

Christian Reader

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JANUARY 2008

FREE MONTHLY

When We Were King

By Darryl A. Barrs, Jr.
Staff Writer, Daytona Beach, Florida

As we embark on the new year 2008, let us examine ourselves as a people and chart our growth and plan our future progress. Remembering our past successes doing a time when we were King. A time we worked together for the common good. Nothing was more important than our progress. Not our jobs, our family or friends, not even our church. When it was time to go and do... march, sit-in, protest, vote... we were there, all of our organizations – we were King.

We march to the beat of songs that started with "We" and ended with "Us". Nowadays, it is the "I" in the songs that pats our feet and claps our hands. "What in it for me?" is our cry as our eyes only focus to the end of our table. When we were King, there was only one church – the Black Church. Common in spirit and goals, it extended nationwide. Armed with barely educated and below minimum wage people, the Black Church build massive edifices that were paid for, colleges to learn and hospital to heal our sick... that's when we were King.

Our neighborhoods were filled with businesses of commerce and we prospered as a people. A far cry from the crime and drugs we see today. Before we can go on to be Great in 2008, let us remember the time when we truly was King and the man that led us who was a King.

It is a testament to the greatness when there are over 730 major cities in the United States of America that have at least one street named after you and it is a measure of how greatly his achievements are misunderstood when most of them are located in Black neighborhoods. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. is still regarded mainly as the Black leader of a movement for Black equality. He was a vital personality of the modern era. His lectures and remarks stimulated the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life. His courageous and selfless devotion gave direction to thirteen years of civil rights activities and his charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in the nation and abroad.

King was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Martin had a brother, Alfred, and a sister, Christine. Both his father and grandfather were ministers. His mother was a schoolteacher who taught him how to read before he went to school. He entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, when he was only 15 years old. After graduating from college and getting married, Dr. King became a minister and moved to Alabama. In 1953, at age 24, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. A Baptist minister by training, King became a Civil Rights Activist early in his career,



leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott and helping to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, raising public consciousness of the civil rights movement.

King is perhaps most famous for his "I Have a Dream" speech, given in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. King, representing SCLC, was among the leaders of the "Big Six" civil rights organizations who were instrumental in the organization of the March on Washington. The other leaders and organizations comprising the Big Six were: Roy Wilkins, NAACP; Whitney Young, Jr., Urban League; A. Philip Randolph, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters;

see DR. KING page 17

Congresswoman Corrine Brown Comments on FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

(Washington, DC) - January 3, 2008 - Upon completion of the \$555 billion FY 2008 omnibus appropriations bill, Congresswoman Corrine Brown made the following statement:

“Although I am extremely disappointed to see that the White House’s intransigence forced cuts in Democratic funding proposals for many important domestic programs, I am pleased that my colleagues and I in the Democratic Party ensured that money for Democratic priorities like the national network of community health centers, health care research funding, state and local law enforcement funding, increased money for renewable energy, highway infrastructure, K-12 student education, and student aid was included.

Additionally, as a longtime Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee and staunch advocate for our nation’s veterans, I am thrilled to see that this bill also provides \$3.7 billion in additional funding for veterans’ healthcare. Indeed, meeting the needs of our nation’s veterans is long overdue, and was one of my top legislative priorities for this year.

Although I voted for the bill, I was not at all pleased that funding for Iraq was added in the Senate. I am categorically opposed to the Bush administration’s war in Iraq, and again, voted in favor of this bill because of the improvements in domestic spending that the administration agreed to.

For the third district of Florida, I worked hard to obtain funding for numerous projects that will directly benefit my constituents.”
These projects include:

Jacksonville:

\$1,305,000

for Citrus Canker Research in North Florida;

\$312,000

for the Community Rehabilitation Center of Jacksonville’s substance abuse and mental health programs;

\$258,500

for Duval County Florida’s Youth Advocate Program, a Juvenile Justice Recidivism Reduction Project;

\$15.5 million

for Camp Blending’s Regional Training Institute Phase III – the Joint Operations Center Training Facility;

\$22.4 million

in construction funding for the Jacksonville area Veterans’ Cemetery;

\$1 million

for Heckscher Drive and Bridge Replacement;

\$500,000

for Jacksonville JTA’s Intermodal Center;

\$500,000

for Jacksonville JTA’s Bus and Bus Facilities;

\$9.5 million

for Jacksonville JTA’s Bus Rapid Transit;

\$150,000

for Streetscaping and Renovation of Pearl Street Plaza in Jacksonville;

\$292,000

for Jacksonville’s Youth Crisis Center’s Facilities and Equipment;

\$243,000

for Duval County Public Schools to purchase equipment;

\$2,854,000

for dredging in Jacksonville for the Jacksonville Port Authority/

Orlando:

\$312,000

for Orange County’s Primary Care Access Network;

\$35 million

for construction money for the Orlando Veterans’ Hospital;

\$1.4 million

for Buses for Lynx and Orange County;

\$670,000

for a Transit Circulator in downtown Orlando;

\$7 million

for the Orlando International Airport’s Control Tower Terminal Program;

\$240,000

for renovations to Lake Minihaha Park development in Maitland, Florida.

Gainesville:

\$400,000

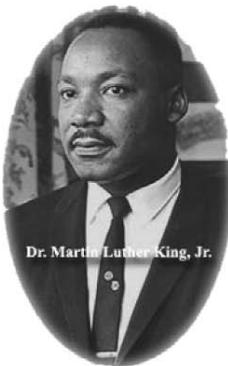
for Rehabilitation of the Gainesville Airport’s Taxiway;

\$188,000

for Alachua County’s Comprehensive Management of Offenders with Co-occurring Mental Illness and Addiction.



Congresswoman Corrine Brown



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Baptist Ministers Conference of Duval & Adjacent Counties Presents:
10th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
~ Celebration Services ~*

Monday, January 14, 2008 - 7:00 p. m.

*St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 135 Brickyard Road, Orange, FL
Rev. C. E. Preston, Pastor*

Tuesday, January 15, 2008 - 7:00 p. m.

*New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 4835 Soutel Drive, Jacksonville
Rev. James B. Sampson, Pastor*

9th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, January 19, 2008 - 8:00 a.m.

Philippian Multi-purpose Center, 7540 New Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL 32219

Cost: Only \$25.00 per person / \$200.00 for table of eight

Florida General Baptist Convention Mid-Winter Board Meeting A Blessed Event

"To God be the Glory for GREAT things He has done!"

By Margie Cody
Jacksonville, Florida

First Bethlehem Baptist Association under the leadership of Dr. James Duval, Moderator, rolled out the 'red carpet' for the Mid-Winter Board Meeting of Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. This meeting, held in Tallahassee, Florida December 10-11, 2007, was well attended by pastors, ministers and delegates from across the state of Florida. Increased participation and support of the churches and members was evident throughout the meeting.

The Opening Musical/Welcome Program, Chaired by Dr. Craig Riley, was held at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr., pastor. The combined choirs of Leon and surrounding counties provided an evening of melodious music praising God and lifting the name of Jesus. Greetings were extended from local leaders and officials. Dr. James B. Sampson, President of Florida General Baptist Convention was presented a "Proclamation" from the City of Tallahassee, recognizing his leadership and contributions of the convention.

The Official Board Meeting was opened Tuesday morning by Board Chairman, Dr. Harvey Riley, Palm Bay. The Opening Inspirational Message was delivered by Pastor/Teacher Ernie Murray, of St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

The second reading of the revised constitution was read for discussion. The constitution will be presented for approval at the Annual Session in April. All Auxiliaries gave reports to their constituency and developed plans for the Annual Session. The 133rd Annual Session of Florida General Baptist Convention is scheduled for April 7-11, 2008, in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Solidarity Banquet provided an evening of elegance with over 300 people enjoying a delicious meal as they were fed spiritually by the speaker, Dr. Larry Mills, pastor of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando.

Proceeds from the banquet will support the Convention's Retreat Site in Palatka and ministries of the Convention.

President James Sampson has put forth the vision to provide **STRENGTH, STRUCTURE, and STABILITY** to the convention as it moves into the 21st century. All members of the convention and encouraged to embrace the vision and share in enhancing the ministries of the convention.

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

Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

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Daytona Beach, FL 32114

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Fax: (386) 255-7713

Email: fgbc@bellsouth.net

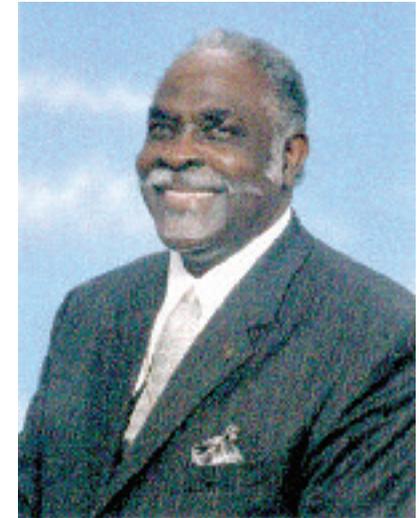
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Dr. Harvey L. Riley
Board Chairman
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The *Christian Reader* is a monthly publication that seeks to strengthen our community through the knowledge of God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and The Holy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

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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:

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The First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce

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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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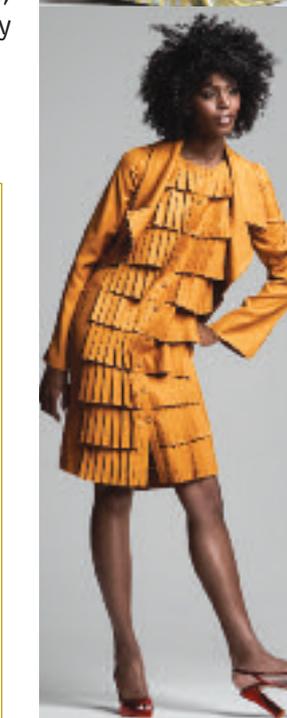
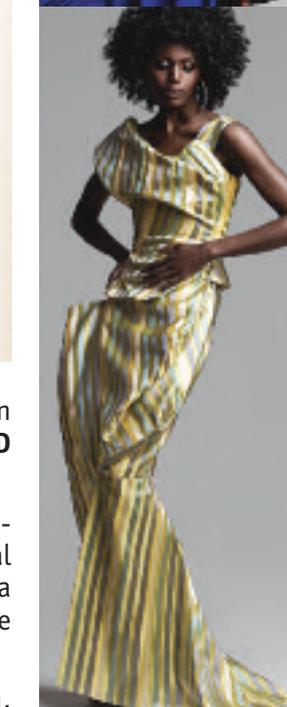
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All Fashion Photos by Nathan Becker

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Join us at this special show as the AKA Sorority turns 100 years old in January, 2008, Ebony's 50th year, and our local chapter of Iota Pi Omega celebrates 30 years, all significant milestones from a historical perspective. Numerous national organizations have chapters that host the Ebony Fashion Fair each year in their respective cities with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) boasting the highest representation. For the 2006/2007 season, well over 35,000 people nationwide attended AKA hosted shows raising over a half million dollars for scholarship and other charitable causes.

Tickets are on sale and available through any member of the organization. Additionally, you may contact Reva Watson, Ebony Chairperson at 321-403-8330 or Donna Kinley, Ticket Chairperson at 321-757-5595 or Clara Sue Davis, Publicity Chairperson at 321-223-5819.

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PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF MAYOR YVONNE SCARLETT-GOLDEN

By Mrs. Bobby J. Scarlett
Daytona Beach, Florida

A host of friends, family, and colleagues gathered at City Hall on December 19, 2007 to witness the portrait unveiling of former Daytona Beach Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden. The ceremony was presided by Mayor Glenn S. Ritchey, with Bishop Derek Triplett, pastor of Hope Fellowship Church, serving as the Officiant, and hanging of the unveiled portrait by her brother, Deacon Carlton Scarlett.

Born in Daytona Beach, Ms. Golden was graduated from both Campbell High School and Bethune-Cookman University with honors before earning a Master of Education Degree from Boston

University and an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Bethune-Cookman University. Although her teaching career began in her home town, Dr. Scarlett enjoyed a stellar career as an educator on the West Coast, and retired as principal of the Alamo Park High School in San Francisco, California. Returning to Daytona, she continued her passion for community activism, serving four terms as City Commissioner of Zone 5. Then, in 2003, she had the honor of being elected as the first African-American Mayor of Daytona Beach.

Dr. Scarlett's contributions and work with children, single parents, and the elderly will always be remembered by those whom she touched. Educator, civil rights

trailblazer, and drum major for social change... These attributes not only burned a hole in the memory of the political community in Daytona Beach, but also created a blueprint for other minorities, particularly African-American females, to follow.



Horace Golden (grandson), Wanda (Only) Edmonds (granddaughter), and Carlton Scarlett (brother) participated in ceremony honoring Mayor Scarlett-Golden



Daytona Beach Mayor Glenn Ritchey and City Commissioner Dwayne Taylor expressed their love for a dear friend and colleague to the family of Mayor Scarlett-Golden

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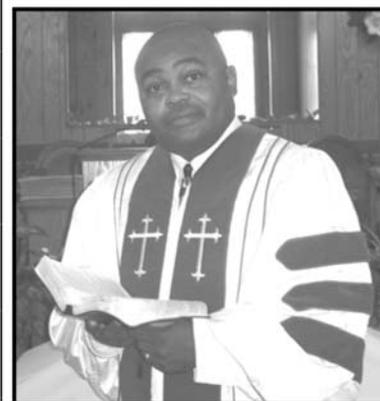
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Come Grow With Us

Why are our Children Suspended from School? Where are They Going?

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is the 11th largest school district in the nation. Their vision is to be the top producer of successful students in the nation. The mission is to lead students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community. As a community organization, Redeeming Light Community Services, Inc., it is important to us that OCPS succeed in this mission. That mission and its success drive the community to present students as productive citizens into Central Florida Communities and beyond. That mission also suggests to us that we can have safe and healthy communities.

The Florida Department of Education Student Database, Survey 5 data as of December 14, 2006, reports that there are suspensions or students being sent home from school because of inappropriate behavior are not small number. Because we are in a data driven society let's look at the data:

In 2005-2006 Orange County Public Schools suspended 20,523 students, 9,375, in-school and 11,148 out-of-school. The figures for 2006-2007 show a disturbing upward trend, 14,649, in-school suspensions and 16,833 out-of-school suspensions. That's a total of 31,482, and increase of 53% in one school term. Let's look at how these figures breakdown by grade, ethnicity and gender:

Pre-k =27, K=449, 1st=503, 2nd=596, 3rd=789, 4th=791, 5th=941, 6th=1,943, 7th=1,935, 8th=2,262, 9th=2,153, 10th=1,982, 11th=1,479, and 12th=983.

Ethnicity: white females-797, white males-2,252, black females-3,028, black males-5,525, Hispanic females-1,392, Hispanic males-3,303, Asian females-164, Asian Males-51, American Indian females-24, American Indian males-6, Multi females-83 and Multi males-208.

Looks like the problem lies within 6th-10th grades and with African Americans and Hispanics. Why are students suspended? The reasons may vary, but the bottom line is that they have violated the school's system Student Code of Conduct. Within the code are levels that carry specific consequences for specific infractions. The most frequent suspension level is 3 for fighting. After most fights students will admit that they don't really remember what the fight was about and that they really wished they'd have walked away. Because of the zero tolerance policy, student must understand that consequences are in place for their protection.



Another frequent infraction is open defiance and gross insubordination. Student's blatantly disrespecting authority even when given simple commands. Then there are the more violent and higher level offenses (level 4) - such as alcohol, drugs possession and weapons, making threats against others students and school staff. Orange County's Student Code of Conduct is 36 pages long. Each



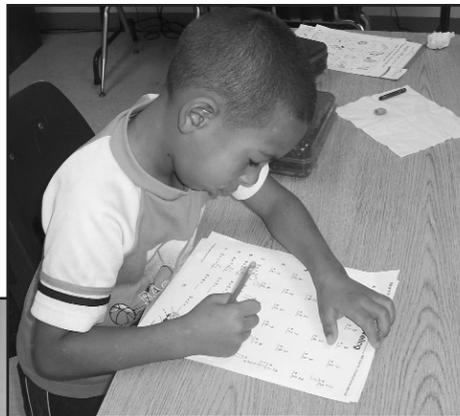
Beverly Brown
Executive Director
Keeping Up

student receives a copy to take home for parental signature at the beginning of the school year. Students know the rules and the consequences. So why violate the rules?

Months of studying Orlando's surge in violent crime culminated in a series of recommendations to keep teenagers busy after school. Great recommendations; however, what about the 16,833 students that are out of school because of suspensions? What do they do all day? We cannot directly link them to crime, but we

cannot say that they are crime free either. Should they have the privilege of a "mini vacation" during the school year and expect to stay ahead academically and graduate on time? Are parents concerned about unsupervised students? Should teachers have to endure bringing students up to speed after a suspension? All of these questions can be answered with adequate community programs.

Prevention is a costly subject; in fact in an Orlando Sentinel article entitled, "Spend money to curb crime, tasks force says" The Mayor's SAFE Orlando Task Force final meeting detailed possible solutions that would cost \$12 million over the next five years. It is a lot of money but prevention/intervention is less costly than picking up the pieces afterwards. How often is it said to be proactive, but for whatever reason, reactive is the norm. The cry goes out to the community "it takes a village." One part of the village has responded and continues to respond. There is a



community program that can be proactive in reduction of serious issue before they become major and it is **Keeping UP, Alternative School Suspension Program.**

This program opened its doors to community suspended students with the assistance of Orange County Public Schools in August of 1999. It all started with a community member stopping by the church office and saying this...Pastor Brown, I saw students in the streets and ask them why they were not in school and they said they were suspended. What are you going to do about that? Initially Pastor Brown said nothing, but the Lord began to lead him to do research and actually visit a program that assisted suspended youth in another state. After returning, he discussed the need with a local area administrator and seven principals. They were all interested and supportive. In August of that year Keeping UP opened with a mission and vision to make a difference in the lives of community youth. The program is a perfect

See SUSPENDED page 16

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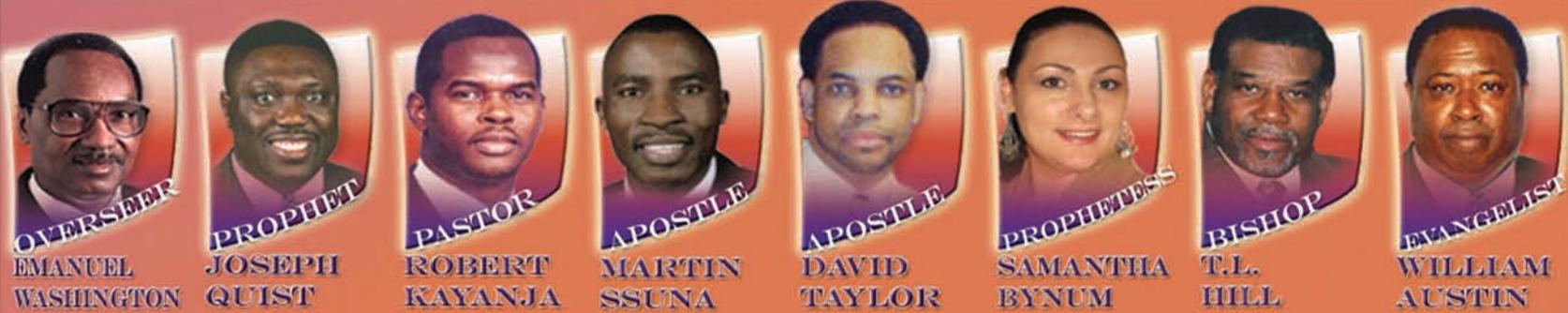
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Are Blacks An Endangered Species?

By Makeisha Lee

Author, "Why Black People Can't Lose Weight"

Blacks are officially considered to be an endangered species due to obesity and terrifying related illness. Diets, surgeries, pills, exercise motions and potions; though easily and readily available have done little-to-nothing to help people lose weight long-term. Even with all of these mechanisms in place, the 50 million pound question that lies before us is: Why is it that we as "Blacks" are STILL some of the most obese people on the planet?

The facts are the facts! Prevalence of obesity among Blacks has increased 35 percent in the past 10 years alone. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control), we lead in the highest percentages in both sexes and even amongst children, as compared to other ethnicities when it comes to the contemptible "beast of burden"- obesity. So what is REALLY going on?

There are in fact an infinite number of theories, but here are a few thought provoking ideas that many don't want to address, but that will definitely make you want to go "Hummm!"

1) Too many of us are being brainwashed; covering ourselves up with being ignorance instead of trying to find out the real truth about why Blacks have been unsuccessful as a whole at getting/and or keeping the weight off.

2) All of these diets, various weight loss challenges and campaigns that are currently underway are nothing more than band-aid remedies that will bring us right back to the drawing board - if we don't find out

about pre-existing and current outside elements. That's right, in this day and age mainstream society still suppresses corruption that adversely affects our lives, as a people; as a nation.

3) We may have to begin exposing some that are right within our own community that acts as wolves in sheep's clothing - impeding progress. It's been said that the "mean green" has caused stranger things to happen. Or perhaps, they are not wolves at all; rather it's just a bad case of "blind leading the blind".

4) Whatever the theory or rationale of the matter, one thing most can agree on is that the obesity pandemic for Blacks is unequivocally multi-factorial. People who can think for themselves can surmise that all on their own!

We all do well to open our minds, and eyes to the fact that if we don't get proactive and put on our investigative hats - TODAY; we will be tottering upon a horrific human existence and will eventually land ourselves on the brink of extinction.

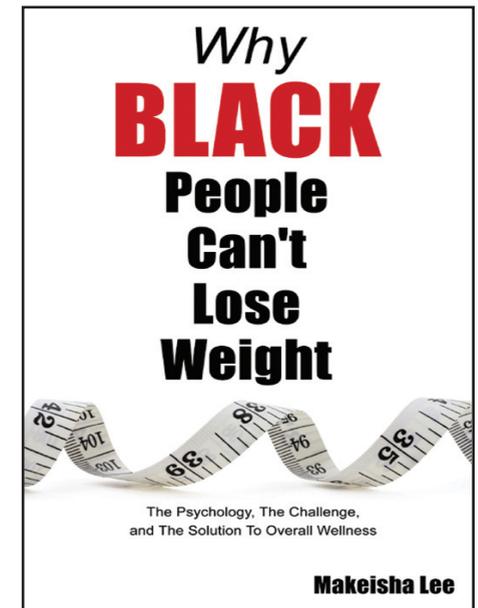
National Call To Action:

MAKEISHA LEE and consumer health advocates are asking everyone to join her as she sets out to change the future of health and wellness in the community by getting life-saving information out into the hands of every African American! Support this phenomenal sister by purchasing her newly published book, Why Black People Can't Lose Weight - NOW!

Even if you are not African American, overweight or sick, please purchase the book anyway so that you may be able to help someone else with what you learn! Contact all your friends to encourage them to do the same. When we ALL work together - that's when the greatest miracles happen! Don't delay, buy it today!

Important Message: This heavy concentration of purchases at this very specific time today and throughout the week will invite and encourage thousands that need this information to also get Why Black People Can't Lose Weight, without hesitation, as it will outsell other books in the same genre!

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 or learn more at www.CleanseFormula.com. To download the African American Guide To Cleansing, visit: www.GuideToCleansing.com



Why **BLACK** People Can't Lose Weight

Makeisha Lee is a nutritional advisor and extensive researcher in the field of alternative health. Her work is inspired by her grandmother's untimely death due to obesity. Her weekly columns are featured in hundreds of newspapers nationally, and she regularly appears on urban radio shows.

Lee travels domestically and internationally to speak on a wide range of health topics. She is the founder and CEO of Cleanse Formula and Freedom Health Solutions. She is also the author of the popular e-book entitled *The African American Guide To Cleansing*.



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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 more 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.

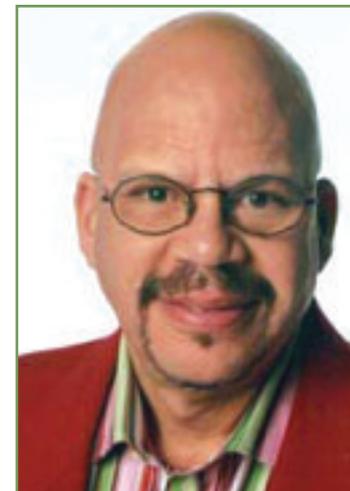
Whatever the reasons, I'm not getting caught up in the studies, but I'm taking action — and others have to step it up if we're going to reverse the trend. I know my Foundation can't do this alone so I'm encouraged that there are other programs on Black college campuses trying to make a difference. I'm 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.



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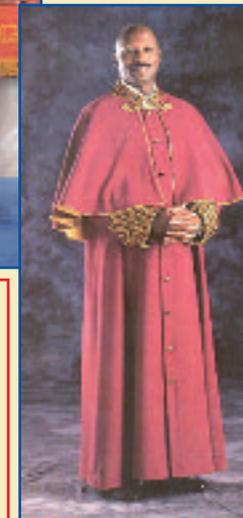
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Attorney Alan Grayson

The Florida Civil Rights Association Proudly Recognizes Alan Grayson as the recipient of the **2007 Humanitarian of the Year Award**, for inspiring change and demonstrating ongoing leadership in the advancement of government accountability, and the preservation of employee civil and human rights.

Alan Grayson has served his community tirelessly for more than two decades. Grayson is a nationally known litigator, entrepreneur and staunch civil rights defender. He has waged his war in the Courtroom, in the U.S. Senate, and in the media. He has championed his cause against government corruption and employment discrimination, in defense of whistleblowers.

Alan grew up in “the projects” in the Bronx. He heard the squeal of the wheels of the elevated trains, every five minutes, all day and all night. Despite his daily hardships and fighting with asthma, he excelled academically. He graduated from Harvard with a law degree, and a master’s degree in Government. After graduate school, Alan worked as a judge’s assistant at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. He worked with Judges Ginsburg, Bork, Scalia, and Starr. He then joined Judge Ginsburg’s husband’s law firm, where he represented government contractors.

In 1990, Alan left the practice of law, and started a new business – IDT Corp. Alan was the first President of IDT. Today, IDT is a Fortune 1000 public company, with \$2 billion a year in sales. Alan took his profit from IDT, and invested it in many other small companies. He has owned between one and ten percent of a dozen different public companies.

For many years, he represented honest government contractors. However, his interest in law became impassioned once again, after the war in Iraq started, when he realized there was a significant increase in fraud and corruption. Grayson’s strong determination and dedication is demonstrated in his defense of the little guy who trusts his employer and believes in truth. It is estimated that Grayson’s efforts to pursue these cases have cost him about \$10 million, with the possibility of not receiving any compensation unless he recovers the money that the whistleblowers and taxpayers have lost.

Grayson sued Halliburton for airlifting big screen TVs and giant tubs of chicken wings and tacos to Iraq for Halliburton only Super Bowl parties, and then billing the expense to the taxpayers. Grayson represented an employee who had reported to the public that a mortuary truck that had stored decomposing bodies for two weeks was being used to transport bags of ice for use in drinks by U.S. Troops.

Another employee who reported that a Military Dining Facility served between 1,000 to 2,000 people a day, but billed the government as if there were 5,400 being served. This inflated billing by over 10,000 meals per day. In these cases the employees who reported impropriety were retaliated against, and ultimately lost their jobs.

Alan found his calling – he has filed numerous of lawsuits against Iraq contractors on behalf of corporate whistleblowers. He won a huge victory in March 2006 when a federal jury in Virginia ordered a security firm to return \$10 million in ill-gotten funds to the government. The ruling marked the first time in history an American firm was held responsible for financial improprieties in Iraq.

Alan has taken on some of the world’s largest corrupt defense contractors, and won. His work on behalf of taxpayers has been recognized and applauded not

only in the Wall Street Journal, but in the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, CNN, 60 Minutes, the BBC, and newspapers and magazines in dozens of countries around the world.

In 2006 Grayson was a candidate for the U.S. Congress, Florida’s District 8. His civic activities also include founder of the Alliance for Aging Research, to help promote health and a good life for older people. The motto of the Alliance is “Living to 100 – and Loving It!” Alan has served as an officer of the Alliance for two decades. He also supported the work of Arnold Palmer Hospital for many years, and currently a Director of Florida Senior Programs and on the Board of Floridians for Fair Elections. Alan and his wife, Lolita, have five children – Skye (12), Star (9), Sage (7) and two year old twins, Storm and Stone. They reside in Orlando, Florida.

Alan’s pursuit for justice represents the virtue of the story of David versus Goliath. Despite facing what most would consider hopeless odds, he continues to wage his own one-man war against fraud and, most importantly, in defense of our basic civil and human rights.



SUSPENDED continued from page 9

fit with Orange County's Public School mission. That mission is to lead their students to success with the support involvement of families and the community.

Keeping UP embodies the same measureable outcomes as OCPS: intensive focus on student achievement, high performing and dedicated team, Safe learning and working environment, Sustained community involvement. The program is focused on assisting students achievement with smaller class sizes. Currently 15 students per day for the large class room and no more than 8 for the smaller classroom. We have a dedicated staff that really cares about student success. The environment is conducive for learning and academic success. We encourage community members to be mentors, tutors and develop student and family relationships. As a result of this Eatonville, Florida is not only the town where the program is housed, but the community that shares our vision for student success as their success.

What exactly does Keeping UP, Alternative School Suspension Program do with suspended students? Prevent youth crime and reduce delinquency in assisting the community by not having suspended students loitering in neighborhoods, malls, shopping centers, and or parks during school hours. We promote strong families by giving families a safe academic environment for their students during out of school time. Parents are responsible for transportation and really do meet that challenge. Parents have come as far as Kissimmee so their child did not have to stay at home unsupervised. We have also had parents to ride the city bus; Lynx Transportation, so their child could attend the program.

Many students come because the program is a community mainstay. There have been times that the staff arrived before 8:00 am to see students standing at the door waiting to get in because they heard that they could come to Keeping UP, instead of staying at home. Parents have beseeched the staff to make this a full-time program because academically and behaviorally their child's performance increases during their attendance in the program.

The staff is vigilant in contacting parents when students are late or absent. We really do keep up. As a component of the students structured day, the program offers behavior modification with the aim of developing responsible and trustworthy character. Student's receive assignments from their home school teacher/s and are able to take completed assignments back to school after program completion. Other academic benefits are FCAT, SAT, PSAT curriculum, technology tutorial assistance, one-on-one tutoring. Keeping UP has a less than 4% recidivism rate.

Orange County has stated its mission and measureable objectives. We are apart of this mission because as a grass roots community program, we want to see students succeed and live productive lives. Keeping UP embodies sustained community engagement and safe learning environment, efficient operations and a dedicated team. It really does take a village. So ...what is the problem?

If you know of a student that has been suspended and is staying at home, and is staying at home falling behind academically, that is a BIG problem. Allow Keeping UP to be the answer. The program is concurrent with Orange County Public School calendar; the hours of operation are 8:30 am-2:30 pm daily, Wednesday is early day. Our collaborators and partners are Orange County's Citizen Commission for Children (CCC), Orange County Public Schools, Florida Fellowship Foundation, Town of Eatonville, Redeeming Light Center Church, Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, State Farm Insurance Company, and individuals businesses and community members.

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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

A Lesson for Our Children...

The Life of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Darryl A. Barrs, Jr.
Staff Writer

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). During a time when the community needed the winds of change to blow, the age of Jim Crow laws reigned supreme and “separate but equal” was the accepted doctrine. We all know that in this time, things were always separate and never equal for Blacks and Whites. This was that same time when Blacks were not allowed to shop in the same stores as whites, use the same restrooms, or even attend the same schools as Whites. It was during this time that one of the most powerful events in history took place and it was this time when a prominent man arose to change history forever.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. accepted his fate of embodying peace and healing to the contradictory meanings of American democracy. He was willing to risk everything that he was – a father, a son, a brother, a husband, a preacher, a leader, and a black man – to help America love itself wholly and universally. Unfortunately, Dr. King’s life was cut short when he was assassinated on the balcony walkway of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 3, 1968. However, the impact and legacy that King left behind is beyond remarkable.

With all the advances Blacks have made in the past five decades we have a lot to be thankful for. It is hard for the majority of us to imagine a life of injustice and discrimination. Although these things still plague this nation today, vast improvements in legislation and civil rights have enabled us to live better lives than the generations before us. Many of these rights we take for granted. The same rights we enjoy daily were obtained through the shedding of blood, sweat, tears during the civil rights movement.

Every year, on the third Monday in January, we celebrate the life of a man who gave his all to make this future possible. We, as the Black community, celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday with a parade, followed by a gathering of friends and family, having a good time with one another before we are beckoned back to work the next day. It is a day when we can look back and see what could have been if he did not follow his dream. It is a day when we can give thanks to a man who fought for our rights; was imprisoned so we can walk free; who died so we can live.

What is surprising is the lesson we are not teaching our youth. When asked what impact Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had on the world, Black youths gave similar answers. What they understand of the man and the holiday is a special day when they can get out of school and celebrate a man who gave a speech and marched down a street. They knew King as the man with streets named after him. What was not taught was what King believed in, the importance of his fight, and what the “I Have a Dream” speech meant. They did not understand why he has a street named after him in over 730 cities across the nation. What we are not doing is teaching our history to our youth. We are not allowing them to see where we came from nor are we encouraging them to fight for what they believe in and not settle for what they are given.

It is easy to look at January 21, 2008 as just another holiday giving us a chance to relax, eat well, and watch a parade. But let’s take it a step forward and actually celebrate the day by looking at his past and learning from him in order to apply it towards our future. It is an ongoing struggle for the Black community and before we complain about injustices we have today, I find it

important to look in our past and show gratitude to a man who sacrificed his life to better ours.

For us to change our future we must respect and understand our past. Before we complain about the injustices we face today, let’s look at the injustices that were faced five decades ago. If our ancestors ascended from such incredible odds handed to them, we can also rise from the hardships facing us today. Just take Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life for instance... with a dream and a goal anything and everything is possible.

WHEN WE WERE KING, continued from page 1

John Lewis, SNCC; and James Farmer of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). For King, this role was another which courted controversy, since he was one of the key figures who acceded to the wishes of President John F.

Kennedy in changing the focus of the march. Kennedy initially opposed the march outright, because he was concerned it would negatively impact the drive for passage of civil rights legislation, but the organizers were firm that the march would proceed.

Throughout his career of service, King wrote and spoke frequently, drawing on his experience as a preacher. His “Letter from Birmingham Jail”, written in 1963, is a passionate statement of his crusade for justice. On October 14, 1964, King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded to him for leading non-violent resistance to end racial prejudice in the United States.

King was booked in room 306 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. While standing on the motel’s 2nd floor balcony, King was shot, and pronounced dead at St. Joseph’s Hospital at 7:05 p.m. The assassination led to a nationwide wave of riots in more than 60 cities. Five days later, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a national day of mourning for the lost civil rights leader. A crowd of 300,000 attended his funeral that same day.

Coretta Scott King followed her husband’s footsteps and was active in matters of social justice and civil rights until her death in 2006. The same year of the assassination, Mrs. King established the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, dedicated to preserving his legacy and the work of championing nonviolent conflict resolution and tolerance worldwide. Dexter King, her son, currently serves as the center’s President and CEO.

In 1980, King’s boyhood home in Atlanta and several other nearby buildings were declared as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. At the White House Rose Garden on November 2, 1983, U.S. President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor King. It was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986, and is called Martin Luther King Day. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King’s birthday. In January 17, 2000, for the first time, Martin Luther King Day was officially observed in all 50 U.S. states.

In 1998, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was authorized by the United States Congress to establish a foundation to manage fund raising and design of a Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. King was a prominent member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans. King will be the first African American honored with his own memorial in the National Mall area and the second non-President to be commemorated in such a way. The sculptor chosen was Lei Yixin. The King Memorial will be administered by the National Park Service.



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Assisted By Dominique D. Barrs
Medical Student

As the old saying goes, “You must crawl before you walk.” This simple cliché suggests that there is a natural progression in the stages of development. You can’t become President, if you haven’t been a senator. You can’t write a book, if you’ve never written a story. For most children, development takes place in a fairly predictable sequence.

Babies are born with the ability to see, hear, and perform certain reflex actions such as grasping, urination, and defecation. With time, infants learn to consciously control these reflexes. They also learn that conscious movements formulated in the brain result in actual movement. The staged of development can be classified into 3 categories: Motor Skills, Vision and Manual Dexterity, and Social and Language Skills.

Sometimes when asked about the age of a baby, we place the age based on the child’s ability. “Oh, well the baby can sit-up.” Well, how old is that? Some might even say, “The baby just started walking...so about a year old?” This is a true assumption. Basic motor coordination progresses initially by “trial and error.” The infant watches its body parts and associates a particular movement pattern with its mental intention to make the movement, as a series of motor nerve signals. Also, muscles gradually become coordinated as the brain learns to combine patterns of movement by reinforcing and linking the neural pathways that control them. A newborn’s grasp when its palm is touched, is one of the primitive reflexes that disappear in a few months. At a month old, a baby should be able to roll over, and bear its weight on its legs. At 6 months, the baby can sit unsupported, and they can crawl. Usually between the 10th and 18th month, the baby has learned to walk.

Vision and manual dexterity is basically the baby’s visual and hand-eye coordination. A newborn is nearsighted, allowing them to only focus on objects up to 3 feet away. But after 6 months, their focus is sharper and objects ten feet away are now clear. The



eyes even move together, rather than the occasional appearing cross-eyed. Hand-eye coordination soon develops as the baby watches its fingers and senses what they touch. At 3 months, babies begin to reach for rattles and objects. Playing with feet is an indicator of a 6 month old baby. By 9 months, the baby is picking up small objects.

Social and Language Skills are easy determinants of development in youth. After a few weeks, a baby is alert and attentive to sound. They can turn their heads and follow the sound. Language develops from listening and associating sounds with objects and by practicing. In a child’s second year, the child learns words at an elevated rate. At a month old, a baby can smile and squeal. At 9 months, the famous words, “mama and dada” arrive. At 10 months, no more bottle. The baby is now capable of holding a cup. At a year old, single words can be recited, and by 14 months, two words. At 17 months, the child can stay dry in the day. By 30 months, the child can talk in full sentences and stay dry at night.

The stages of development are predictable, but the ages at which they develop have its variation. It is now very well documented that Black babies develop at an accelerated rate, sometimes even months ahead. However, early development does not always mean the skill will become greater later, and some babies and children miss a stage and go straight on to the next one. There is an average range at which development occurs, and seeing no signs of development may indicate a problem.

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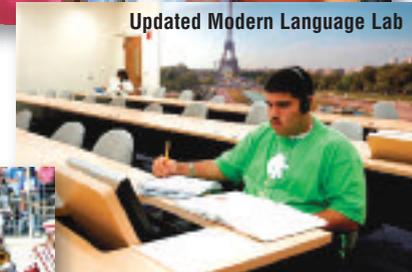


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Here's to a great 2008!

By Pastor Leon Bing
North Jacksonville Family Worship Center



Happy New Year to all of you! I pray that this will be a prosperous year for all of you. The past two years have been both good and bad here in Jacksonville, Florida. While God has truly blessed many in this city, the Devil has also

made a mark with the murder rate, traffic fatalities, and drug abuse in this city as well!

Well, we the people of God must now take a stand that only we can make. For two years we have seen that man's plan is not working! It is not in the government's hand and not in the hands of these civic groups that think they have great power. No, it is in the hands of God and his people who He will work through that will make the changes we need in this city!

Two years ago I wrote an article in the *Christian Reader* Newspaper, "Where are my People?" It was a call for the People of God to follow God's plan in 2 Chronicles 7:14. After that article several religious organizations began to have prayer gatherings. Even the Mayor had a prayer gathering downtown which drew people from all over the city for the sake of bringing peace to this city.

Well I observed, and listened to what many said with their lips, while their actions went in another direction, and the results where that the city faired worse in 2007. Now at the same time there were some great gatherings among God's people also! We just need to see more of this. The numbers of participants is not an issue because God only needs a remnant! The remnant just has to be consistent. It would however be good if more, who are followers of Christ, would take a stand and not be ashamed to give up a few hours of their weekend to unite with the Body of Christ to pray for healing for our city!

Well I believe the Lord would have us take this approach for 2008; let us go back to the blueprint for true worship, "The Tabernacle". We need to implement worship in Spirit and Truth into our lives. And I'm referring to worship in such a way that we actually separate ourselves from many of the things that this world is using to keep the church from its true purpose. Church leaders need to continue to unite to direct more effort in bringing the Body of Christ into wor-

ship and less time trying to woo politicians. There have been many outstanding reasons for the Body of Christ to feel good about itself. When

we see the great work that has been done in revitalizing the old Normandy Mall, and the accomplishments in the various Christian schools, you just have to give God praise! We have also seen God do some miraculous things within the body as well! There have been countless healings, many people delivered, and thousands of salvations! These are the blessings that the world take for granted but we who are of Christ know the blessings in them.

For the year 2008, let the Church arise and her enemies be scattered! I pray blessings upon this city, and the people who make up the Body of Christ in Jacksonville!

Psalms 95

- 1 **Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us give a joyous shout to the rock of our salvation!**
- 2 **Let us come before him with thanksgiving. Let us sing him psalms of praise.**
- 3 **For the LORD is a great God, the great King above all gods.**
- 4 **He owns the depths of the earth, and even the mightiest mountains are his.**
- 5 **The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too.**
- 6 **Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our maker,**
- 7 **for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the sheep under his care. Oh, that you would listen to his voice today!**
- 8 **The LORD says, "Don't harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah, as they did at Massah in the wilderness.**
- 9 **For there your ancestors tried my patience; they courted my wrath though they had seen my many miracles.**
- 10 **For forty years I was angry with them, and I said, 'They are a people whose hearts turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.'**
- 11 **So in my anger I made a vow: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'**



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**Deborah K. Thompson
President/CEO DKT Consultants**

The Deborah K. Thompson is the sole proprietor and Senior Consultant for Deborah K. Thompson, Consultants. She has five years of experience starting with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, (JTA) on a subcontract with MGT of America. Under this assignment she led a nationwide survey of the transportation DBE programs. With Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2005, she performed public involvement, community relations, training services and outreach functions for the East/Southwest Corridor Study for a Rapid Transit System for Jacksonville. Deborah K. Thompson, Consultants is currently teamed with Jacobs, Edward and Kelcey Engineers on an Environmental Impact Study for the JTA on a Rapid Transit System for Jacksonville and on the Team with the Hester Group to perform Community Outreach for the Ash Site Remediation.

Deborah K. Thompson, Consultants has been part of teams with CMTS/HNTB Joint Venture, JA Jones, and CES, Consultants, Inc. Environmental Services, Inc. to name just a few. As senior consultant, Ms. Thompson is a Notary Public, holds a Mortgage Brokers License for the State of Florida, private and has extensive experience in public grant writing and outreach experience with government authorities, for profit business owners and non-profits. She can forge public and private partnerships with groups seeking tax credits and incentives with local, state and federal governments. Deborah K. Thompson has worked on a variety of issues in transportation, construction, and housing as it eminent domain, environmental justice, community and economic development. Deborah has public speaking and meeting skills and experience. She is comfortable working with and presenting projects to federal, state, county and city government officials, administrators and staff. The consultant is licensed, insured and a certified JSEP and FDOT-DBE.

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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.”

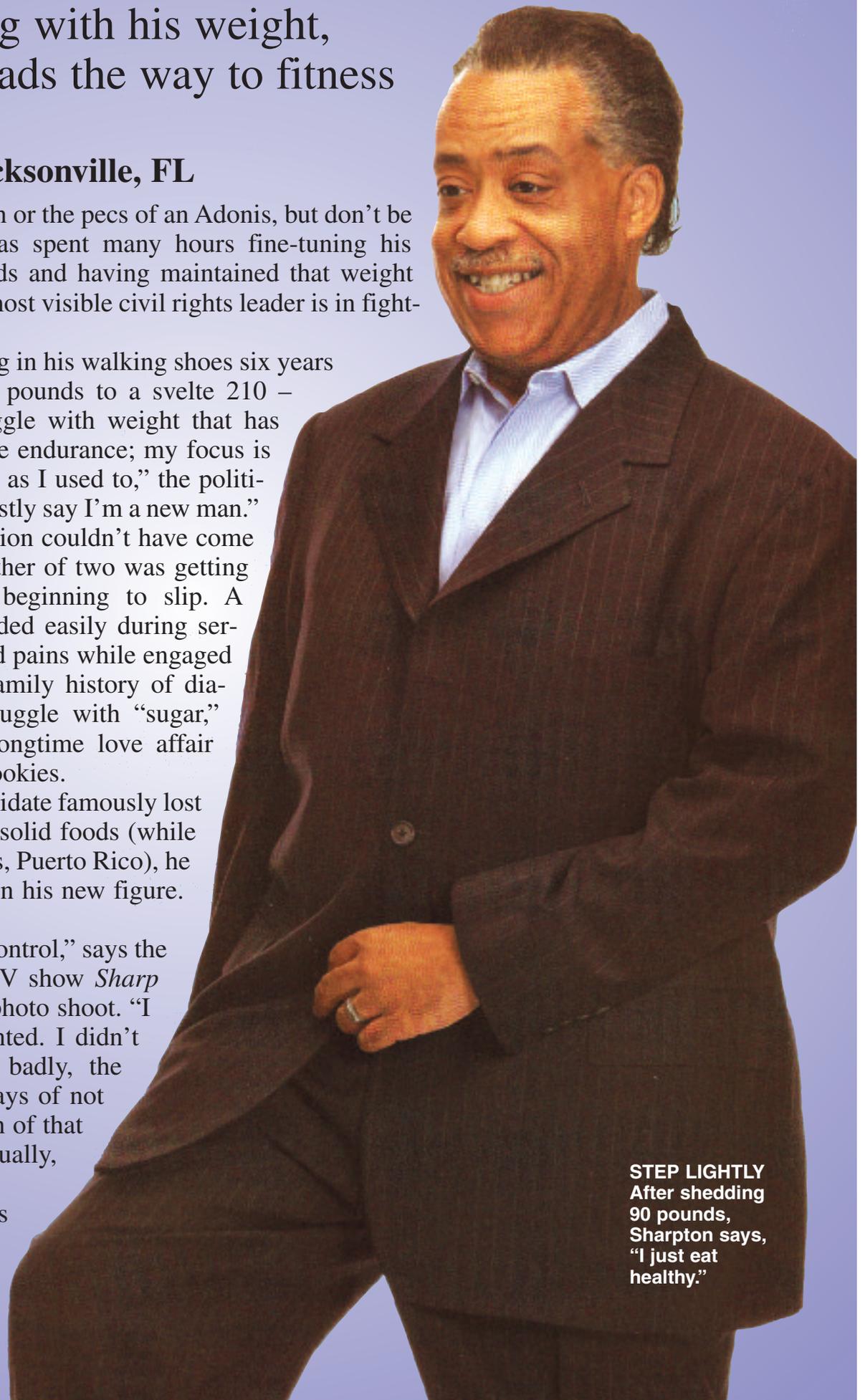
Sharpton's dramatic body transformation couldn't have come at a better time. At 52 years old, the father of two was getting daily reminders that his health was beginning to slip. A Pentecostal minister, he would get winded easily during sermons. He began to suffer from aches and pains while engaged in 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.”

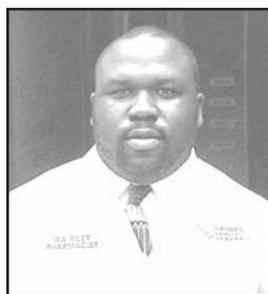
To be clear, Sharpton insists that you don’t have to go hardcore – like adopting the liquid diet he was on when he was jailed for the Vieques protest – in order to lose the weight. “I just eat healthy,” he says. “I eat a chicken Caesar salad every day. It’s all about lean meats, water, fruits and vegetables. 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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SHAM ELECTIONS IN KENYA: TRAGIC SETBACK FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

By Dr. Keith Jennings
Guest Columnist

Atlanta, GA - In the immediate aftermath of the recent elections in Kenya, the Bush Administration wasted no time in sending its glowing congratulations to incumbent President Mwai Kibaki and the Kenyan Election Commission. But despite the subsequent attempt to ignore the congratulatory message, and adamant claim of a global commitment to democracy, the Bush Administration's official stamp of approval for Kibaki and the elections reflected a de facto endorsement of a naked power grab and contempt for the democratic process.

To be sure, the Bush administration's eagerness to embrace a stage-managed election reveals a sharp inconsistency between pronouncement and practice — declining to support calls for a re-count and urging “all candidates to accept the Commission final result.” Some would argue that the Bush focus on security and economic interest supersede its rhetoric for democracy. Clearly, the Bush statement and its later about-face joint statement with Kenya's former colonial masters —the British- reflects morally bankrupt policies which only see Kenya as a staunch ally and “frontline state in the global war on terrorism.”

The Kenyan people participated in a democratic process to elect the representatives of their choice. When the election results were leaning toward the challenger and long time pro-democracy activists, Raila Odinga, the democratic process was over taken by manipulation and fraud. How can a U.S. Administration that preaches democracy in almost biblical terms refuse to pressure the Kenyan government for a re-count or an independent audit? Of course, this question may strike some Americans as naïve in the light of the Florida and Ohio fiascos in our own 2000 & 2004 presidential elections.



After the Bush Administration, offered congratulations to Mwai Kibaki on December 30, in the midst of widespread violent clashes between civilians and Kenyan police, I have to agree with those commentators who have been critical of the Bush Administration's democracy promotion policy in Africa. Moreover, how can the views of hundreds of European international observers, who proclaim a “staggering mismatch” between recorded vote counts at local polling stations and what the Election Commission officials announced, be



ignored. One wonders what the Administration would be saying if this were Zimbabwe or Burma.

The fighting in the streets of Nairobi and police abuse started long before the recent election results were

announced. In the pre-election period, numerous human rights violations occurred including the killing and beating of dozens of women candidates and widespread intimidation and violence against opposition politicians. Recent poll results indicate fraudulent vote counting in at least 72



constituencies, which equate to an undermining of the electoral process and a democratic set back once again on the African continent. While the democratic process should never be reduced to an election, it is during an election that the strength of a country's democratic system is put to the test. This is clearly the case in Kenya.



After years of autocratic rule by Daniel Moi (who's home was burned down last week), citizens from all walks of life and political persuasions closed ranks to elect a new government in 2002, one that promised never to treat the people the way they had been sidelined and marginalized by

previous governments. The promises were soon broken as charges of corruption were leveled against high ranking members of the Kibaki Administration. Consequently, the Kenyan people rightfully expected and democratically prepared for change.

It is important to note that Kibaki's party won only 35 of 210 parliamentary seats losing more than 20 of his cabinet ministers, including his vice president. These facts alone reveal the deep seeded and widespread public resentment against the legendary corruption of the Kibaki Administration.

With an official result producing a less than 233,000 vote difference (4,584,721 for Kibaki to 4,352,993 for Odinga), what is in order is a recount and an independent audit of the tallying process and final results, not a hasty swearing-in of the controversial President for another five years with Bush's blessings. That swearing-in was immediately followed by a media ban on live coverage of events, a ban on all public rallies and threats from the declared winner to “deal decisively with those who breach the peace.” We have heard those words before. The Kenyan peoples' right of peaceful assembly and expression should be respected by the current government. The attempt to suppress any opposition to the fraudulent election results is bound to fail and only lead to more violence and conflict.

As it has been reported in the Kenyan and international media, even the Kenyan Election Commission chair, Samuel Kivuilu, admits that the Commission was under pressure by government, which raises questions of its independence. Commissioner Kivuilu also states that he is not sure ‘if Kibaki won the elections.’ At least five other Commissioners have said they are certain that the vote count was manipulated.

See KENYA page 36

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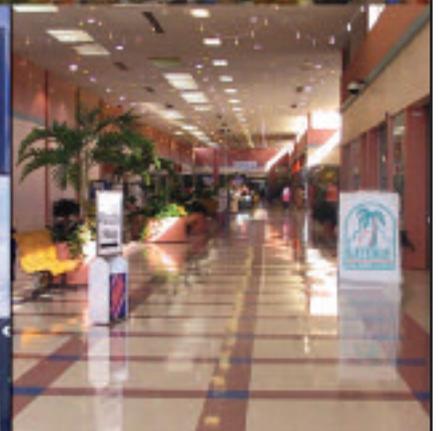
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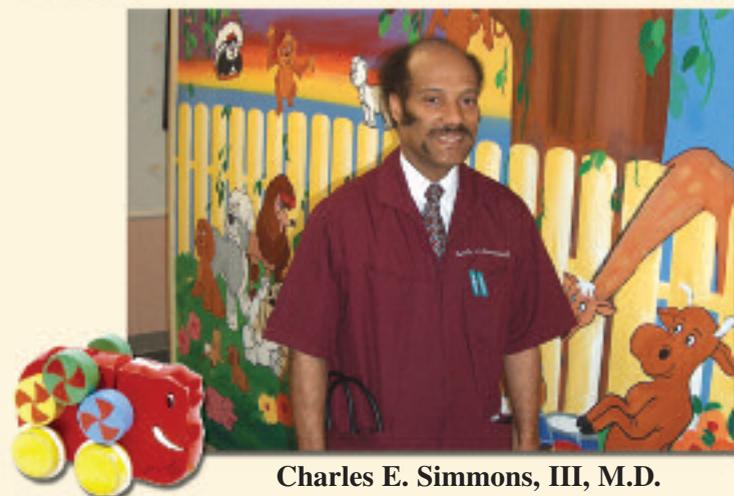
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Psalms 127:3-5



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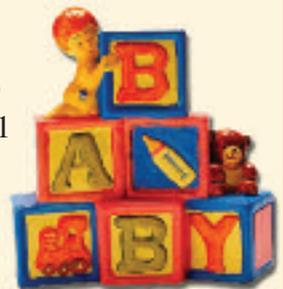
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Dr. Rebecca Walker Steele Scholarship Established To Aid Chorale Students

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:

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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 or call the Office of Cultural Affairs at (386) 481-2772.



STEP TO THE SIGN CROSSING ALL THE LINES STEP TO THE SIGN CROSSING ALL THE LINES STEP TO THE SIGN CROSSING ALL THE LINES



Jones High School

Constructed: 1921-1922 Cost: \$34,000

Businesses: (1921-1952) Jones High School, (1952-1971) Callahan Elementary School, (1984-present) Callahan Neighborhood Community Center. **Modifications:** The building standing today primarily dates from 1984. The front facade is the original school. **Notes:** Built on land donated to the county by L. C. Jones, a school principal since 1912. This was the third location for the first public school for blacks in Orlando. The first was created in 1895 on the South West corner of Garland Avenue and Church Street. It was reportedly named *Orlando Black*. Later on the school moved to the corner of Parramore and Jefferson and was renamed Johnson Academy.

Pioneers Changed Face of Orlando Police Department

A photo from 1956 shows 6 of the first black Orlando police officers. From left, are:
 · Richard Arthur Jones, 28, on the force from 1951-1976.
 · John W. Jordan, 29, on the force from 1952-1958.



· Gainus Wright Jr., 23, on the force from 1954-1960.
 · Mayo Howard, 29, on the force from 1954-1957.
 · Belvin Perry Sr., 30, on the force from 1951-1976.
 · Otha Lee Kelly, 30, on the force from 1954-1976.

The black-and-white photograph, taken in 1956, shows six police officers, guns in holsters, hands clasped behind their backs. It captures a seminal moment in the history of Orlando: the first black men to wear the uniform of the Orlando Police Department. None grew up aspiring to become a policeman. In their youths, that was an impossibility. They were waiters, taxi drivers and cooks who broke the color barrier in law enforcement.

The "Urban League" NULITES Youth Leadership Summit

Held In Orlando Florida in 2008

Each year a NULITES conference is held in a different Urban League city across the country. In 2008 the NULITES Youth Leadership Summit will be held in Orlando, Florida. The Metropolitan Orlando Urban League's NULITES chapter will assist in co-sponsoring this event. Some 500 students and their chaperones design, develop and administer the annual four-day event in an environment designed to engage them with educational, social and other experimental interactions geared toward the critical issues facing today's youth. The Summit features workshops, talent shows, a job shadowing, social networking events and participation by celebrities, political figures, leading authors and business leaders.

The Summit

- The NULITES Youth Leadership Summit is used as a leadership-training venue for youth and adult youth service providers of Urban League affiliates.
- The summit is a closed conference open to National Urban League youth serving affiliates and by invitation only for other youth serving organizations. Youth attending the National Urban League with their parents and not registered with the NULITES Youth Summit are not allowed to participate. Young people attending the summit are ages 14- 18 years old and must be an active participant in their local Urban League programs and meet the requirements of participation as set by the Youth Summit handbook.

For more information about the NULITES, the National Urban League's 2008 Annual Conference, exhibitor or sponsorship opportunities contact: Dr. E. Lance McCarthy @ (407)841-7654. or by email emccarthy@metorlandoul.org



**Dr. E. Lance McCarthy
President / CEO**

Val Demings is First Woman to Lead Orlando Police Department

The mayor named Val Demings Chief of the Orlando Police Department giving her the dual distinctions of being the first woman and the first Black woman to hold the job.

Demings, a 23-year veteran of the department who was leading the patrol division as Deputy Chief, said she would focus on combating the violent crime that's plagued the city. "The reduction of violent crime is my primary focus, and I will use every tool within my legal law enforcement authority to ensure people living, working or visiting Orlando feel safe," Demings said. "We will be relentless in our effort to fight crime."

Demings' husband, Jerry Demings, was the department's first Black chief. He is now Orange County's director of public safety, and recently announced his candidacy for sheriff. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said Val Demings was the clear choice to be chief. "She has a background that exemplifies excellence in every area of law enforcement," Dyer said. Val Demings replaces Michael McCoy, who has led the department for the past five years.



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2008 National Urban League Annual Conference

Orlando World Center Marriott
 Resort & Convention Center
 Orlando, Florida

July 30 - August 2, 2008

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FOR

CONGRESS

DEMOCRAT DISTRICT 8



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I prosecute war profiteers and corrupt government officials. In March, I won \$10 million for the taxpayers. It was the first case involving contractor fraud in Iraq. Bush refused to prosecute, but I went ahead on my own, and won.

I created and, for 20 years, I have served as an officer of the Alliance for Aging

Research. Its motto is "Living to 100, and Loving It!" We have increased support for aging research by 600%.

I also founded and was the first President of IDT, a Fortune 1000 company. I've given gifts and toys to hundreds of sick children. And my wife Lolita and I have five healthy children of our own, who love us.

In Congress, I can do more of what I've been doing – helping the taxpayer, soldiers, seniors and children. Help me to help you, and the ones you love.



Alan and his wife, Lolita, have five children – Skye (12), Star (8), Sage (6) and two-year-old twins, Storm and Stone.

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on
AUGUST 26 and NOVEMBER 4

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www.GraysonForCongress.com

BLACK BUSINESS TIP FOR 2008: BEING POSITIVE IS GOOD, BUT NOT ENOUGH

By Dante Lee
www.BlackBusinessCoach.com

It's good to be a positive thinker, but don't think for one second that that's all you have to do. Being a successful entrepreneur requires more than just having a optimistic outlook.

Some people believe that they should spend all their time listening to motivational speakers, staying inspired - and the rest will happen. This is false reasoning.

I don't care how motivated you are, you will not be successful until you become a hard worker. Hard work means putting in the time and energy that it takes to build a company. Some people say, "Don't work hard, work smart." Truth be told, you need to work hard and smart because building a profitable business requires genuine effort.

Don't be mistaken! I'm not trying to downplay being optimistic. I just think a lot of people are confused; they superstitiously believe that success is guaranteed to come to those who are "strong believers". This has been referred to as "The Law of Attraction."

The only law I'm familiar with in business is the "The Law of Productivity". Its all about getting things accomplished, and closing out each day with several tasks completed.

Ask any successful entrepreneur, and they will tell you that thinking positive is only a small factor of the equation. You have to get your hands dirty and get some work done.

Understand that there are no shortcuts in business. You can NOT take the elevator to success, you have to take the stairs - and these stairs are steep with no rails to hold onto.

So think positive, but also think realistically. Success is not coming your way, you have to go get it!

Dante Lee is the 26-year old president and CEO of Diversity City Media, a multicultural marketing and public relations firm based in Columbus, Ohio. His daily blog, www.BlackBusinessCoach.com, offers a FREE email and RSS subscription for Black entrepreneurs and business owners.



Dante Lee



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Gwendolyn E. Barrs
General Manager/CEO

Darryl A. Barrs
Publisher/Managing Editor

IN GOD WE TRUST – GONE!

To my shock and dismay the words, "In God We Trust," are not on the new George Washington one dollar gold coin. This is the first money ever issued by the USA in history without the words "In God We Trust".

By omitting these words, our politically correct secularist leaders made a conscientious decision that either

- 1) God does not exist, or
- 2) God exists, but can no longer be trusted.

What can we do to show our displeasure?

- #1. Boycott the coin. Do not ask for it at banks.
- #2. If it is given to you in change, do not accept it and ask for dollar bills instead.
- #3. Write your Senators stating your displeasure.

Collectively we must send a strong message to those secularists who are trying to remove God from our culture. If we do this, some 300 million \$1.00 coins will back up and rot in the supply chain!



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When you host an event you are showing your appreciation for the people in your life, while building a bridge that links friends, family, associates or co-workers. You set the stage for people to laugh, have a good time and create lasting memories.

Your guests will get their first impression of your event when they enter. Unless it is a spur-of-the-moment get together, events benefit greatly from pre-planning

Whether your event is at your home, hotel or private club, there are some important things you want to think about in planning any function:

- ❖ **Your guest list.** Keep in mind the best functions are ones where there is a mix of personalities. Think about people you'd like to introduce to each other.
- ❖ **Space.** There should be enough space to make everyone feel comfortable.
- ❖ **Budget.** Decide how much you would like to spend. This will help you make important decisions such as location, type of food served, decorations, entertainment, etc.
- ❖ **Theme.** Choosing a theme adds spark to any gathering. Keep it simple. No need to be elaborate unless your theme calls for it.
- ❖ **Atmosphere.** What is the tone you are trying to create? Is it cozy/intimate? Is it celebration/excitement? Is it business (conference, seminar)? The theme will play a major role in helping determine the atmosphere.

Let's not miss the opportunities to create 'precious memories' that will linger as we journey through life. It would be our honor and sincere pleasure at *A Spirit of Excellence Event Planning* to share in making your life easier as you plan your next event. The company is committed to providing personal, prompt, professional service and is passionate about making every event the BEST it can be!

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Margie K. Cody
President/CEO

Bible Wordsearch

Jacob's Ladder

Genesis 28: 10-20
Puzzle #148

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|----------|
| ABRAHAM | DOWN | ISAAC | POURED |
| AFRAID | DREAM | JACOB | PROMISED |
| ANGELS | DUST | JOURNEY | REACHED |
| ASCENDING | EARTH | LAND | RESTING |
| AWESOME | FATHER | LAY | RETURN |
| AWOKE | FOOD | LEAVE | SAFELY |
| BEERSHEBA | GATE | LUZ | SLEEP |
| BETHEL | FIVE | LYING | STAIRWAY |
| BLESSED | GOD | MORNING | STONE |
| BRING | HARAN | NIGHT | TENTH |
| CALLED | HEAD | NORTH | |
| CITY | HEAVEN | OIL | |
| CLOTHES | HOUSE | PILLAR | |

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.

_____ PSALM 68

I'm A Christian Reader

Bible Crossword

1			2		3	4	5		6			7
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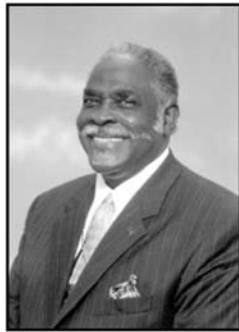
ACROSS

- exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and ___ on him royal (1 Chron 29:25)
- as a follower of the Way, which they call a ___ (Acts 24:14)
- we eagerly ___ a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 3:20)
- Joseph brought his father Jacob in and ___ him before Pharaoh (Gen 47:7)
- the LORD with all your heart and ___ not on your own understanding (Prov 3:5)
- He prepared a ___ for them, baking bread without yeast (Gen 19:3-4)
- Your kingdom is divided and given to the ___ and Persians (Dan 5:28)
- A word ___ spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver (Prov 25:11) KJV
- But after I have risen, I will go ___ of you into Galilee (Matt 26:32)
- the nations came against him, those from regions ___ about (Ezek 19:8)
- as with the ___ of usury, so with the giver of usury to him (Isa 24:2) KJV
- My command is this: Love each other as I have ___ you (John 15:12-13)
- Be merciful to me, O God, for men ___ pursue me (Ps 56:1)
- power and authority to drive out all demons and to ___ diseases (Luke 9:1)
- It had large ___ teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims (Dan 7:7)
- Your lips drop ___ as the honeycomb, my bride (Song 4:11)
- the words of him who has the sharp, double-___ sword (Rev 2:12) (partial word)
- Our sheep will increase by thousands, by ___ of thousands in our fields (Ps 144:13)
- You have ___ correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." (Luke 10:28)

DOWN

- They exchanged their Glory for an image of a ___, which eats grass (Ps 106:20)
- the curtain of the temple was ___ in two from top to bottom (Matt 27:51)
- saying indignantly to one another, "Why this ___ of perfume? (Mark 14:4)
- Abraham set apart seven ___ lambs from the flock (Gen 21:28)
- Then maidens will ___ and be glad, young men and old as well (Jer 31:13)
- there shall come forth a rod out of the ___ of Jesse (Isa 11:1) KJV
- "Return home and ___ how much God has done for you." (Luke 8:39)
- "Yes, ___ is as you say," Jesus replied (Matt 27:11)
- Come out of her, my people, that ye be not ___ of her sins (Rev 18:4) KJV
- Why should I fear when evil days come, when wicked ___ surround me (Ps 49:5)
- cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, ___ and frankincense (Rev 18:13)
- "You of little faith," he said, "why did you ___?" (Matt 14:31)
- Wherefore look ye so ___ to day? (Gen 40:7) KJV
- I myself will judge between the ___ sheep and the lean sheep (Ezek 34:20)
- The disciples went and ___ as Jesus had instructed them (Matt 21:6)
- "I am the Alpha and the ___," says the Lord God (Rev 1:8)
- They come from faraway ___, from the ends of the heavens (Isa 13:5)
- Dividing up his clothes, they ___ lots to see what each would get (Mark 15:24)
- female sheep (Gen 32:14)
- was in the ___ that is called Patmos, for the word of God (Rev 1:9) KJV
- Share with God's people who are in ___. Practice hospitality (Rom 12:13)
- better to he ___ a wise man's rebuke than to listen to the song (Eccl 7:5) (partial word)
- Sir, your mina has earned ___ more (Luke 19:16)

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Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign. The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE." For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE30 etc.

A great idea that will make a difference! Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today! ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.



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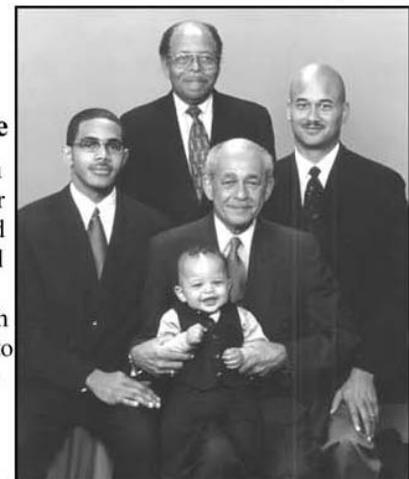
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The Penalty of Leadership

In every field of human endeavor, he that is first must perpetually live in the white light of publicity. Whether the leadership be vested in a man or in a manufactured product, emulation and envy are ever at work. In art, in literature, in music, in industry, the reward and the punishment are always the same.

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

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

Long, long after a great work or a good work has been done, those who are

disappointed or envious continue to cry out that it cannot be done.

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

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

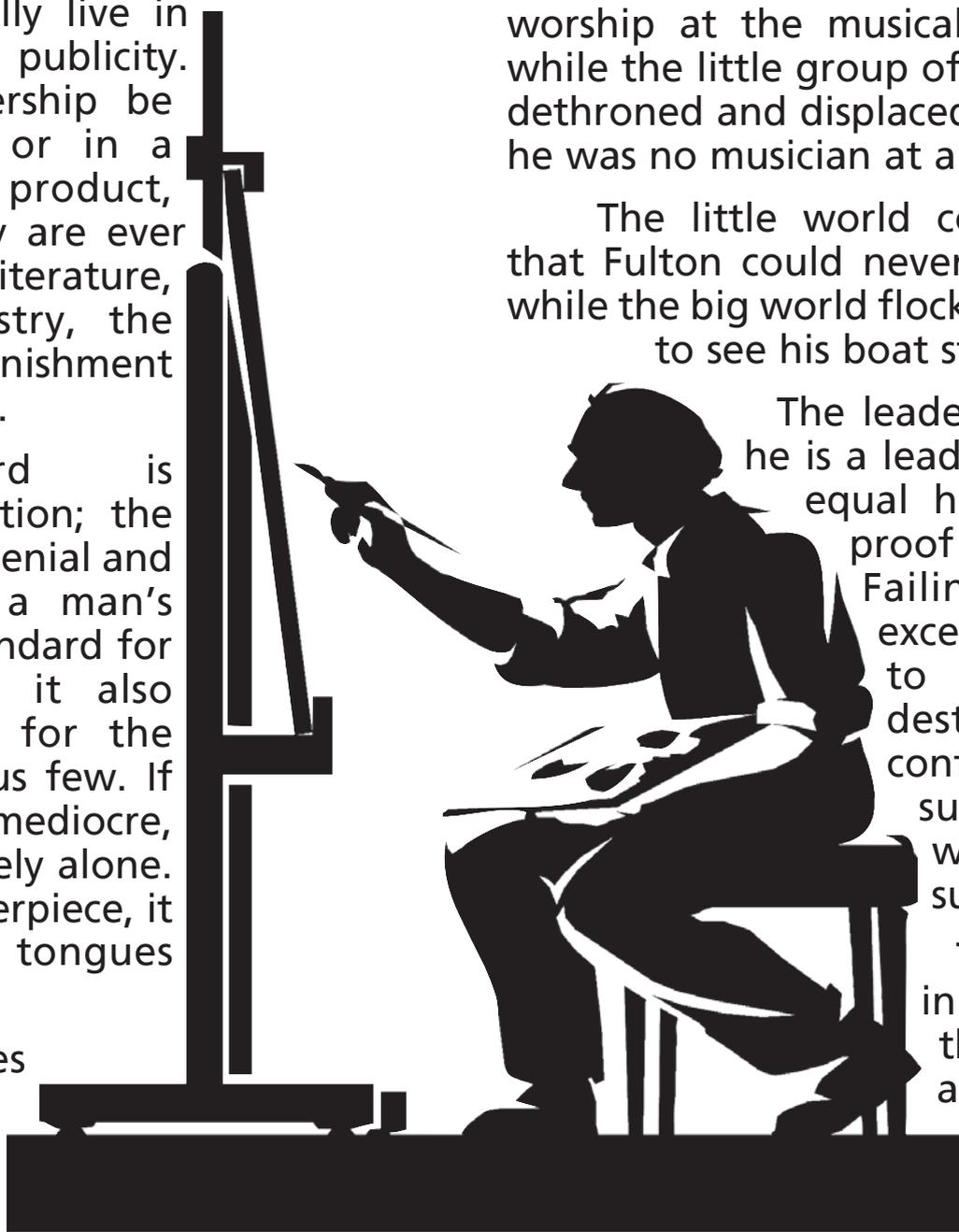
The little world continued to protest that Fulton could never build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the river banks to see his boat steam by.

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

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

If the leader truly leads, he remains the leader. Master-poet, master-painter, master-workman, each in his turn is assailed, and each holds his laurel through the ages.

That which is good or great makes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. That which deserves to live — lives.

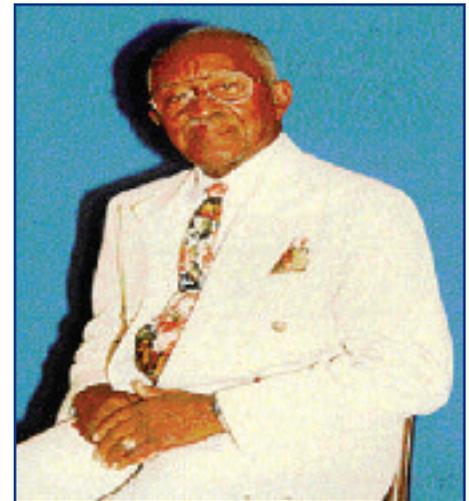


FROM GOD'S CORNER



“I’VE GOT ON MY TRAVELING SHOES”

By Aundra Bryant
Tallahassee, Florida



Deacon Oscar Bryant

This particular article is dedicated to my father Deacon Oscar David Bryant who passed away in August. My father was known throughout the Big Bend area for singing the gospel tune “Traveling Shoes”. In Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus Chapter Six, he talks about having our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

There are three significant points that I would like to mention about “traveling shoes”. Firstly, Paul makes a point of telling us that we should put on the whole armor of God which I interpreted as meaning we as followers of Christ cannot walk around bragging about our faith and at the same time stirring up confusion among the body of Christ. Sometimes we have members of our own congregation who only come to board meeting to raise hell.

Secondly, Paul tells the members at Ephesus that one of Satan’s greatest weapons is trying to divide the body of Christ. Paul stresses to the congregation that they should exemplify the fruits of the spirit which are love, peace, joy, slow to anger and long suffering. These Christ like attributes are essential for any follower to move from membership to discipleship. Paul admonishes the followers that it will be hard to run this Christian race without your “traveling shoes” because as the spiritual goes “we are soldiers in the army, we have to hold up the blood stained banner, we’ve got to hold it up until we die”. We must remember that we do not have the full uniform of Christ on if we are not wearing the footwear of peace.

Finally, the words of this song suggest that we Christians are going somewhere. Paul gives specific warning to the church at Ephesus that this world is not our home and we are just passing through on our way to see Jesus. Jesus has told us that we will face many trials and tribulations on this tedious journey but we must be like Paul who declared in his letter to the Romans, Chapter Eight, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

In conclusion, there was a very wealthy man who was traveling on a long journey throughout the United States. The rich man’s chauffeur turned around as he was driving and said, “Boss, I’ve been driving for you for a long time, sometimes through the storm,

sometimes through the rain, sometimes through the snow but I’ve got to let you know that I’m tired now”. The rich man with replied to the surprise of the chauffeur, “Joe, stop the car! I’m going to take over from here”. The songwriter says, “Oh when I’ve come to the end of my journey, weary of life and the battle has been won. Carrying the staff and the cross of redemption, he’ll understand and say “Well Done”.

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Answers From Page 32

B	E	S	T	O	W	E	D		S	E	C	T
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KENYA continued from page 25

The Kibaki power grab may well cause Kenya, a model of stability in the East Africa region, to become another in the growing list of African countries that risk slipping down the path of ethnic conflict amidst a rekindling of old prejudices that has led to genocide in neighboring countries.

We have seen the U.S. government prioritizing its security concerns over democracy promotion in Africa before. Who can ever forget the shameful April 2007 elections in Nigeria, which provides the US with 12% of its oil needs? Nigerians refer to that election as the most fraudulent elections ever held in the country. Despite calls for electoral reform, official U.S. congratulations to Yar'Adua were followed by a recent White House visit, which ended with Yar'Adua promoting the establishment of the U.S. African Military Command that could potentially place U.S. soldiers throughout the continent despite opposition in Nigeria. No wonder many believe there is scant U.S. commitment to global democracy when its economic and military interests are relevant. The Bush Administration's policies appear to respond to narrow, ill-perceived security and economic imperatives that will ultimately lead to long-term instability in Kenya and other parts of Africa.

It is more than noteworthy that as the 2005 Ethiopian elections were being won by the opposition at such an unprecedented manner that the Melis government intervened and halted the announcement of results. After a series of recounts and adjudication trails, which the opposition was not prepared for, it was once again business as usual, a witch's brew of repression and torture. The arrest and detention on treason charges of all major opposition leaders followed, but the Bush administration, which also sees Ethiopia as a staunch ally in the war on terror who is more than willing to do its bidding in Somalia, offered congratulations to Meles on his victory and urged "dialogue" and "reconciliation."

As the optimism of the 1990s has given way to the more vexing problem of making democracy deliver on its promises, the past few years have been filled with setbacks for the democratic process in Africa, with the possible exceptions of the 2005 elections in Liberia and the 2007 elections in Sierra Leone. And the U.S. has been largely silent in its actions to reverse those setbacks.

The peace in Kenya was breached long before the day when the elections were stolen. Sanctimonious calls for peace, compromise and reconciliation will do no good when the people's confidence in the democratic process is what is at stake and the legitimacy of those making the calls for "law and order" or respect for the rule of law is questioned.

The issue here is about power and the future of democracy in Africa not ethnic rivalries. Unfortunately some of the big men in Africa, as in other parts of the world, have not realized how to share power or to let it go when the will of the people is against their continued stay in office. There are those who talk about freedom and democracy but practice autocratic policies, they never really believed in the will of the people to begin with. What will be the world's response to the farce currently underway in Kenya? Democracy in Africa or business as usual?

Dr. Keith Jennings is President of the African American Human Rights Foundation and former Director of Citizen Participation for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. He can be reached at rightsfoundation@yahoo.com.

Bible Wordsearch

Solution to Puzzle No.148

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

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

Sing to God, O kingdoms

Psalm 68:32 niv

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SAFELY(4,1,SE)
SLEEP(15,2,SW)
STAIRWAY(15,2,S)
STONE(6,1,E)
TENTH(3,1,SE)

(Over, Down, Direction)

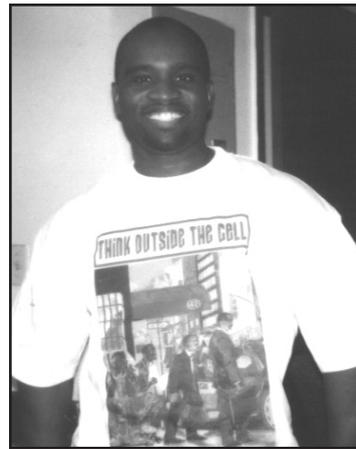
ABRAHAM(6,9,S)
AFRAID(13,1,SW)
ANGELS(6,9,SW)
ASCENDING(15,8,W)
AWESOME(6,9,SE)
AWOKE(4,5,S)
BEERSHEBA(14,6,SW)
BETHEL(3,10,NE)
BLESSED(8,7,E)
BRING(1,15,NE)
CALLED(13,8,S)
CITY(10,5,NW)
CLOTHES(12,13,N)
DOWN(15,14,N)
DREAM(15,14,W)
DUST(12,6,NE)
EARTH(3,5,E)
FATHER(6,3,E)
FOOD(1,12,N)
GATE(5,13,NE)
GIVE(1,6,NE)
GOD(1,7,E)
HARAN(3,14,E)
HEAD(15,1,W)
HEAVEN(6,7,NW)
HOUSE(10,6,NE)
ISAAC(9,5,NW)
JACOB(5,4,SW)
JOURNEY(9,14,NW)
LAND(2,15,E)
LAY(2,13,N)
LEAVE(11,15,E)
LUZ(9,13,SW)
LYING(1,5,N)
MORNING(3,3,SE)
NIGHT(14,9,S)
NORTH(2,6,S)
OIL(15,10,W)
PILLAR(6,8,SW)
POURED(11,6,N)
PROMISED(10,15,N)
REACHED(10,2,S)
RESTING(5,5,S)
RETURN(11,13,N)

NEW ENTREPRENEURSHIP GUIDE HELPS INCARCERATED AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED BUILD SUCCESSFUL LIVES

New York, NY - The journey that led Joseph Robinson to write the new book *Think Outside the Cell: An Entrepreneur's Guide for the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated* (Resilience Multimedia) began in 1992, after he was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for a crime that had its roots in his illegal drug business. Behind prison walls, Joe developed a passion for legitimate business by reading newspaper financial sections that other prisoners threw away. He traded cigarettes for books to build his own business library and became an authoritative financial adviser to fellow incarcerated men. And he convinced top Wall Street executives and others—including a former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State—to go inside prison to share their business knowledge.

With the publication of his inspiring and informative *Think Outside the Cell*, Joe is encouraging men and women nationwide to use what for many are innate entrepreneurial gifts in order to build the lives they want and break the cycle of recidivism. This step-by-step guide is packed with straightforward information on a range of topics, including how to get others to embrace your ideas and help launch your business, how to legally avoid taxes, how to establish good credit and the steps to take to remove occupational restrictions that many states place on convicted felons.

Think Outside the Cell has already won high praise, including from John C. Whitehead, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State and former co-chairman of Goldman Sachs; Steve Mariotti, founder of the acclaimed National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship; Wahida Clark, best-selling urban fiction author; Nicole Lindahl,



Joseph Robinson

assistant director of the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York; Catherine F. Rohr, founder of the nationally recognized Prison Entrepreneurship Program, and Julio Medina, founder of Exodus Transitional Community, whose work with the formerly incarcerated has been recognized by the White House.

Think Outside the Cell is being published amid renewed efforts to help the formerly incarcerated—who are disproportionately black and Latino—successfully reenter society. But the reentry programs being developed focus on finding jobs in a nation where, according to a Princeton University study, it is easier for a white person with a felony conviction to get a job than for a black person who has never been arrested. *Think Outside the Cell* presents a largely unexplored option that can help give men and women leaving prison a realistic second chance.

Think Outside the Cell is published by Resilience Multimedia, a New York-based publisher of quality African-American and Latino books. Its founder is Sheila Rule, a journalist for *The New York Times* for 30 years who started writing to the incarcerated as a volunteer for the Riverside Church Prison Ministry. Inspired by the rich talent she found behind prison walls, she started Resilience Multimedia. Future titles will help the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated tackle other hard challenges. And to present a more balanced image of this population, Resilience will publish books featuring formerly incarcerated men and women who have become successful as entrepreneurs and in other endeavors. To order *Think Outside the Cell*, or for more information, please visit www.thinkoutsidethecell.com

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Publisher's Editorial



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



Is There A Famine In The Land?

The brisk economic times seems to place a dark shadow over the entrance of the New Year 2008. The real estate market is down to an all-time low, gas prices are high, the war in Iraq lingers, and the leadership of our country is up for grabs. Everyone everywhere has been touched someway by these trying times. We feel the ill affects... unemployment, foreclosures, high crime rates, increase sickness and even death. How did we get here? Where was the warning? When do we escape?

I'm reminded of the Pharaoh who had a troubling dream that no one could interpret but Joseph as he explained that Egypt would have seven years of harvest followed by seven years of famine. The dream was a warning to Pharaoh that gave him time to prepare for the dramatic economic down-turn that was about to come. We today have had many years of harvest, a time when everything was plentiful and our work produced fruit with very little effort. Now things have been getting lean and by all indicators, will continue and become progressively worst over the next years.

Harvest should not just be a time of indulgence. A time we spend and consume, fulfilling our hearts every desire. It is much easier to save when there is abundance. It is less difficult to study and learn when there is no pressure. Building relationships comes without thinking when times are good. However, when famine strikes the land, unprepared ness and derelict of duty leaves many stating - Could've, Would've, Should've!

I could have saved money. I would have gone to school and earned that degree. I should have worked a little harder in establishing closer relationships with other businesses. Now times are hard and money is tight for me and everyone else. Where do I go? To whom do I turn? God is not a respecter of persons and He blesses us all the same in that He has given us all 24 hours in a day. It is what we do with that time that differentiates us as individuals. Successful individuals can track the number of hours they spend towards bettering themselves each day.

Pharaoh had the dream, and in Genesis 41:25, Joseph explains to Pharaoh that God is showing him what He is about to do. This tells us that regardless of what our state maybe as a People today... God is still very much in control. Many are adversely affected today not because the Devil has attacked them, but simply because they are out of touch with God and unaware of what God is doing, and therefore frivolously spend their time.

Joseph supplied Pharaoh with knowledge which allowed Pharaoh to create a "famine plan" which prevented starvation and kept Egypt from turning from might to ruin. What you don't know can hurt you. My friends, to be Great in 2008, we all need to know what's ahead, and have a detailed survival plan. As leaders, it is our responsibility not an option.

The Bible is still our road map and guide to successful living. It gives us an account of how God dealt with those of yesterday as an indication of what is expected of us today. Though we may change and are constantly finding ways to innovate and upgrade, God is still the same, yesterday, today and forever. Make sure you are not reshaping God to fit your plans and desires, but instead seeking His will and plan for your life. Only then can we expect to be Great in 2008.

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