outside of the uterus in places it’s not supposed to grow. These areas can be classified as tumors, growths, lesions, nodules, or implants. Most cases of endometriosis are found on or under the ovaries, behind the uterus, on the tissues that hold the uterus in place, or on the bowels or bladder. However, endometriosis can grow in the lungs or other parts of the body, however wherever this misplaced tissue is, it causes pain, infertility, and very heavy periods.

To better understand why pain is a result of endometriosis, an understanding of a woman’s period is needed. Every month, hormones cause the lining of the uterus to build up with blood vessels and tissue. The uterus then sheds this tissue and blood through the vagina if the woman does not get pregnant. Endometriosis also responds to the monthly cycle of the woman. Every month, the growths add more tissue and blood, and since the tissue isn’t where it is supposed to be, it can’t leave the body the way a woman’s period normally does. As time progresses, endometriosis areas can grow and become nodules on the surface of the pelvic organs, or even cysts (fluid-filled sacs) in the ovaries. This leads to inflammation, scar tissue, and pain from the resulting tissue and blood that is shed into the body.

Endometriosis does not discriminate who it affects. From a girl who just got her first period, to a woman encountering menopause, anyone can get endometriosis. Overall, women with endometriosis are 27 years old on average. They still get their periods, and have symptoms for two to five years before they even find out that they have it. The exact cause of endometriosis is still unknown, but you are more likely to get endometriosis if you get your period at an early age. Also, having heavy periods, or periods that last more than seven days can be a cause for endometriosis. Endometriosis can result from “retrograde menstrual flow”. This is when the tissue that sheds during a menstrual flow flows into her pelvis instead of exiting through her blood.

As stated before, pain is the most common symptom of a patient with endometriosis. Some women have reported that they have no pain, and they have a large region affected with endometriosis. Some women claim to suffer from an excruciating



**Nodules or growths on the endometrium of the uterus.**



**A fallopian tube infected with outer cysts and nodules.**

amount of pain, and their endometriosis coverage is minor. This is a great indicator that the amount of pain is not positively correlated with the severity of endometriosis. Those suffering from pain have a variety of painful encounters. Painful menstrual cramps, chronic pain in the lower back and pelvis, pain during and after sex, intestinal pain, painful bowel movements, painful urination during monthly cycle, spotting in between periods, fatigue, and infertility.

There are treatments for the pain and infertility that endometriosis causes. Over-the counter drugs and prescription drugs are available for mild cases of endometriosis. Sometimes, pain medication is not strong enough and hormone therapy is needed. Women who take hormone treatments usually do not wish to have children; they only want to alleviate pain due to their small growths and excessive pain. Pills, shots, and nasal sprays are the different forms that the hormones come in. For women who suffer severely from endometriosis, surgery seems to be the best method. The removal of growths and scar tissue, or destroying them with intense heat, are procedures done during Laparoscopy.

Endometriosis is really a growing issue, as more and more women are diagnosed with this problem. The *Endometriosis Research Center (ERC)* main goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by the disease. “The ERC is an International leader in raising Endometriosis awareness; providing education, encouragement and empowerment to all those living with this illness; facilitating global Endometriosis research efforts; and so much more”. Located in Delray Beach, Florida, the world headquarters is teaming up with clinicians and researchers all over the world to find more effective treatments, and eventually a cure.

# HE AIN'T HEAVY

After years of struggling with his weight, activist **Al Sharpton** leads the way to fitness

By **Tomika Anderson and Dr. Ira Riley – Dental Rx, Jacksonville, FL**

He may not have a washboard stomach or the pecs of an Adonis, but don't be fooled – the Reverend Al Sharpton has spent many hours fine-tuning his physique. Having shed nearly 90 pounds and having maintained that weight loss over the past few years, America's most visible civil rights leader is in fighting form for the first time ever.

Overhauling a fatty diet while breaking in his walking shoes six years ago – dropping down from about 300 pounds to a svelte 210 – Sharpton has finally conquered a struggle with weight that has plagued him his entire life. "I have more endurance; my focus is sharper; and I don't need as much sleep as I used to," the political activist boasts cheerfully. "I can honestly say I'm a new man."

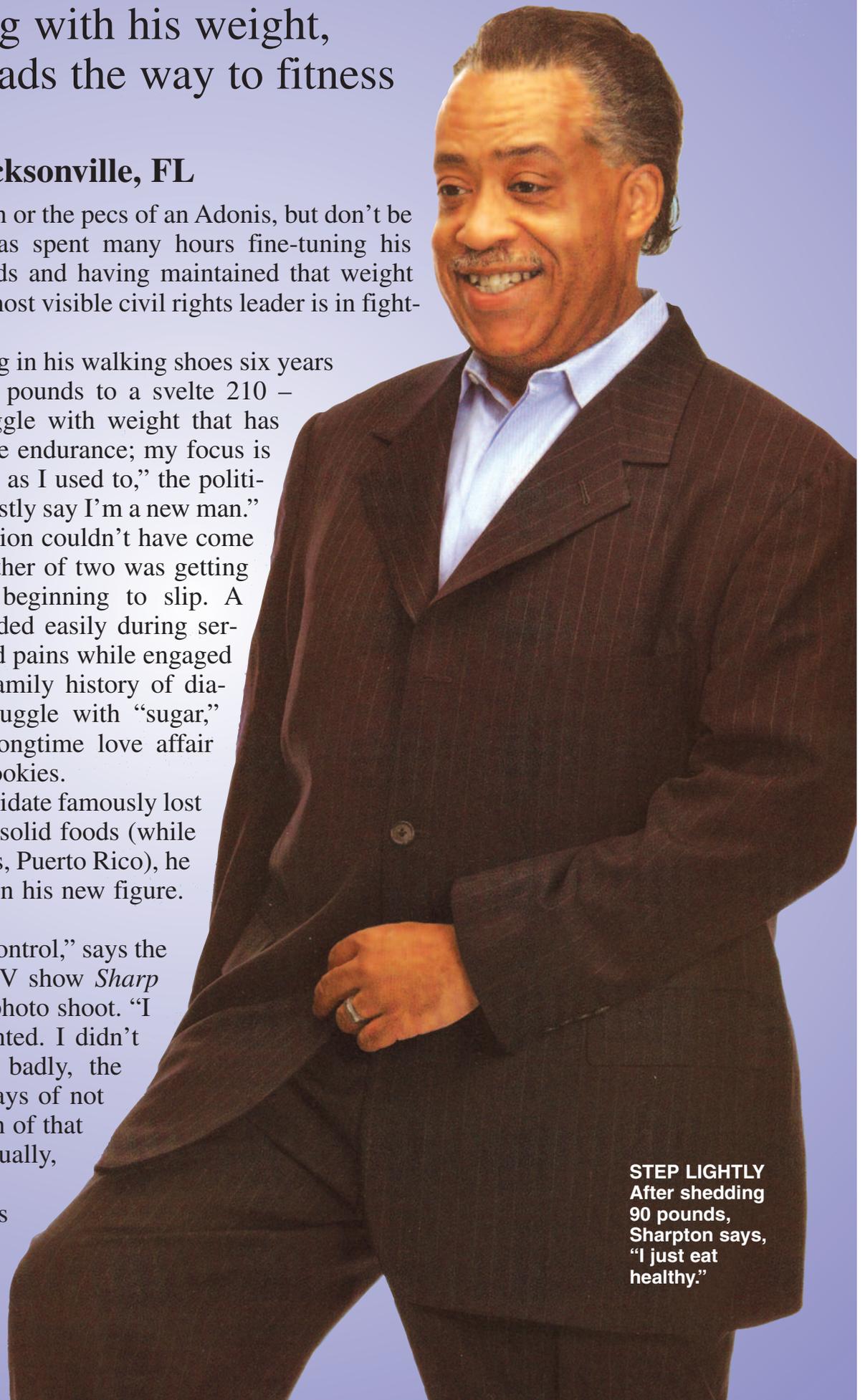
Sharpton's dramatic body transformation couldn't have come at a better time. At 52 years old, the father of two was getting daily reminders that his health was beginning to slip. A Pentecostal minister, he would get winded easily during sermons. He began to suffer from aches and pains while engaged in moderate activity. And Sharpton's family history of diabetes, not to mention his personal struggle with "sugar," threatened to permanently derail his longtime love affair with fried chicken and chocolate chip cookies.

So when the onetime presidential candidate famously lost over 30 pounds in 2001 after giving up solid foods (while in jail for 90 days for a protest in Vieques, Puerto Rico), he vowed to do whatever it took to maintain his new figure. Not to mention his health.

"Before Vieques, my diet was out of control," says the syndicated radio host and star of the TV show *Sharp Talk with Al Sharpton* on the set of his photo shoot. "I ate whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. I didn't exercise. But when I stopped eating badly, the weight came off. And since I had 90 days of not having to do anything else, I spent much of that time walking around the pier. Eventually, exercising became a lifestyle."

Not that he hasn't struggled with this weight since then.

When Sharpton campaigned for president in 2004, the stress he was under – not to mention the rich food he ate at



**STEP LIGHTLY**  
After shedding  
90 pounds,  
Sharpton says,  
"I just eat  
healthy."

see **SHARPTON** page 24

## AL SHARPTON continued from page 23

mandatory receptions and black-tie events – caused the weight to creep back.

“I went up because [when you’re running for public office] you go from a lunch to a dinner to a brunch. I think I gained about 45 pounds. But it bothered me. For the first time in my life, it bothered me. So I would constantly start exercising, and immediately when I stopped running [for president], I dropped it all down. Unlike in my younger days, I became very weight-conscious and knew how much better I felt being leaner.”

Once Sharpton strengthened his commitment, he hit his stride, and the temptation to return to his old ways fell away. Now, he says, he tests his willpower by dining out with friends who are eating his favorite foods. “I think I’ve always had discipline. I just never applied it to eating,” he says, laughing. “When I was in Vieques, a guy told me that if you can control the way you eat, you can control your life,” he says. “I’ve never forgotten that lesson.”

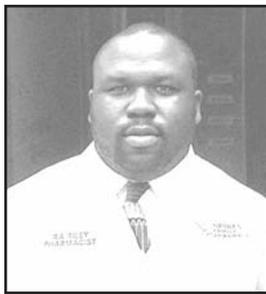
His health-conscious lifestyle has rubbed off on his family and friends as well. “The people in his studio, his producer, they’re watching their diets now,” says his daughter Dominique Sharpton. “Everybody is trying to live, and he’s been a great motivator. I’m very proud of him.” “Black people, you can’t have all this focus and determination in every other aspect of your life and then turn around and eat too much,” he warns. “It means something’s off. It means you’ve still got some work to do. God wants us to be in control.”

To be clear, Sharpton insists that you don’t have to go hardcore – like adopting the liquid diet he was on when he was jailed for the Vieques protest – in order to lose the weight. “I just eat healthy,” he says. “I eat a chicken Caesar salad every day. It’s all about lean meats, water, fruits and vegetables. And [I eat] soups, especially chicken noodle or tomato-based soups. I’ve found things that I actually like to eat, so I don’t miss the old stuff as much.”

And when he’s on the road – which is most of the time – Sharpton chooses his hotel, in part, according to how good its fitness center is. “I work out first thing in the morning, before I even read the paper,” says the self-described news junkie. “It’s 30 minutes on the treadmill while I’m watching the news or listening to some music [and] 15 minutes on the elliptical trainer. Then, I’ll play around with some weights – I might even hit the track afterward.”

And even though Sharpton’s resolve now is primarily to maintain good health, he’s found that his trimmer waistline is a hit with the ladies. Talk about motivation. It’s never been my focus,” he grins sheepishly, “but it helps.”

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## CARLTON JONES continued from page 21

was acknowledging to Jesus that she wanted to be forgiven of her sins so that she would not have to come back to this well at the sixth hour because of the shame of her sins.

Jesus, said to her to call her husband and come here, and the woman answered I have no husband. Jesus did this to allow her to expose her sin. Jesus was pleased that she said she had no husband and revealed to her that she had five husbands and the one she was with was not her husband.

This woman was probably mistreated by men and was past around like a piece of property. In those days, women did not have any rights they were treated and traded like livestock. She probably carried a lot of hurt, and shame and had very low self-esteem.

Why would you say this? I noticed in John 4:6 the time of day that she showed up at the well, it was at the sixth hour, a time that all the other women would had left the well. She was ashamed and did not want to be judge. She went at the evening hour when she knew no one else would be around.

The woman perceived Jesus as a prophet, but was confused in that her fathers worshiped God on the mountain and that the Jews worshiped in Jerusalem. And Jesus said to her in verse 21, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming and now is when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

We are very much like the woman at the well, because we first look at someone’s outer appearance. She saw Jesus first as a Jew, then she saw Jesus as a prophet, and then she saw Jesus as the Messiah. Women are looking for a spouse that is a man, a real man made in the image and likeness of God the Father, the image and likeness of Jesus the Christ.

The disciples came back and marveled that Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman, yet they said nothing. The woman left with such excitement that she left her water pot, went her way into the city and said to the men, come see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

In the meantime His disciples urged Him saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, there are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps

**See CARLTON JONES page 26**

## FOUNDER OF BE SOMEONE ADDRESSES CHURCH LEADERS ON CHESS AND CHANGE "ONE MOVE AT A TIME"

The dynamic founder of Be Someone (www.BeSomeone.org), former state trooper, chess champion, motivational speaker and author of One Move at a Time - Orrin "Checkmate" Hudson has been invited by Dr. Michael A. Battle to teach the basics of chess and the principles of Be Someone on November 15, 2007 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Dr. Battle is the current and 7th president of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) (www.itc.edu) located at 700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. in Atlanta, Georgia. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a consortium of denominational seminaries whose mission is to educate Christian leaders for ministry and service in the Church and the global community. The audience for this event will consist of pastors and church leaders from around the Southeast who can impact the lives of our youth and others through their ministries.

Be Someone, Hudson's award winning crime prevention program, has mentored thousands of students since its inception in 2001. Orrin has proven, through his Be Someone program (www.BeSomeone.org), that learning to play chess helps young people learn to think for themselves and make smarter decisions through improved pattern recognition and concentration.

Students of the Be Someone program walk away with more self confidence, motivation, a greater desire to excel in school and a marked improvement in their GPA. With Be Someone they also learn teamwork and the importance of community involvement.

Be Someone implements Hudson's innovative KASH is King Philosophy which spells success for students by emphasizing K=



**Orrin Hudson**  
Be Someone

Knowledge is power, A = Attitude is everything; S = Skills for success; H = Good Habits can change your life. "Be Someone urges young men to abandon the saggy pants look in order to project a more professional appearance. Heads up! Pants up! Grades up!" says Hudson. "I teach kids to think it out, don't shoot it out. Push pawns, not drugs. Prevention is better than detention."

"Chess teaches people to look at problems from different perspectives, and to think before making a move. Every move one makes has consequences, either positive or negative," says Hudson. "In that respect, it's exactly like life. Winning reinforces the good choices one makes, while

losing provides an opportunity for one to learn from mistakes. Get in the game and join us. The greatest crime in the world is not developing your potential. When you do what you do best, you are helping not only yourself but the world."

"We appreciate sponsors who support us in helping reach more and more kids. Our sponsors are helping us change the world for the better 'One Move at a Time'," said Hudson. For more information about Be Someone or to have Orrin Hudson speak at your school or organization, please visit [www.BeSomeone.org](http://www.BeSomeone.org)



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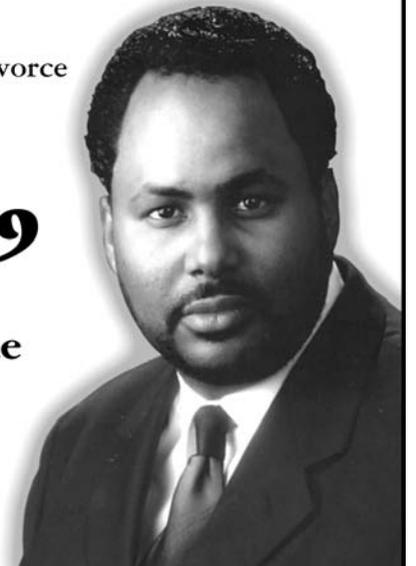
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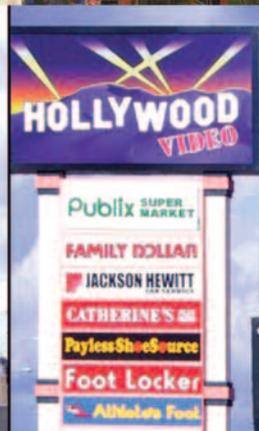
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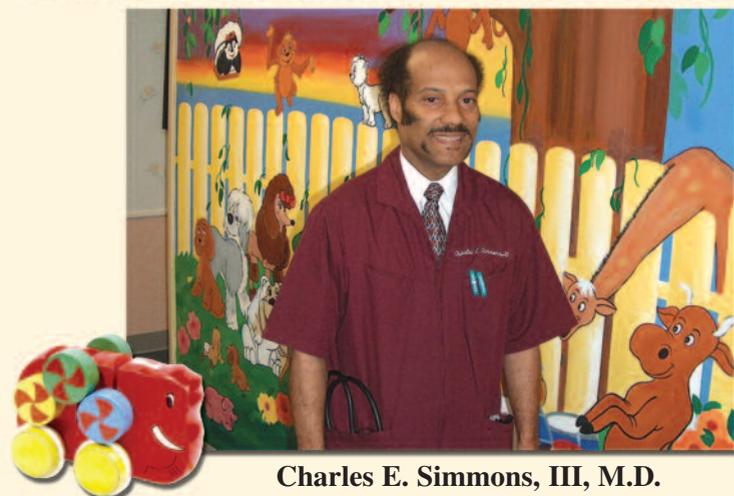
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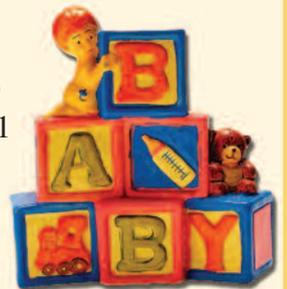
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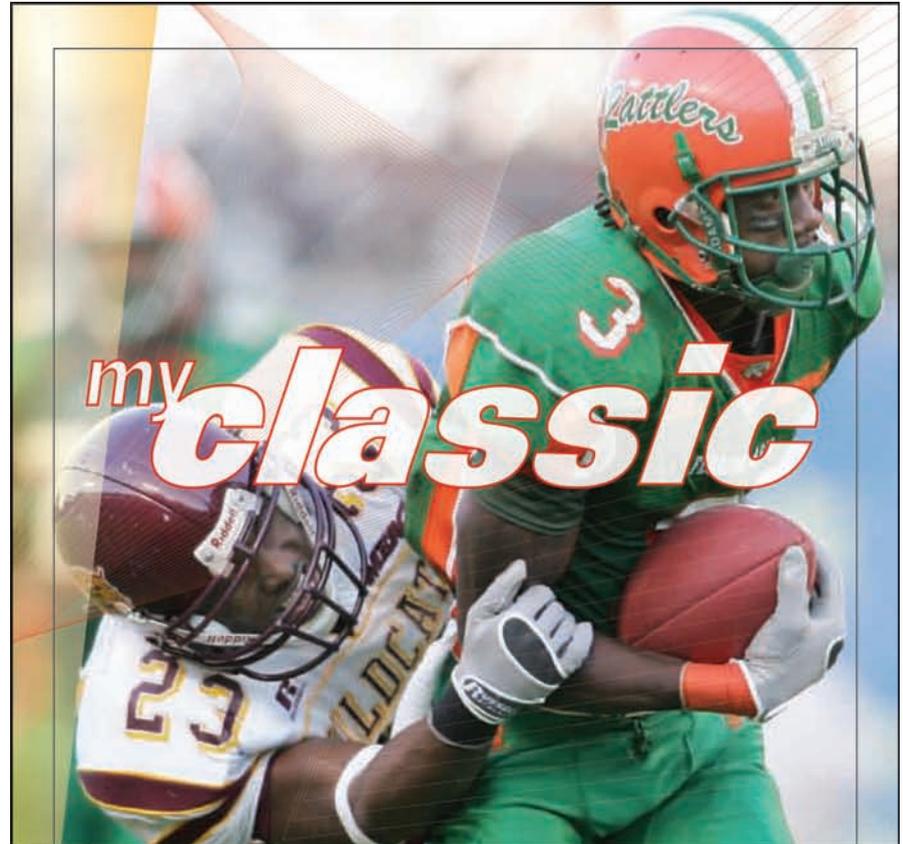
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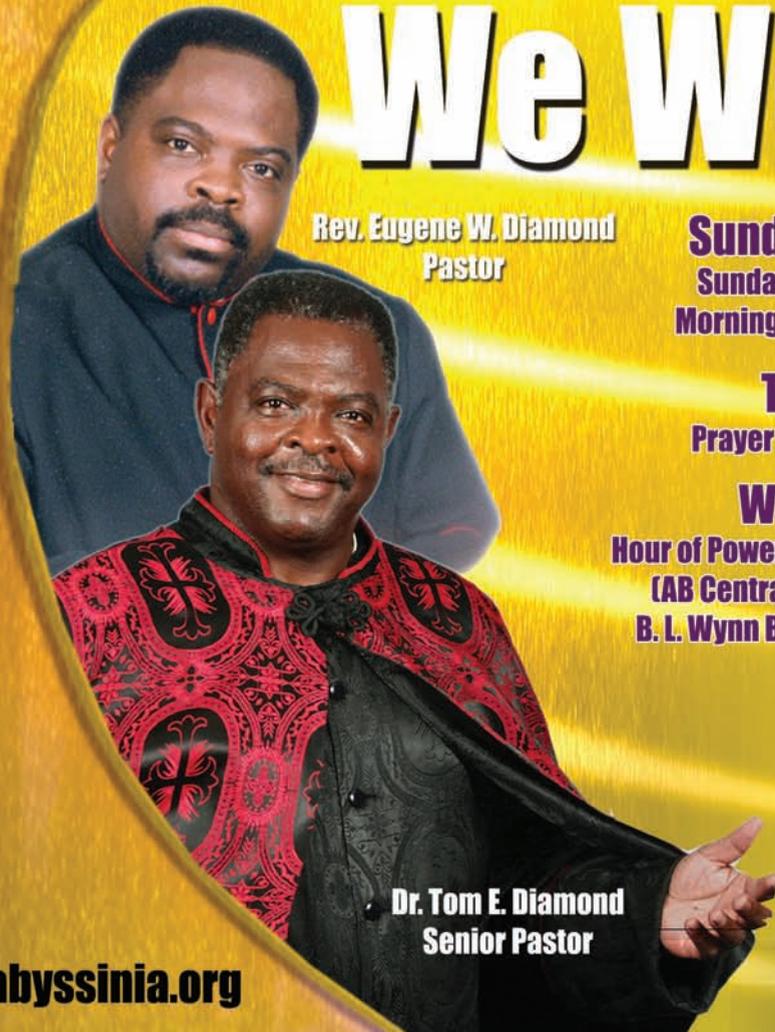


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# Bible Wordsearch

## Abraham buries Sarah

Genesis Chapter 23

Puzzle #146

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

E	L	I	V	E	D	H	D	L	E	W	C	F	H	O
C	I	T	G	I	V	E	A	E	L	N	P	I	Y	D
N	S	S	N	O	R	B	E	H	A	E	F	E	T	I
I	T	G	G	S	R	E	D	R	O	B	S	L	H	Y
R	E	G	N	A	R	T	S	P	G	U	M	D	G	S
P	N	T	H	O	D	W	L	T	F	A	R	R	I	P
E	E	A	I	S	L	E	K	E	H	S	E	T	M	O
B	M	O	T	T	N	E	R	R	U	C	T	W	I	K
M	A	M	R	E	T	N	B	D	E	I	R	U	B	E
L	B	D	N	A	L	I	E	N	N	A	A	N	A	C
W	O	R	T	H	L	H	H	G	R	U	E	E	A	I
D	W	E	E	P	G	C	A	V	E	U	H	A	T	R
R	E	V	L	I	S	E	E	R	T	S	O	R	I	P
O	D	E	E	D	E	D	E	M	A	N	O	M	T	A
L	S	W	I	F	E	F	R	U	G	S	I	R	T	Y

More Puzzles At:

- |         |         |         |          |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| ABRAHAM | DEEDED  | MOURN   | SITTING  |
| AGREED  | FIELD   | NAMED   | SPOKE    |
| ALIEN   | GATE    | NEAR    | STRANGER |
| BELONGS | GIVE    | PAY     | TERMS    |
| BETWEEN | HEBRON  | PEOPLE  | TOMB     |
| BORDERS | HITTITE | PRICE   | TREES    |
| BOWED   | HUNDRED | PRINCE  | WEEP     |
| BURIED  | LAND    | REFUSE  | WEIGHED  |
| CANAAN  | LISTEN  | ROSE    | WIFE     |
| CAVE    | LIVED   | SARAH   | WORTH    |
| CITY    | LORD    | SELL    |          |
| CURRENT | MAMRE   | SHEKELS |          |
| DEAD    | MIGHTY  | SILVER  |          |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 27

## I'm A Christian Reader

# Bible Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10			11		12	
13			14			15	
16				17			
			18				
19	20		21		22	23	24
							25
26	27		28		29	30	31
			32				
34		35			36		37
39				40			41
42					43		
44				45			46

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### ACROSS

- 1 "\_\_\_"! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? (Luke 4:34)
- 4 If the whole body were an \_\_\_, where would the sense of smell be? (1 Cor 12:17)
- 7 Jesus replied, "\_\_\_ back and report to John what you hear and see (Matt 11:4-5)
- 9 But if it were I, I would \_\_\_ to God (Job 5:8)
- 11 I decide between the parties and \_\_\_ them of God's decrees (Ex 18:16)
- 13 Weren't there three men that we \_\_\_ up and threw into the fire? (Dan 3:24)
- 14 they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' \_\_\_ (Dan 6:16)
- 15 You brood of vipers! Who warned you to \_\_\_ from the coming wrath? (Matt 3:7)
- 16 called the council together, and all the \_\_\_ of the children of Israel (Acts 5:21) KJV
- 17 The \_\_\_ taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces. (Prov 30:28) KJV
- 18 the gazelle, the \_\_\_ deer, the wild goat, the ibex (Deut 14:5)
- 19 I fought wild \_\_\_ in Ephesus for merely human reasons (1 Cor 15:32)
- 22 That they all might be \_\_\_ who believed not the truth (2 Thess 2:12) KJV
- 26 do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not \_\_\_ his rebuke (Prov 3:11)
- 30 judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first \_\_\_ (1 Tim 5:12)
- 33 He told \_\_\_, Go, call your husband and come back (John 4:16)
- 34 And with these sayings \_\_\_ restrained they the people (Acts 14:18) KJV
- 36 Your name will no longer be Jacob, but \_\_\_ (Gen 32:28)
- 39 go out to the open country to \_\_\_ some wild game for me (Gen 27:3)
- 40 If someone forces you to go \_\_\_ mile, go with him two miles (Matt 5:41-42)
- 41 Her spirit returned, and at \_\_\_ she stood up. (Luke 8:55)
- 42 the turn came for \_\_\_ (the girl Mordecai had adopted) (Est 2:15)
- 43 to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, \_\_\_ (Rev 1:11)
- 44 "Come, follow \_\_\_," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men (Matt 4:18-19)
- 45 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, \_\_\_ forfeit his soul? (Mark 8:36)
- 46 Be perfect, therefore, \_\_\_ your heavenly Father is perfect (Matt 5:48)

### DOWN

- 1 these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their \_\_\_ (Dan 3:21) KJV
- 2 And the doors had two leaves \_\_\_ (Ezek 41:24) KJV
- 3 the LORD breaks in pieces the \_\_\_ of Lebanon (Ps 29:5)
- 4 the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the \_\_\_ mocked him (Matt 27:41-42)
- 5 the pot is to be scoured and \_\_\_ with water (Lev 6:28)
- 6 do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently \_\_\_ (1 Tim 1:7)
- 7 many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in \_\_\_ (Acts 20:2)
- 8 Take an \_\_\_ of manna and keep it for the generations to come (Ex 16:32)
- 10 much to write you, but I do not want to do so with \_\_\_ and ink. (3 John 13-14)
- 12 no one pours new wine into \_\_\_ wineskins (Mark 2:22)
- 19 the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, \_\_\_ and all (Judg 16:3)
- 20 Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an \_\_\_ (Matt 21:5) KJV
- 21 Jesus asked, "Were not all \_\_\_ cleansed? Where are the other nine? (Luke 17:17)
- 23 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and \_\_\_ the angels with him (Matt 25:31)
- 24 from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of \_\_\_, east of Eden (Gen 4:16)
- 25 If I am a master, where is the respect \_\_\_ me?" says the LORD Almighty (Mal 1:6)
- 27 but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without \_\_\_ (Ps 25:3)
- 28 first man is of the earth, \_\_\_ : the second man is the Lord (1 Cor 15:47) KJV
- 29 The \_\_\_ of evolution
- 30 designated by God to be high \_\_\_ in the order of Melchizedek (Heb 5:10)
- 31 Who can discern his \_\_\_? Forgive my hidden faults (Ps 19:12)
- 32 And the rough goat is the king of \_\_\_ (Dan 8:21) KJV
- 34 Noah had three sons: \_\_\_, Ham and Japheth. (Gen 6:10)
- 35 Go to the \_\_\_, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! (Prov 6:6)
- 37 For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, \_\_\_ serve him only (Matt 4:10)
- 38 I am \_\_\_ than the least of all God's people (Eph 3:8)

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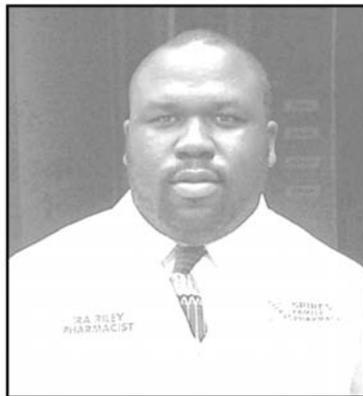
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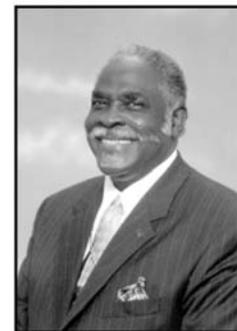
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## WE'VE GOT TO SAVE OUR BLACK MALES AT BLACK COLLEGES

By Tom Joyner  
The Tom Joyner Foundation

Every year, I visit more than a dozen black college campuses giving graduation speeches and helping them raise money. It makes me feel good to see all those students' smiling faces, but there's something missing. As much as I like to see all the African-American women graduating from HBCUs, and enjoy getting all those hugs, I'd like to get more firm handshakes from young brothers in caps and gowns. In other words, I'm not seeing enough black male's faces at these graduations, and that's got me worried.

In fact, I'm so worried, my Foundation started a scholarship fund — 'Brothers on the Move' — to make sure black men stay in school — and graduate. Already, I've given \$2,500 scholarships to young black men at Tougaloo College, Cheney University of Pennsylvania and Tennessee State University. Before the end of the year, young men at Edward Waters College and Savannah State University will be recognized. I had to do something to at least level the playing field for these brothers and make sure they have every chance they can to get a college degree. The reality is that the statistics tell the story.

At many Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), there are twice as many women as men enrolled and well, more black females graduate than black men. In fact, the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education reported that black women received more than two-thirds of all degrees earned by African-Americans. What makes me even angrier is a recent Census report showing that in 2006, black men were 37 percent of the total inmate population in the United States. That's outrageous!

The problem of black male enrollment in college starts with the lack of black males in high school and junior high. There are dozens of studies that look into why black males don't stay in school — lack of interest, boredom, eager to enter the workplace right after high school or to find other means for making a quick buck, and lack of mentors or parents interested in keeping them focused.

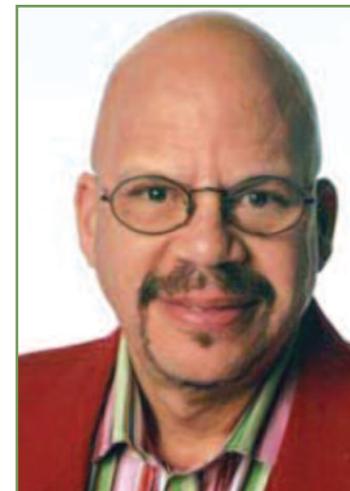
Whatever the reasons, I'm not getting caught up in the studies, but I'm taking action — and others have to step it up if we're going to reverse the trend. I know my Foundation can't do this alone so I'm encouraged that there are other programs on Black college campuses trying to make a difference. I'm encouraged when I talk to educators like Dr. Frederick Humphries, who during his tenure at Florida A&M University, started the Black Males Explorers Program to improve the academic performance of these students in grades 7 — 12. It offers the students classes to strengthen their test taking skills and really helps them in some of the traditional problem subjects like math and science.

Humphries believes, as I do, that we have to better prepare these students so that one, they have good enough grades to get into college, and two, they can keep up with the school work once they're in college. Humphries knows that if this issue gets even more complicated post-college. That's when my Sistas complain about the lack of educated and professional black men. So, this isn't just an educational problem, this is a sociological one that affects many lives and families.

Then there's brother Raymond Winbush who back in 2001 wrote a book called, "The Warrior Method(TM)" that offers parents methods on teaching black boys to better face some of the challenges they face — socially and academically. With a \$50,000 grant from the Will and Jada Pinkett Foundation, Winbush created 'The Warrior Institute' at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md. Will and Jada were so inspired by Winbush's methods that they used some of the concepts to teach their son. Now, Winbush has trained thousands of teachers and is traveling the country, going to school districts with large numbers of black males preaching and teaching them the values that will help black males succeed. All I know is that's the kind of effort and energy we all need to make a difference.

So, yeah, I'm worried about our black males, but I'm also encouraged. I know my Foundation with folks like those at Florida A&M, Morgan State, Winbush and others — will continue to inspire, enlighten and encourage my fellow black males to make it. Anytime we can invest in our black males means the greater opportunity for them to get their college degree, get a job and start making some money. I know one thing's for sure: I'm going to do all I can so that as I travel to black colleges around the country, I'll start seeing more and more black male faces like mine.

*Nationally syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner is founder and chairman of the Tom Joyner Foundation, which since its inception in 1998, has raised more than \$55 million to help keep students in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). His radio show — The Tom Joyner Morning Show — is aired in 120 markets reaching nearly eight million listeners every week.*



Tom Joyner,  
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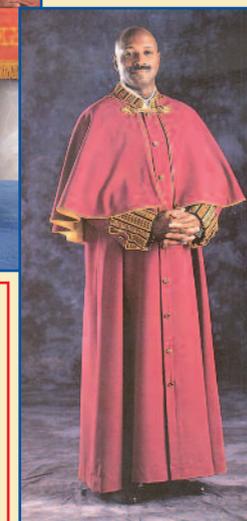
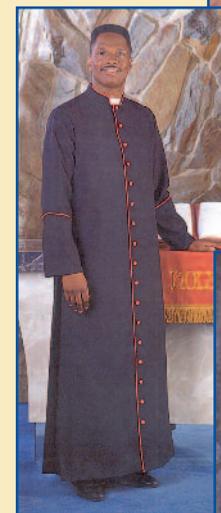
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## Answers From Page 32

H	A		C		E	A	R		A		G	O
A	P	P	E	A	L		I	N	F	O	R	M
T	I	E	D		D	E	N		F	L	E	E
S	E	N	A	T	E		S	P	I	D	E	R
	C		R		R	O	E		R		C	
B	E	A	S	T	S		D	A	M	N	E	D
A		S		E			L		O			U
R	E	S	E	N	T		P	L	E	D	G	E
	X		A		H	E	R		R			
S	C	A	R	C	E		I	S	R	A	E	L
H	U	N	T		O	N	E		O	N	C	E
E	S	T	H	E	R		S	A	R	D	I	S
M	E		Y		Y	E	T	105	S		A	S

### Bible Wordsearch

Solution to Puzzle No.146

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	E	L	I	V	E	D	H	D	L	E	W	C	F	H	O
2	C	I	T	G	I	V	E	A	E	L	N	P	I	Y	D
3	N	S	S	N	O	R	B	E	H	A	E	F	E	T	I
4	I	T	G	G	S	R	E	D	R	O	B	S	L	H	Y
5	R	E	G	N	A	R	T	S	P	G	U	M	D	G	S
6	P	N	T	H	O	D	W	L	T	F	A	R	R	I	P
7	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>O</b>
8	B	M	O	T	T	N	E	R	R	U	C	T	W	I	K
9	M	A	M	R	E	T	N	B	D	E	I	R	U	B	E
10	L	B	D	N	A	L	I	E	N	N	A	A	N	A	C
11	W	O	R	T	H	L	H	H	G	R	U	E	E	A	I
12	D	W	E	E	P	G	C	A	V	E	U	H	A	T	R
13	R	E	V	L	I	S	E	E	R	T	S	O	R	I	P
14	O	D	E	E	D	E	D	E	M	A	N	O	M	T	A
15	L	S	W	I	F	E	F	R	U	G	S	I	R	T	Y

Letters in **BOLD** above are the hidden verse reading left to right starting at the top left hand corner and going down through the letters the hidden verse is:

He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit

Proverbs 27:18 niv

**Share Your  
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With A Friend**

(Over, Down, Direction)

ABRAHAM(8,2,SW)  
 AGREED(11,6,NW)  
 ALIEN(5,10,E)  
 BELONGS(8,9,NW)  
 BETWEEN(7,3,S)  
 BORDERS(11,4,W)  
 BOWED(2,10,S)  
 BURIED(14,9,W)  
 CANAAN(15,10,W)  
 CAVE(7,12,E)  
 CITY(12,1,SE)  
 CURRENT(11,8,W)  
 DEAD(8,4,N)  
 DEEDED(2,14,E)  
 FIELD(13,1,S)  
 GATE(10,15,N)  
 GIVE(4,2,E)  
 HEBRON(9,3,W)  
 HITTITE(8,11,NW)  
 HUNDRED(12,12,NW)  
 LAND(6,10,W)  
 LISTEN(2,1,S)  
 LIVED(2,1,E)  
 LORD(1,15,N)  
 MAMRE(1,9,E)  
 MIGHTY(14,7,N)  
 MOURN(13,14,NW)  
 NAMED(11,14,W)  
 NEAR(13,10,S)  
 PAY(15,13,S)  
 PEOPLE(12,2,SW)  
 PRICE(15,13,N)  
 PRINCE(1,6,N)  
 REFUSE(8,8,NE)  
 ROSE(13,15,NW)  
 SARAH(11,15,NW)  
 SELL(12,4,NW)  
 SHEKELS(11,7,W)  
 SILVER(6,13,W)  
 SITTING(15,5,SW)  
 SPOKE(15,5,S)  
 STRANGER(8,5,W)  
 TERMS(12,8,N)  
 TOMB(4,8,W)

## CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER continued from page 19

-formed and choreographed for over 30 years in New York and Tampa Bay areas.

- \* Wayne Bascomb, Choreographer, Swing Party and Rain Forest has worked as a performer on stage, in motion pictures and on television. Performances include "The Wiz," "Guys and Dolls," as well as Holly production of "The Academy Awards."
- \* Ebony Haswell, The Dream Princess trained under Ruth Weisen and Thomas Armour of the Miami Conservatory. Ms. Haswell was invited to join the Dance Theatre of Harlem where she was promoted to Demi-Soloist.

Two very special treats for the audiences will be provided by a guest performance by the "Mime Boys" (with their award-winning song from the Apollo) in the Land of Gospel, and African Acrobats from "UniverSoul Circus" perform during the Rain Forest scene.

The Chocolate Nutcracker will be performed live on Friday, November 30th at 730pm followed by two performances on Saturday, December 1st, at 2:00pm and 730pm, at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center, 401 W. Livingston Street, Orlando, Florida 32801. Tickets are on sale at all Ticket Master locations 407.839.3900. Ticket prices are \$26.00, \$36.00 and \$46.00 each. For Group Sales and Discounts call 407.849.2098.

For more information visit the website [www.orlandochocolatenutcracker.com](http://www.orlandochocolatenutcracker.com).

## CARLTON JONES continued from page24

receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true. One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored others have labored and you have entered into their labors."

Jesus saw the Samaritans as a spiritual harvest, that the disciples would have food for them, and that they would not have to wait long to reap the harvest.

And, many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him (Jesus), they urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own words.

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." Jesus and the disciples saw the city saved, because the woman saw a real man in Jesus.

The greatest honor a woman can bestow upon a man is to say come see a real man, a man that is created in the image and likeness of Jesus the Christ. A man that wants to add not subtract, a man who wants to multiply and not divide, a man who wants to give unconditional agape love, the love of Christ kind of love. We as men do not have to die on the cross and be buried in a borrowed tomb, have to be raised up by the Father on that third day and receive all power over sin, sickness, disease and the grave, because Jesus has already done this for all of us. And yes Jesus is coming back again and He wants all to receive eternal salvation, and men and women, boys and girls all we have to do is accept Jesus as our Lord and our Savior. I do not know any greater love God can give us, so won't you come accept Jesus as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Amen.

INVITATION TO ATTEND  
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**3RD ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING & AWARDS CEREMONY**  
**WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 12, 2007 • 6:00 PM**

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OVER 240  
ATTENDEES

13 POLICE CHIEFS INVITED TO TAKE CENTER STAGE FOR QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM OVER 500 ATTENDEES

Communities, Towns, and Cities within Orange County, Florida face a true crime emergency. The crime crisis is not just a police problem, it is a challenge to all who live, work and visit here.

This year, the Florida Civil Rights Association 2007 Town Hall Meeting will focus on **"BREAKING THE CRIMINAL CYCLE THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS"** by bringing awareness and solutions to this horrific crisis in our community.

We are looking for individuals, leaders, businesses, and law enforcement officials to join this Community Partnership in an effort to make a measurable difference in the reduction of violent crimes in Orange County. We invite you to sign-up today, to become a **COMMUNITY PARTNER** in our fight against violent crimes.

For the third year, FCRA invited **13 POLICE CHIEFS** representing the following police agencies in **Orange County**:

- Apopka Police Department
- Eatonville Police Department
- Edgewood Police Department
- Florida Highway Patrol (FHP)
- Maitland Police Department
- Oakland Police Department
- Ocoee Police Department
- Orlando Police Department
- Orange County Sheriff's Office
- UCF Police Department
- Windermere Police Department
- Winter Garden Police Department
- Winter Park Police Department

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

Teens, Parents, Business Owners, Home Owners Association, General Public Church and Community Leaders • Corrections, Juvenile Justice and Social Services Professionals County Commissioners, Mayors, City Council Members and State and Federal Elected Officials Crime prevention, Public Safety, Patrol, School Resource and Community Relations Officers Labor and Employment Groups • Educators, School Administrators and Students Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Law Enforcement • Victim Services Professional



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By phone: (407) 272-9254

## THE TRUTH ABOUT OPRAH'S THYROID CONDITION

By **Makeisha Lee**

**Health and Nutrition Consultant**

**www.CleanseFormula.com and**

**www.GuideToCleansing.com**

The headlines read: "Oprah Opens Up About Thyroid Condition". The truth, however, is that while her bout with thyroid imbalance made global news, the other 5 million people in this country that suffer from hypothyroidism have gone virtually ignored.

There are 50,000 new cases of thyroid imbalances that arise each year – 90% are women. While Dr. Northrup, whom Oprah turned to for advice, certainly gave some great insight on dealing with thyroid imbalances, there are some major over-looked secret culprits behind thyroid imbalances- like hypothyroidism.

Here are the top three:

1) Environmental toxins like Fluoride: Did you know that the fluoridated water that we are drinking, bathing in, and ingesting through certain food products are damaging to the thyroid along with other vital organs? According to Health Investigator, Daniel Stockin, MPH of The Lillie Center Inc., the chemical fluoride blocks uptake of iodine into the thyroid, especially in people with iodine-deficient diets. The body furnace temperature drops a degree, you burn less energy, and experience impaired emotional functions and gain weight.



2) Stressed adrenal glands: Long term stress affects your adrenal glands - which are vital for weight control, sleep, immunity and more directly affects the thyroid. Experts agree that stressed adrenal glands and a poor diet contribute immensely to thyroid imbalances. The thyroid glands themselves are overloaded beyond their capacity to

create required hormones, when there is a build-up of poisons and body wastes that flood into the body.

3) Nutritional deficiencies: When the body is not being nourished properly with the right nutritional supplementation, combined with the mental and physical stresses of environmental toxins; it has been proven that certain anti-bodies from the immune system will attack the thyroid and disrupt proper hormone production.

If you, like Oprah, have experienced weight gain and exhibit any symptoms associated with thyroid imbalance, you should immediately get screened and tested for such by an appropriate health practitioner. If you have already been diagnosed with thyroid imbalance, health practitioner Darrell L. Wolfe Ac, Ph.D. recommends the following natural hormone therapy with minerals consumed daily: (Tyrosine)- 3,000 mg, (Riboflavin)-100 mg, (fat-soluble thiamine)-300 mg, (Magnesium) -1000 mg, (Iodine) -1mg, (Zinc) -50 mg, (Copper)- 3g, (Niacin)- 250 mg, (Vitamin B-6) 50 mg, (Vitamin C)- 3,000 mg, (Selenium)- 400 mcg.

This, by no means, represents a complete therapy, but does provide a safe, natural alternative to drugs and surgery. It can be adopted as part of a complete, holistic lifestyle change. By not overlooking any possible culprits and making the effort to



satisfy all imbalances within the body, you can regain control over your thyroid and overall health. Oprah certainly is on the right track when she openly shared her healthy lifestyle strategy of cutting out the, "white stuff" like refined sugars, white rice, white bread...etc. She very likely possesses the knowledge behind what these certain foods contain and what they do to the body. Now you do! Don't wait for Oprah or any other celebrity to advocate or suggest these alternative options and/or be afraid to explore them. Get in "the know" and "get healthy" today!

Makeisha Lee is a health and nutrition consultant. For more information about cleansing and detoxifying your body, contact her at 614-595-1425 or [znck04@yahoo.com](mailto:znck04@yahoo.com) or learn more at [www.CleanseFormula.com](http://www.CleanseFormula.com). To download the African American Guide To Cleansing, visit: [www.GuideToCleansing.com](http://www.GuideToCleansing.com)

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# Publisher's Editorial



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



## It Came To Pass

Throughout the world today, there is suffering and pain, poverty and neglect, chaos and unrest, headache and heartbreak. In America, we are finding it hard to trust any form of security, whether it be job, country, family or friend. Today we find ourselves alive, tomorrow we know not our condition nor state. It seems the one only thing that is constant is Trouble.

There is an old Negro spiritual that tells us that trouble will come. No matter who you are, where you come from, what you have... trouble will come. If you are able to string along a few good days, it won't be long before trouble sticks up its ugly head. Tranquility's longevity is defined by trouble. Success' level is determined by trouble. Family's solidity is measured by trouble. Company's solvency equated by its tolerance of trouble. Trouble will come and come to all.

Life is a fight. A battle that does not have to be won but must be waged until the end. It's foolish to think that in this fight of life you won't be hit – hit hard, and even knocked down. Some battles you will win, others you will lose. What matters is that you get up when knocked down, try again to win when you lose, and endure to the end. You Got to be In It to Win It!

Along with trouble comes life lessons. There is always something to learn today from the troubles of yesterday. That which does not kill us only makes us stronger... that is if we learn from it. He who fails to learn from the mistakes of the past is destined to repeat them. It has been said that if you keep on doing what you have always done, you will keep on getting what you have always gotten. May I add... in order to get what you have never had, you got to do what you have never done. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting to get different results.

Florida's FCAT Test has been a source of trouble to many. Children have been held back from promotion and some seniors have been denied their diplomas at graduation. The FCAT did not spring up yesterday. We just didn't see the trouble coming. Regardless, it's here and how we respond is what matters most.

There was a time in our history when our parents were constantly looking ahead for the trouble that would adversely affect their children. It was the goal of each of these parents that their child fared better in life than they themselves. If they only got a third grade education, they wanted their child to graduate from high school. If they graduated from high school, they wanted their child to graduate from college. Parents today need this same spirit.

The FCAT is a hurdle that must be jumped, a pitfall our children must avoid. It maybe that the teachers aren't doing enough for our children to pass the test, that only means we as parents must do more. Its time to roll up our sleeves with the determination that our children will succeed in spite of and because of. Trouble is on the home front. Its time for us to take ownership of our children. We put gas in our cars. We furnish our homes. We dry-clean our clothes. Let's do whatever it takes to care for our children by ensuring their education.

Throughout the Bible we find the phrase "It came to pass." Trouble will come and it will come to pass through your life. Trouble is unavoidable yet very manageable. This biblical phrase supply hope along with its prophecy "It came to pass." Another Negro spiritual tell us "Trouble Don't Last Always," thus, our phrase means... it came to pass.

Trouble at work with job security... It came to pass! Trouble at home, family members not getting along... It came to pass! Trouble paying the bills; never seem to be enough money... It came to pass! Trouble with sickness and stress... It came to pass! Trouble with the war and world peace... It came to pass!

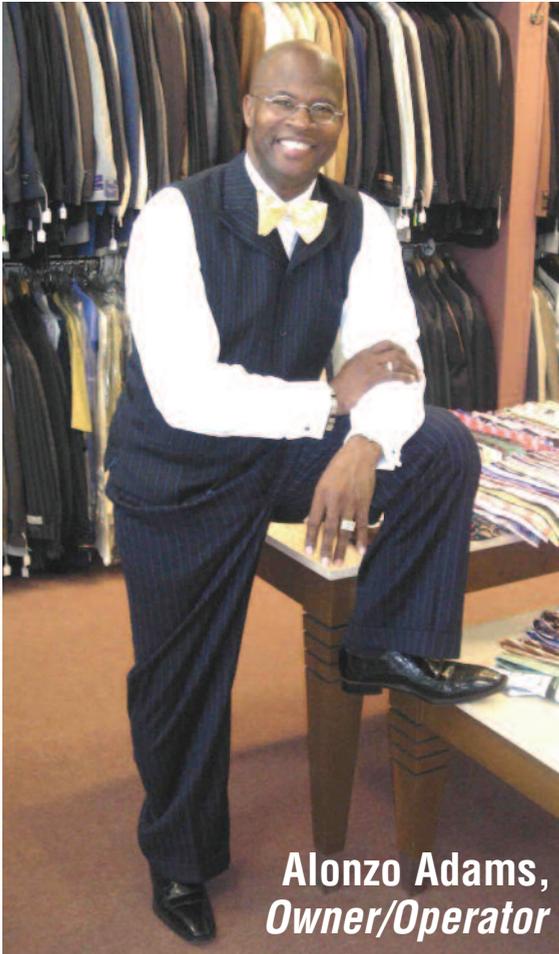
Regardless of the method, measure or magnitude of your trouble, it came into your life only to pass through your life. Trouble has its end and there lies a new beginning. Better days and better ways begin with change. The power of change you possess is the power to change yourself. When you become better, all around you will become better. When your thinking and outlook is enhanced, others around you are elevated. By you changing you, one day you will look at your world and see all the dreams and goals you have accomplished, remembering your troubles you will say... It came to pass!

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