

Christian Reader

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FREE MONTHLY

Congresswoman Corrine Brown Opposes Any Drilling Off The Coast Of Florida



Corrine Brown

Dear Florida Colleague:

I write to you today in wholehearted opposition to the idea of drilling off the coast of Florida. I am hopeful the Florida delegation will not capitulate on this issue and will work together to carry out the will of the majority of Floridians who are opposed to drilling off of our coasts.

Florida's coastline is a treasure not just for Floridians, but for all Americans and for the world. Our tropical climate, pristine beaches, and marine wildlife are the number one draws to our state. For years our delegation has worked together to protect both the coast and natural resources, yet suddenly the Florida delegation seems splintered and ready to compromise our state's shores, undermining years of bipartisan efforts to keep oil drilling off Florida's coasts.

There are serious environmental risks associated with any type of petroleum drilling, the impact of which may cause irreversible scarring to the landscape, affecting thousands of species, each critical to the ecosystem.

It is indisputable that drilling would be harmful to tourism, the biggest industry in our state. In fact, even just conducting an inventory of resources in the Gulf of Mexico would destroy our efforts

see **CORRINE BROWN** page 22

PRISONS ARE DEVASTATING FOR BLACK MALES

Says Health Policy Institute (HPI) and Urges Federal Government to Reform America's Jails and Prisons

Washington, DC - The Joint Center Health Policy Institute (HPI) today called conditions in the nation's jails and prisons a "devastating experience" for many African American males, and their families, and called upon national leaders to launch a campaign to reform the horrific health environment in correctional facilities.

Citing a recent report by the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons, HPI Director Dr. Gail Christopher said that correctional facilities pose a major threat to the health of African American males. Further, she asserted that prison reform must become a public policy priority if the nation is to seriously address the social, health and economic problems that young African American males face today.

see **PRISONS** page 12

Edward Waters College (EWC) Earns Accreditation Reaffirmation

College announces SACS Decision at press conference

Jacksonville, Fla., June 26, 2006 – Officials at Edward Waters College (EWC), Florida's oldest Historically Black College, held a press conference Friday, June 23, announcing that the college's accreditation has been reaffirmed through 2014 and the warning status has been removed.

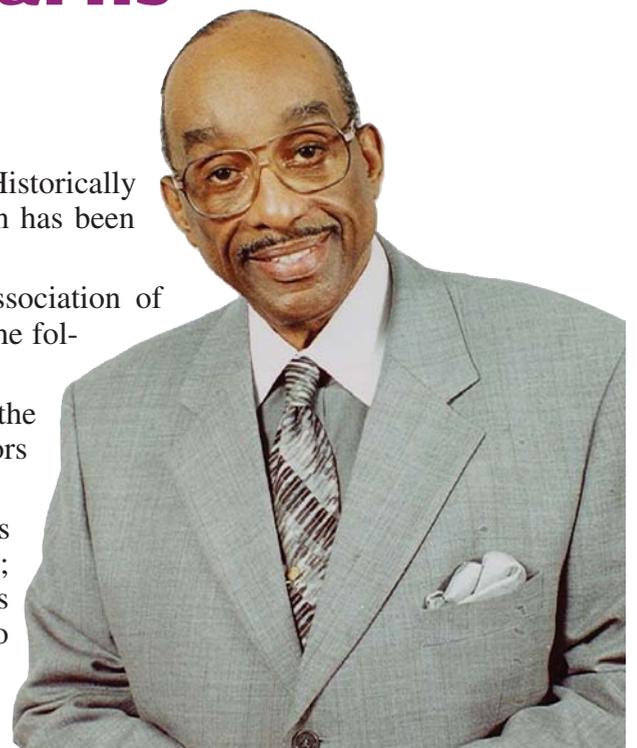
EWC was verbally informed last Thursday by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) of the reaffirmation and the lifting of the warning status, along with the follow up to the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

"We have worked very hard," said Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., EWC's 27th president. "This news is the culmination of a huge team effort. We have worked hard to rebuild the faculty, add new administrators and enhance protocols to improve our institution as well as strengthen our academic programs."

Bishop McKinley Young, chairman of the EWC Board of Trustees, made the announcement at a press conference prior to the EWC staff appreciation celebration. Bishop Young was joined by Dr. Bronson; members of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Valdrie Walker, vice president of academic affairs; and Dr. James McLean, vice president of institutional advancement. Members of the community were also present to hear the good news.

"We acknowledge with gratitude, the new, positive spirit of cooperation with SACS," said Bishop McKinley Young. "This is an historic day for Edward Waters College. We could not have asked for better news."

see **EDWARD WATERS** page 12



Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr.

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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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Darryl A. Barrs, Sr.

Publisher / Managing Editor

Gwendolyn E. Barrs

General Manager / Chief Executive Officer

Charles E. Simmons

Principal / Executive Manager

Main Office:

**435 Clark Road, Suite 412-5, Jacksonville, FL 32218
Post Office Box 9604, Daytona Beach, FL 32120**

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Where are my people?

By Pastor Leon Bing
North Jacksonville Family Worship Center

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)

This is one of the most quoted verses of scripture in the church today. However, there is a question that I believe God is asking, that is, "Where are my people?" I have been grieving over this thought now for the past few months. Here in Jacksonville, Florida we have been seeing our murder rate on the rise, traffic homicide on the rise, and many other crimes, again, on the rise!

Both statewide and nationwide crime is just totally out of control. And not only is the crime rate so high, but it is how most of these crimes are committed that just blows my mind! Recently we have heard about a father throwing his two sons over the balcony of a hotel then jumping himself..., to a mother who has murdered nine, yes nine of her new born children and placing their bodies into flower pots in her yard! Sound like a Hollywood movie doesn't it. Unfortunately it is not, these occurred within the past month.

It was a recent murder here in Jacksonville that inspired me to not only write this article, but to minister this word at several local churches in town. And I plan, as long as the Lord permits, to continue to minister this word. There was a 13 year old girl that was killed by a bullet that went through her room as she was reading a book. She was around the 62nd murder victim in Jacksonville this year. And had she been watching television, playing with her doll, or doing any other thing, she would have been just the 62nd victim. We would have grieved just as bad, but she would have only been a number, (her family and friends excluded). But because she was reading a book, the very next day, the Mayor, State Attorney, Sheriff, FBI, Dept. of Justice, and several other agencies held a press conference to address the murder rate in Jacksonville.

Well there have been two different groups of ministers that held press conferences to announce programs that they were starting. One was a revisited program. There are Para-church organizations that also have started programs to address the issues relating to the crime and other social issues here in town. This is the question that I have, "Where are the people that God is looking for?" In other words, where is the call for the body of Christ to **"humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways"**? Because it is **then** and only **then** that God will hear from heaven and heal our land! Programs are good in their proper place, and yes many are benefiting from "grant money" received for these grants, but the solution to the problems that we are facing is only found in one place, **2 Chronicles 7:14**

I continued to search the scriptures to find out more of what God was saying to me, and it was revealed that we were in the midst of a drought in the land. **A spiritual drought!**

Let's take a quick look at a passage that will show us the state of the people of God in the nation today.

Jeremiah 14 (NLT)

1 This message came to Jeremiah from the LORD, explaining why he was holding back the rain:

2 "Judah wilts; her businesses have ground to a halt. All the people sit on the ground in mourning, and a great cry rises from Jerusalem.



Pastor Leon Bing

3 The nobles send servants to get water, but all the wells are dry. The servants return with empty pitchers, confused and desperate, covering their heads in grief.

4 The ground is parched and cracked for lack of rain. The farmers are afraid; they, too, cover their heads.

5 The deer abandons her newborn fawn because there is no grass.

6 The wild donkeys stand on the bare hills panting like thirsty jackals. They strain their eyes looking for grass to eat, but there is none to be found."

7 **The people say, "LORD, our wicked-**

ness has caught up with us. We have sinned against you. So please, help us for the sake of your own reputation.

8 **O Hope of Israel, our Savior in times of trouble! Why are you like a stranger to us? Why are you like someone passing through the land, stopping only for the night?**

9 **Are you also confused? Are you helpless to save us? You are right here among us, LORD. We are known as your people. Please don't abandon us now!"**

This drought that we face is a spiritual drought as I stated earlier. I know you would not think that we were in a spiritual drought in the land with all of the programs and conferences and revivals that churches are hosting just about on a weekly basis. But heed this warning! Just as Sampson shook himself and knew not that the Spirit of God had departed from him, so does the churches in the land that are in a state of having programs and conferences and in some cases revivals, and God is not there! I'll give you a minute to let off the steam. Okay, with all of the programs and conferences, why is the news only getting worse with each and every passing day? If we were following God's plan, 2nd Chronicles 7:14, Then God would hear from heaven and began to heal our land! It is God's plan, not mine! If we would slow down with trying to get every grant dollar the government was offering the church, and get back to following God's plan, we would begin to see a change in the land.

Look at the questions in verses 7 – 9, just as they thought that God could not help them, some today by their actions, act as if God is unable to heal the land. So they come up with man made ideas, programs, grant founded programs with the hopes that this will heal the land. Lord help us!

Let's read on:

10 **So the LORD replies to his people, "You love to wander far from me and do not follow in my paths. Now I will no longer accept you as my people. I will remember all your wickedness and will punish you for your sins."**

see **LEON BING** page 8

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- School-Based Kid Power Program
- Strengthening Families
- Training of Teens



Our Purpose

River Region Human Services proposes to initiate a parenting strategy for males in Duval County and surrounding areas. There are volumes of statistics that indicate children raised in fatherless homes (physical Fatherless ness) or homes with fathers who are not equipped for the role of fatherhood (emotional Fatherless ness) leads to a variety of social maladies. This phenomenon manifests the need for a community-wide intervention that addresses males as they proceed in increasing numbers to be identified in the role of fatherhood. Once in our society 80% of families were identified as being headed by two married parents. Today less than 50% are reported as having their families intact. With the decline of two parent married families and an increasing number of premarital births, parenting for both males and females has become overwhelming. Females, because of their assigned role in our society, are forced to parent whether equipped or not. Males on the other hand have more of a choice when deciding how they will evolve as fathers. The enforcement of financial sanctions by the court systems has in many instances alienated men from assuming their responsibility as fathers.

Our Goal

Strengthen males through parenting skills while collaborating with community organizations, agencies, sororities, fraternities, and churches that will adopt and continue to foster the concept of males being critically involved in the parenting process.

Did You Know That?

Drinking two glasses of *Gatorade* can relieve headache pain almost immediately – without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional “pain relievers.”

Did you know that *Colgate* toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns.

Before you head to the drugstore for a high-priced inhaler filled with mysterious chemicals, try chewin’ on a couple of curiously strong *Altoids* peppermints. They’ll clear up your stuffed nose.

Achy muscles from a bout of the flu? Mix 1 Tablespoon of horseradish in 1 cup of olive oil. Let the mixture sit for 30 minutes, then apply it as a massage oil, for instant relief for aching muscles.

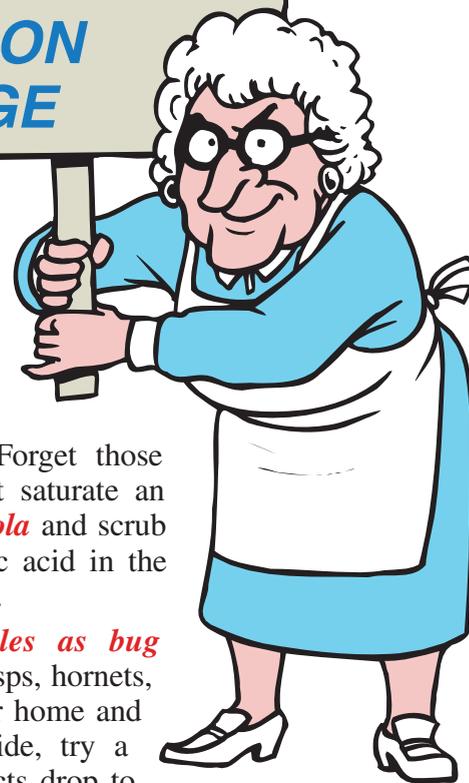
Sore throat? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.

Cure urinary tract infections with *Alka-Seltzer*. Just dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. *Alka-Seltzer* begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly – even though the product was never been advertised for this use.

Honey remedy for skin blemishes... Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a *Band-Aid* over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.

Listerine therapy for toenail fungus... Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in *Listerine* mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.

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Easy eyeglass protection... To prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of *Maybelline* Crystal Clear nail polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.

Coca-Cola cure for rust... Forget those expensive rust removers. Just saturate an abrasive sponge with *Coca-Cola* and scrub the rust stain. The phosphoric acid in the coke is what gets the job done.

Cleaning liquid that doubles as bug killer... If menacing bees, wasps, hornets, or yellow jackets get in your home and you can't find the insecticide, try a spray of *Formula 409*. Insects drop to the ground instantly.

Smart splinter remover... just pour a drop of *Elmer's* Glue-All over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue.

Hunt's tomato paste boil cure... cover the boil with *Hunt's* tomato paste as a compress. The acids from the tomatoes soothe the pain and bring the boil to a head.

Balm for broken blisters... To disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of *Listerine*... a powerful antiseptic.

Heinz vinegar to heal bruises... Soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to the bruise for 1 hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.

Kills fleas instantly. *Dawn* dish washing liquid does the trick. Add a few drops to your dog's bath and shampoo the animal thoroughly. Rinse well to avoid skin irritations. Goodbye fleas.

Rainy day cure for dog odor... Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with *Bounce* or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.

Eliminate ear mites... All it takes is a few drops of *Wesson* corn oil in your cat's ear. Massage it in, then clean with a cotton ball. Repeat daily for 3 days. The oil soothes the cat's skin, smothers the mites, and accelerates healing.

Quaker Oats for fast pain relief... It's not for breakfast anymore! Mix 2 cups of *Quaker Oats* and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.

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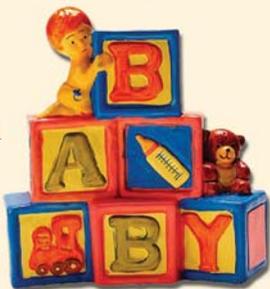
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Hypertension... The Silent Killer!

**By Sharon James, MSN, RN
Black Nurses Association
Daytona Beach, Florida**

Your heart beats about 100,000 times a day. Each time your heart beats, blood is pumped through the various blood vessels in your body. Your blood pressure is defined as the pressure the blood exerts on the vessel walls. If the pressure is too low, the blood may not reach certain areas of the body. If the blood pressure is too high, the heart and blood vessel walls may be damaged.

Hypertension is a condition where the blood pressure is constantly higher than normal. This poses a serious health risk because it forces the heart to work extra hard. The effects of hypertension include strokes and heart attacks.

One in four Americans suffer from hypertension. This astounding statistic is due in large part to various contributing factors, such as smoking, a diet rich in fat and cholesterol, and stress. African Americans and people with a family history of hypertension are at a greater risk for developing high blood pressure.

In 95 percent of hypertension cases, the cause is unknown. Experts are



**Sharon James, President
Daytona Beach Black Nurses Association**

aware of contributing factors that increase the chances of developing hypertension, but no one has been able to determine a direct link between the factors and developing high blood pressure.

Hypertension and Diabetes

Diabetes sufferers are another group who should monitor their blood pressure carefully. The chances of heart disease, strokes or kidney disease are increased significantly for diabetics with hypertension. Dietary controls are often used in the treatment of both diseases.

Treatment

If you have mild hypertension you may only need to make lifestyle changes and monitor your blood pressure regularly at home. For more severe hypertension, antihypertensive medication may be prescribed in conjunction with lifestyle changes. Many medications have side effects that may affect your daily life, so consult a doctor before starting any medication.

Do you know the symptoms of a Stroke?

- * Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
- * Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- * Sudden trouble seeing in one eye or both eyes
- * Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- * Sudden severe headaches with no known cause

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LEON BING continued from page 3

11 Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for these people any more.

12 When they fast in my presence, I will pay no attention. When they present their burnt offerings and grain offerings to me, I will not accept them. In return, I will give them only war, famine, and disease."

What are the three main areas of concern today? The war in Iraq, and Afghanistan. Hunger in most of the world. And the breakout of disease around the world including the U.S. with mad cow, bird flu, and the resurgence of the mumps. And while there are many who are praying, why don't we see relief? Look again at verse 12!

Now the rest of the story!

13 Then I said, "O Sovereign LORD, their prophets are telling them, All is well - no war or famine will come. The LORD will surely send you peace."

14 Then the LORD said, "These prophets are telling lies in my name. I did not send them or tell them to speak. I did not give them any messages. They prophesy of visions and revelations they have never seen or heard. They speak foolishness made up in their own lying hearts.

15 Therefore, says the LORD, I will punish these lying prophets, for they have spoken in my name even though I never sent them. They say that no war or famine will come, but they themselves will die by war and famine!

16 As for the people to whom they prophesy - their bodies will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and war. There will be no one left to bury them. Husbands, wives, sons, and daughters - all will be gone. For I will pour out their own wickedness on them.

17 "Now, Jeremiah, say this to them: `Night and day my eyes overflow with tears. I cannot stop weeping, for my virgin daughter - my precious people - has been run through with a sword and lies mortally wounded on the ground.

18 If I go out into the fields, I see the bodies of people slaughtered by the enemy. If I walk the city streets, there I see people who have died of starvation. The prophets and priests continue with their work, but they do not know what they are doing."

19 LORD, have you completely rejected Judah? Do you really hate Jerusalem? Why have you wounded us past all hope of healing? We hoped for peace, but no peace came. We hoped for a time of healing but found only terror.

20 LORD, we confess our wickedness and that of our ancestors, too. We all have sinned against you.

21 For the sake of your own name, LORD, do not abandon us. Do not disgrace yourself and the throne of your glory. Do not break your covenant with us. Please don't forget us!

22 Can any of the foreign gods send us rain? Does it fall from the sky by itself? No, it comes from you, the LORD our God! Only you can do such things. So we will wait for you to help us.

The rest of the passage tells us that Prophets are telling us that all is well! We have the same thing today. Well I beg to differ, all is not well, but I believe that if God said that He would heal the land that is exactly what He will do! But we must first do as He commanded. Now understand this, God did not say if "everybody" would pray and seek His face, He said if "My People who are called by my name" would pray! Programs in there proper place are fine, but it is time that the true believers begin to seek his face. And yes that also means that we need to turn from the wicked ways that we have. "My church is bigger and

See LEON BING page 12

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Financial Focus

Don't Bank on House Profits to Fund Retirement



Titus J. Pittman

To enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle, you will need to build your net worth *before* you retire. So you may be interested in knowing that, between 2001 and 2004, the typical household's net worth, adjusted for inflation, grew 1.5 percent, according to a recent Federal Reserve study. The good news is that this figure, while not appearing large, actually represents a sizable gain in family wealth. The not-so-good news, from a retirement savings standpoint, is that much of this increase in wealth came from *rising home prices*.

Why shouldn't you count on appreciated home prices to form a key pillar of your retirement savings? Won't the value of your home just keep rising?

Not necessarily. While it's true that housing prices have gone up significantly over the last several years, there is no guarantee that this trend will continue. Housing prices have fallen in the past — and they are likely to do so again.

But just as importantly, even an extended period of rising home prices may not help you as much as you'd think. After all, to profit from your home, you have to sell it — but then you have to live somewhere else. And even if you decide to "trade down," you're likely to find that smaller homes have also appreciated quite a bit, so your sale might not net you nearly as much as you'd hope.

To sum up: Your home may provide you with *some* of the money you will need during retirement — but not *all* of it. And that's why you need to look beyond your house and into the world of investments. To help pay for a retirement that may last two or three decades, you *must* invest regularly — at every stage of your life.

Two Investment "Platforms"

Essentially, you have two main investment "platforms": your employer-sponsored retirement plan and your private investment accounts. And you'll want to pay close attention to *both* these platforms.

For example, if you have a 401(k) plan at work, learn as much as you can about the various investment options available — and choose the mix of investments that can potentially provide you with the growth you need, given your individual risk

tolerance. Because it offers both tax-deferred earnings and a chance to contribute pre-tax earnings, a 401(k), by its very nature, offers some key advantages in saving for retirement. But *you* are ultimately responsible for your 401(k) plan's success — so study up on your choices, contribute as much as you can afford, review your progress and make adjustments as needed.

And while you are contributing to your 401(k) at work, you should also invest steadily in your traditional or Roth IRA. A traditional IRA offers tax-deferred earnings, while a Roth IRA has the potential to grow tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

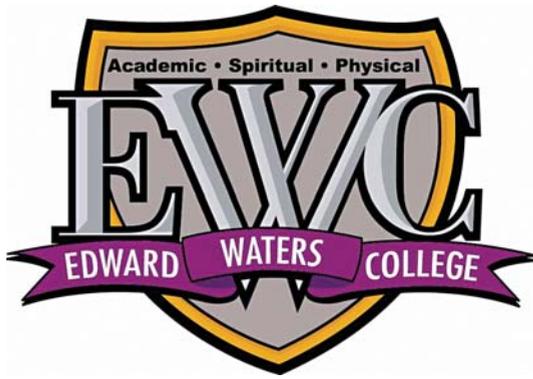
Finally, you will want to build a portfolio containing a diversified mix of stocks, bonds and other securities. Your financial professional can help you make sure these investments work in conjunction with your 401(k) and IRA to help you move toward your retirement goals.

So, if you aren't already investing consistently, start now. The years fly by, and before you know it, retirement will be looming. When that day arrives, you'll want to be prepared.

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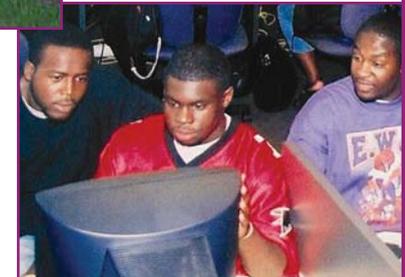
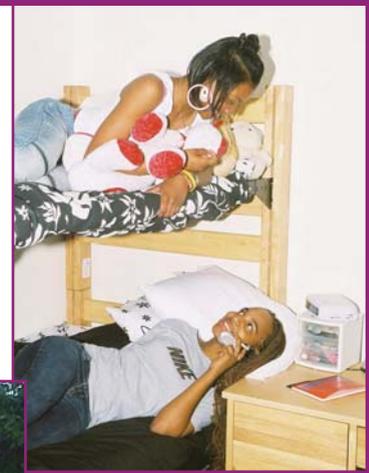
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EDWARD WATERS continued from page 1

“This is an exciting time to be at Edward Waters College,” said Dr. Walker. “While the past year has been a demanding, yet insightful experience for the college, the results have generated great opportunities. We’re looking forward to continuing positive changes that will continue enhancing Edward Waters College so that we are providing a quality education for our students and a rigorous environment for faculty and all others.”

“What a boost to our fundraising efforts for endowment and student scholarships,” stated Dr. McLean.

This positive news is a boost for the college as it continues to recruit students, raise funds and reinforce its academic programs. Celebrating 140 years of service to the community and embracing a renewed commitment to excellence and ethics, the college is excited about the opportunity to provide access to higher education.



Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., EWC’s 27th president, expresses gratitude to Bishop McKinley Young, chairman of the EWC Board of Trustees, for the Board’s support in the reaffirmation effort for the College.



Dr. Valdrie Walker, vice president for Academic Affairs, talks to the audience about the goals of the Quality Enhancement Plan for Edward Waters College.



Faculty, staff, supporters and other community members listen to the good news announcing EWC’s reaffirmation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

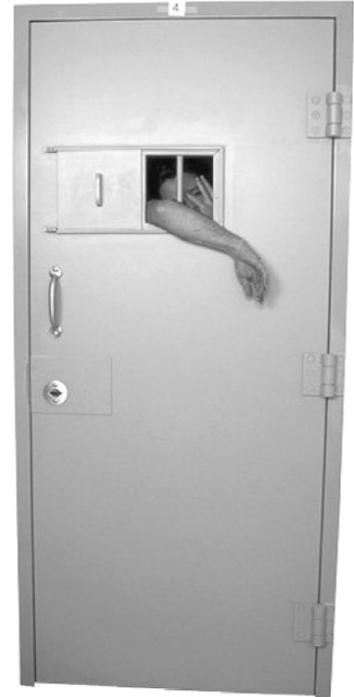
If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:7

PRISONS continued from page 1

“As a society, we often overlook the impact that prisons have on communities,” Dr. Christopher said. “When black males are incarcerated, they can’t provide support for their families. And when they return to their communities, the traumatic experiences faced in prison are more likely to lead to a return to prison than reform them to be productive members of their communities.”

Dr. Christopher, who oversees the work of the Dellums Commission, which is preparing a broad report on the challenges faced today by young African American males, noted that the prison environment has a major impact in African American communities because of the disproportionate number of blacks behind bars. The 2000 Census found that black males are about six percent of the U.S. population, yet nearly half of the two million prisoners incarcerated in the United States are black males. In direct comparison to white males, the statistics paint an even starker contrast: White males are incarcerated at a rate of 649 per 100,000 white males in the population, while black males are incarcerated at a rate of 4,810 per 100,000 black males in the population. Since the 2000 Census, the prison population has increased to 2.2 million, with 56,000 new prisoners added to the ranks last year.



“What these numbers tell us is that when studies are done on conditions in jails and prisons they are largely talking about the environment that many African Americans encounter on a daily basis,” Dr. Christopher said. “The public can not afford to ignore what is happening behind bars. Eventually, many of those prisoners are released and return to our streets and neighborhoods. It will benefit everyone if more attention was paid to improving health care and living conditions, and reforming prisoners.”

The report by the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America’s Prisons found that violence is a serious problem in correctional facilities, as rapes, riots and gang attacks are rampant. Moreover, the commission found that inadequate healthcare has contributed to making prisons an incubation zone for contagious diseases, such as hepatitis C, staph infections, tuberculosis and AIDs. They also criticized using segregated units to house prisoners who appear to be unmanageable, then releasing those people directly onto the streets in the communities when their sentences are up. And the commission said the location of prisons in remote areas, and making it difficult for inmates to have visitors, strains ties to their families and is counter productive.

Clearly, Dr. Christopher said, these conditions must be quickly addressed. “We are taking people and subjecting them to cruelty in what is supposed to be part of our ‘Justice System,’” she said. “How can we expect people to be rehabilitated in this environment? We have created a vicious cycle for many African American males. They return from prison battered and abused and often continue that cycle of violence in their community.”

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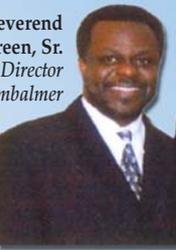
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MERCY UNTO YOU, AND PEACE AND LOVE, BE MULTIPLIED

By Rev. Dr. Carlton D. Jones
Jacksonville, Florida

Text: Book or Letter of Jude.

Jude describes himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James. He was also believed to be the half brother of Jesus Christ, however since he was writing to his fellow believers, it was not necessary for him to identify his relationship with Jesus. The fact that he did not identify himself as the half brother of Jesus but servant of Jesus Christ has raised some question to his brotherly relationship. However, I do not believe that it matters because we know that neither James nor Jude had a blood relationship to Jesus, because only God through the power of the Holy Spirit created the blood type and line of Jesus Christ through God's pure undefiled blood.

Jude was appalled at the false Gnostic teachers who had infiltrated the church community. False teachers were against the Mosaic Law and traditions. They misinterpreted Christian freedom, or liberty, in order to exercise their licentious and lustful cravings of the flesh. Jude taught that false teachers must be exposed and not just allowed to exist alongside the righteous.

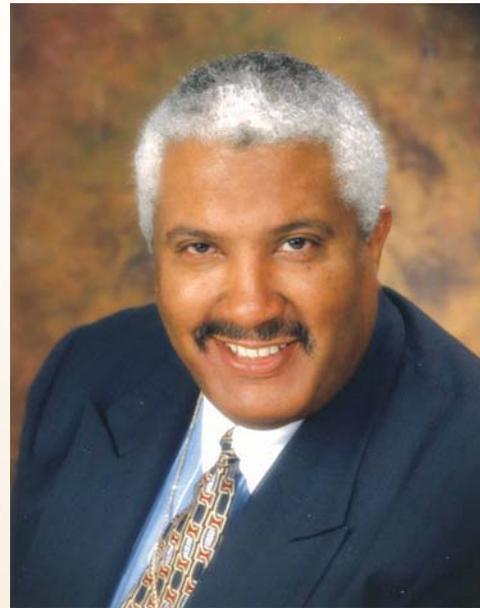
The letter reminds the ungodly and the contestants of truth of their impending judgment. Utilizing the testimony of those who historically opposed the righteous. They were always subject to doom. Jude cited the apostasy of Israel in the wilderness, the demonstration of the rebellious angels, and the example of Sodom and Gomorrah.

With all the talk about the movies "Passion of the Christ" and "The Da Vinci Code," the Epistle or letter of Jude is so important for us to know and understand as Christians. I have heard hundreds of spiritual messages, however I have never heard a sermon on the Epistle of Jude. Jude is warning the Church of false teachers who would confuse the congregation with false interpretations of the Word of God. The two movies have certainly created more questions about our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, however it is an opportunity for us as a modern day Jude, to remind the Church about false teachers and that God will issue out judgment on those who commit blasphemy toward God the Father, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

This new movement is disturbing, challenging and is yet an opportunity to testify to the unbelievers about Christianity and the truth and power of our faith. There are a lot of people confused and it is our job as Christians to now become disciples of Jesus Christ sharing and spreading the good news of Jesus coming, dying, resurrection and coming back again. Jude starts out identifying himself as was customary in those days.

1. Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

2. Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied. (This peace that Jude is reflecting on is the profound well-being of the soul that



Reverend Carlton D. Jones

flows from our experience with God's grace and mercy.)

3. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints. (Jude is expressing our common salvation and God's love grace and forgiveness of sins and the changed life style that follows our new birth and walk in the faith. This truth and faith was under

attack and had to be defended, once and for all entrusted. God's truth has finality and is not subject to change.)

4. For there are certain men crept in unaware, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (These ungodly men hide behind the cloak of Church leadership, yet they hid their sins in darkness and under false teachings of grace and mercy. They were attempting to change the grace of our Lord and Savior into a license for immorality.)

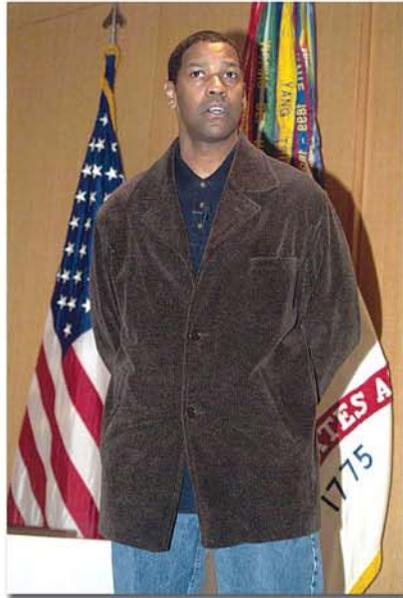
5. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. (Jude was reminding us of God's divine judgment against his people who did not exercise their belief that He, God would deliver them into the promise land. So the adults who exercised their disbelief, wandered in the desert and died there.)

6. And the angels, which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. (The angels, who God assigned a post, disobeyed God and followed the devil and are locked up under the chains of darkness until the great day that Jesus will return to judge.)

7. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude is reflecting back on what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah, because of the sin of homosexuality, immorality and perversion. God poured out burning sulfur, a foretaste of the eternal fire that is to come.)

see CARLTON JONES page 18

DENZEL WASHINGTON MAKES SIGNIFICANT GIFT TO FISHER HOUSES TO HELP INJURED SOLDIERS

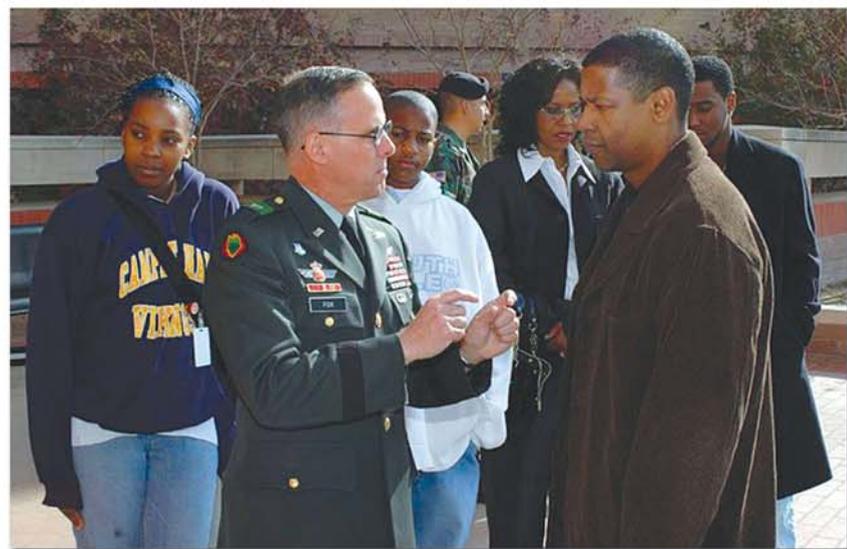


Don't know whether you heard about this but Denzel Washington and his family visited the troops at Brook Army Medical Center, in San Antonio, Texas (BAMC), where many troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan that have been evacuated from Germany come to be hospitalized and treated for injuries in the States, especially burn victims. They have buildings there called Fisher Houses. The Fisher House is a hotel where soldiers' families can stay, for little or no charge, while their soldier is staying in the hospital. BAMC has quite a few of these houses on base but as you can imagine, they are almost completely filled most of the time.



While Denzel Washington was visiting BAMC, they gave him a tour of one of the Fisher Houses. He asked how much one of them would cost to build. He took his checkbook out and wrote a check for the full amount right there on the spot. The soldiers overseas were amazed to hear this story and wanted to get the word out to the American public, because it warmed their hearts to hear it, and there seemed to be little or no recognition from the media.

Denzel and his wife Pauletta, gave one of the biggest donations ever made to Fisher House Foundation Inc., which operates guest facilities for families with loved ones recuperating in military hospitals, said James Weiskopf of Rockville, Md., the foundation's vice president for communications. "While we do not disclose the amount of a donation without approval from the donor, we can acknowledge that it is one of the most significant received in our history," Weiskopf said. Washington and his wife also accepted the foundation's invitation to serve on its board of trustees, he said.



COLA AND A.M.P.S. INSTITUTE JOIN FORCES FOR "MISSION POSSIBLE," AN INTENSIVE THREE-DAY ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Pembroke Pines, FL - COLA, (Chain of Lakes Achievers, Inc.) a non-profit youth organization based in Winter Haven, FL, which helps approximately 200 youth with tutoring, leadership, technology, and adult and family literacy, has been instrumental in bringing business people and organizations together to educate young people and adults. Seretha Tinsley, co-founder of COLA, partnered with the A.M.P.S. (Advanced Minds Pursuing Success) Institute during a whirlwind three-day entrepreneurship and leadership retreat, which left the kids exhilarated, enlightened and energized!

The Florida Future Farmers of America Leadership Training Center in Haines, Florida was the setting of an intensive three-day retreat where fifty young people from Chain of Lakes Achievers, Inc. (COLA) engaged with dynamic national speakers and trainers for a weekend themed 'Mission Possible.'

"If you raise the expectation of young people, they will rise to the occasion," said James Amps III, CEO of the A.M.P.S. Entrepreneurship/Leadership Institute, which operates dynamic and intensive 3- and 4-day retreats around the country, the focus of which is to afford participants the opportunity to explore and enhance personal talents and interests, practice good communication techniques, develop leadership techniques, and empower students with the tools critical to becoming independent entrepreneurial thinkers. Although fun and games abound, by the end of the three-day event, students have been transformed into entrepreneurs, complete with a mock business that will generate revenue in the community right away.



Juan Casimiro leads a session for youth attending retreat in areas of leadership and technology.



Day one kicked off with a workshop on Leadership led by Mr. Anthony Hamlet, a principal and consultant from West Palm Beach. Mr. Hamlet spoke on the importance of leadership and business etiquette. Deric Feacher, the Assistant City Manager from Winter Haven, spoke on maintaining a positive attitude, and also the importance of recognizing and understanding ones skills and talents.

A real treat came the following day during lunch when international motivational speaker Pam Powell shared her P-Factor

Success Tips. Mrs. Powell has traveled the world speaking to associations and national conferences about the importance of having a positive attitude and working for the goals you set for yourself. Following her presentation was pharmacist Paul Rivers, fresh from the grand opening of his own pharmacy, who stressed the importance of financial literacy in achieving their dreams of business ownership. Consultant Detrice Lippett ended the afternoon discussing the importance of time management in operating a successful business.

Kicking off at midnight was the ever-popular session entitled AMPS Midnight Success Madness, during which Juan Casimiro, Executive Vice President of Young Biz International, fully explained the free enterprise system while demonstrating how, given the right tools, the students can turn one dollar into five. The first day ended at 1:30 a.m. Mr. Casimiro, lead faculty trainer for the Institute had this to say, "The A.M.P.S. Institute has figured out a creative and strategic way to reach and impact the lives of thousands of youth. While schools offer the ABC's of testing, rigorous academic classes, and non-related experiences for youth, the Institute has figured out a unique way to reach students by recognizing their talents, offering fun-filled, thought-provoking and real life learning."

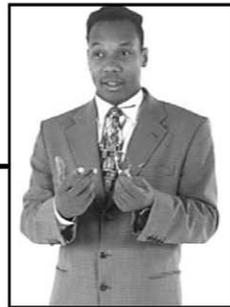
Following lunch, it was time for the young entrepreneurs to don their business attire for the professional fundraising banquet at Polk Community College. The banquet was hosted by COLA and run by the retreat participants. The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for the students to showcase the social and business etiquette skills they had learned earlier in the retreat.

see LEADERSHIP page 24

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LEON BING continued from page 8

better than yours" and all of the other things that people do to divide the body instead of uniting the body.

Like Jeremiah says in verse 18, we are having more and more people dying in the streets, more and more homeless and hungry people, and yet all we are doing is coming up with more programs. The church needs to do more calling God's people together to pray for the land and let the secular world deal with the programs.

In verse 22 the prophet says "Can any of the foreign gods send us rain?" Well I close by asking likewise, can any foreign gods send us the Spiritual rain that we so badly need? It is not in programs, it about the true believers across the land turning towards our God and seeking His face for relief in healing the land. Can the true believers take the month of July, and seek God for the healing of the land? Can we fast at least 12 hours a day for the month? Can we turn off the Televisions during that time or give up a meal or two, no radio during that time, or however the Lord leads you! But pastors can we agree? Brothers and Sister will you sacrifice? Where are my people?

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

Hebrew 11:1

CARLTON JONES continued from page 15

8. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion and speak evil of dignities. (Jude was talking about the ungodly men because they claimed to receive revelations or dreams of passion about their immorality. They were out of touch with reality and truth and polluted their own bodies with sexual immorality.)

9. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. (Michael the archangel of the God rebuked the devil and left the punishment and judgment of him to God.)

10. But these speak evil of those things, which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. (Jude was referring to the Gnostics who professed special knowledge, yet they were arrogant and blasphemous. They were like irrational animals, whose lives are guided by mere instinct and who are born merely to be slaughtered. Destruction is their final lot. We have to be always mindful that the devil's sole mission in his life is to harm and destroy what God has created in His, (God's) own image and likeness. God has given us dominion over the devil if we will only act like it.)

11. Woe unto them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the Error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah. (Jude is referring back to three Old Testament examples of the kind of persons he is warning us about. A warning that judgment is coming, the way of Cain. Selfishness and greed and the way of hatred and murder. The error of Balaam, the consuming of greed, or Korah's rebellion against the appointed leadership of God. Jude may be suggesting the false teachers of his day were rebelling against church leadership.)

12. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruits withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; (Jude is illustrating God's displeasure of the blemishes at our love feast, God is also displeased with His appointed and anointed shepherds who only feed themselves, instead of feeding the sheep for whom they are responsible for. The clouds without rain are illustrating clouds that promise moisture for a parched land, the false teachers promise soul satisfying truth but in reality they have nothing to offer. The autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted are twice dead. Though the trees ought to be heavy with fruit.)

13. Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. (The wild waves of the sea as wind tossed waves continually stir up moral filth. Wandering stars are as shooting stars that appear in the sky only to fly off into eternal oblivion, so these false teachers are destined for the darkness of eternal hell.)

14. And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, (Jude is using the quotation to refer to Christ's second coming and to his judgment of the wicked.)

15. To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (Jude used ungodly four times in this verse to show the awesome judgment scene that is depicted emphasize the condemnation of the false teachers in verse four.)

16. These are murmurers, and complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their own mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. (These

See CARLTON JONES PAGE 22

YOU AND THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE

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President - Credit Maximus, Inc.
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A good credit qualification is very important for our daily life, taking this in consideration to be able to obtain or to buy a house, car, consumer loans, lines of credit, credit cards, etc. Basing on its record of payments, the creditors can choose among accepting or to reject an application. 75% of the American and Afro-American population, suffers from having affected credit in their records. At Credit Maximus, we will show you the consumer how to improve your existing credit and also informed you how the credit system works by the sources revealed. Do not permit the credit system work against you. On the contrary, permit the credit system to work for you, learning the bylaws about the credit system.

Learning about the system can have as a result a good profile on your credit and empowers you to become wise with your money and wise your credit. The basic principles are mastered easily. Everything that it is required is the desire to learn and a personal commitment to be take advantage of the available financial opportunity to you. The "know how" of a good work on your credit, will build you a better financial future. The counsel and the suggestions in this publication helped many to become wiser and to use the good credit to its favor. Learn how to establish the good credit, or if you now have the good



Israel Catala

credit, learns where to obtain the better deals in credit cards and to save a substantial quantity of money in costs of interests.

You can belong to a select group of the individuals that have determined to stop being victims of the credit system and to come to be a worthy individual of credit. It is important to understand that you should request no credit

until you have completed the basic steps to repair its files of the credit. If you do not do it, you can continue to be denied for the credit, and you will reduce its ability to obtain the additional credit if you have unfavorable information in your credit. Recall please, that all credit file is repairable! It is important that you obtain its report of the credit, remove or reduce the unfavorable items in your credit, and add the new references of the credit. Establishing and developing a record of credit is essential to have financial success!

With the technological advancements of the computer, the bureaus of credit have to become private investigators of your financial life. Although you may like or not like, they are tracking each movement of their financial life. Many of the banks depend on the bureaus of credit to determine if you are an individual worthy of receive value by its credit. It should do everything that this in its power to be assured that all that has been and is reported in its credit is correct and fair. The bureaus are centers of retaining information for its financial transactions. Many institutions as: banks, creditors of credit cards, department stores, car dealerships, etc., they report to the bureaus all it concerning payment patterns of their accounts. If there is a delayed payment, this has been engraved in its record. If the payments are current, this has also been engraved in its record, along with what owes and everything else. If you have not seen your credit report, I suggest you to do just that first. There are 3 main agencies of credit that retains information of every financial transaction in every credit record of credit and hundreds of local agencies to maintain regional or local information. They are the following:

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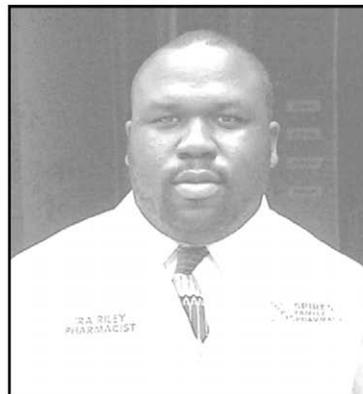
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Dr. Ira Riley, Jr. RPh

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



Sophia Stewart

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

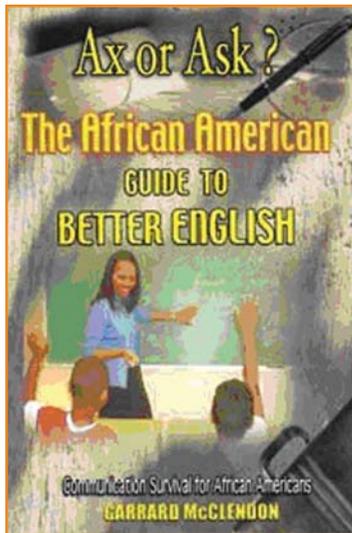
Although there have been outside implications as to racial injustice (Stewart is African American), she does not feel that this is the case. "This is all about the Benjamins," said Stewart. "It's not about money with me. It's about justice."

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

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

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

BLACKENGLISH.COM TO HELP BLACKS WITH ENGLISH



BlackEnglish.com, a company dedicated to improving the English test scores and literacy rates of African Americans, has introduced three new educational products. With illiteracy rates as high as 80% in many cities throughout the U.S., BlackEnglish.com will create pro-literacy products around its flagship bestseller, *Ax or Ask? The African American Guide to Better English* (\$14.95 - Barnes and Noble). The CD, workbook, and DVD companions will be introduced to schools this fall.

“Blacks have the lowest standardized test scores and this is due to an inability to read and think critically,” said Calumet College of St. Joseph professor and company owner, Garrard McClendon.

“Our goal is to help parents, students, and teachers by engaging students in phonics, sustained silent reading, pronunciation, and with words that trouble African American readers. Hearing us say words like ‘finna, fixin’ to, ax, gonna, conversate, amma-lams, and kennygarden,’ frustrates me, and we must show African Americans how to code switch,” McClendon states.

BlackEnglish.com currently has materials used by teachers in 26 school systems, including Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

“We are tired of 64% of all Black 4th graders being functionally illiterate. We’re tired of Black students teasing classmates because they use correct diction. Our books, CDs, and DVDs were created to empower African Americans,” McClendon said.

BlackEnglish.com will tour in September to mark the 2006-2007 school year. McClendon will go on a 20-city tour to encourage literacy in African American communities.

Press Contacts: Overton Jones, 219-588-2461, info@mcclendonreport.com



Author - Garrard McClendon

THE NONPROFIT SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM OF THE ASPEN INSTITUTE OFFERS FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

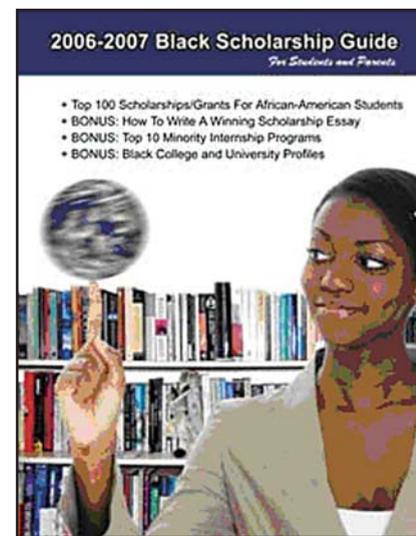
Washington, DC (BlackNews.com) - The Nonprofit Sector Research Fund (NSRF), a subprogram of the Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy Program (NSPP) of the Aspen Institute is now accepting applications for the William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship for Minority Students.

The fellowship, which is offered three times a year, is based on academic excellence and need. It is open to both undergraduate and graduate students who are members of minority groups and are United States citizens. The deadline for Fall 2006 applications is July 15th, 2006. The Spring 2007 deadline is December 15, 2006; the Summer 2007 deadline is March 15, 2007.

A fellowship grant of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 is awarded, depending on the recipient’s educational level, financial need, and time commitment. Recipients may also arrange with their colleges or universities to receive academic credit for this experience.

Through this program, the Nonprofit Sector Research Fund seeks to introduce a diverse group of students to issues relating to philanthropy, voluntarism, and nonprofit organizations. Please visit www.aspeninstitute.org or www.nonprofitresearch.org for application information.

TOP 100 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS REVEALED IN NEW DIRECTORY



Diversity City Media has recently published the **2006-2007 Black Scholarship Guide**, a print and e-book directory that lists the top 100 scholarship and grant opportunities for African American students.

The book proves to be very useful in a time where federal funding for education is being cut, and the high costs of tuition and books are rising.

The guide also includes tips on how to write a winning scholarship essay, a listing of

the top 10 minority internship programs, and profiles of all the Black colleges and universities.

Dante Lee, CEO of Diversity City Media, comments, “The book is a great resource for students and parents searching for scholarships. There is so much money available for minority students, but many don’t know where to start looking.”

To purchase the Black Scholarship Guide, interested ones should visit: www.BlackScholarshipGuide.com

The book retails for \$9.99, and the e-book is just \$4.99

Bulk sales are available by calling (866) 910-6277



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*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from
whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the
Lord, which made heaven and earth. Psalm 121*

CORRINE BROWN continued from page 1

to preserve our sensitive lands. As long as there are oil rigs in the area, the potential for devastation to Florida’s beaches increases, and our beaches are not something we can afford to compromise. The people of Florida do not support drilling off of our shores and in polls taken in recent years, between 60-75% of Floridians have consistently said that they are opposed to oil and gas operations off of Florida shores.

Americans paying over \$3 a gallon at the pumps will not be served by drilling for oil in Florida, as this will do very little, if anything, to offset today’s high energy prices. Certainly, there are much better ways to respond to today’s prices than by a drilling proposal that would take almost a decade to have any effect!

The Florida delegation must remain unified and say NO to drilling off of our coasts!

Sincerely
Corrine Brown, Member of Congress

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CARLTON JONES continued from page 18

men are repeatedly referred to as the ungodly men. They are the libertine false teachers who pervert the grace of God.)

17. **But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;** (Jude is reminding us that the apostles foretold us of the coming of these ungodly men and that we as believers should not be surprised, for it had been predicted by the apostles of God.)

18. **How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.** (The Greek interpretation for this verse indicates that the apostles continually or repeatedly warned that such godless apostates would come. These mockers of the last days may be Gnostics who resisted the idea of a time of judgment and moral accountability.)

19. **These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.** (These are divisive, creating factions in the Church. Jude may be referring to the later Gnostic division of men into the spiritual (the Gnostics) and the sensual (those for whom there is no hope) follow mere natural instincts. A description of false teachers who labeled others as “sensual,” not having the Spirit. Rather than being the spiritual ones, the privileged elite class the Gnostics claimed to be. Jude denies that they have the Spirit of God. A person who does not have the Spirit of God is clearly not saved.)

20. **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on the most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,** (Jude is speaking in contrast to the ungodly men he had been talking about in length and reminds the beloved friends in the faith to be strong and prayerful)

21. **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto etemallife.** (God keeps believers in His love and enables them to keep themselves in His love.)

22. **And of some have compassion making a difference:**

23. **And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.** (Jude is telling us that we have a duty to pull others from the fire, rescuing them from the verge of destruction, tempered with mercy mixed with fear. Even in showing mercy one may be trapped by the allurements of sin, clothing stained by corrupted flesh. The wicked are pictured as so corrupt that even their garments are polluted by their sinful nature.)

24. **Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,**

25. **To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.** (After all the attention necessarily given in this letter to the ungodly and their works of darkness, Jude concludes his letter by focusing attention on God, who is fully able to keep those who put their trust in Him.)

We have to be strong in the Word of God, verifying and trusting the Holy Spirit to direct our lives. We can not just get excited about the flavor of the music and the hoop, but focus on the meat of the Word of God. God loves us and wants us to prosper in His Word, so that we can hear His voice. God will reveal the false teachers and will grant judgment on them so do not waste your time in judgment, but pray to God for deliverance in Christ Jesus, the author and perfecter of our lives. Amen.

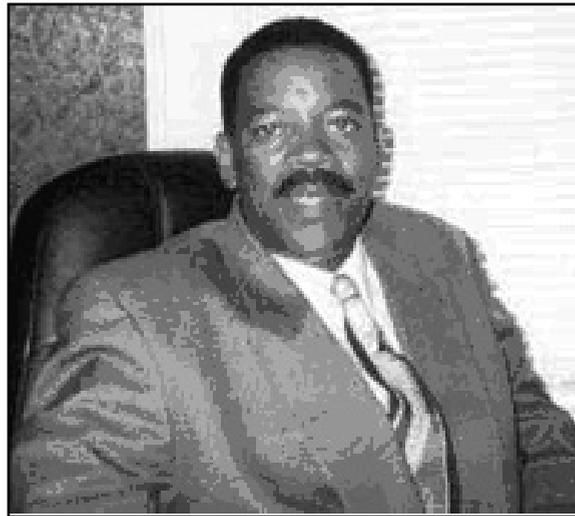
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ATLANTA ATTORNEY PROPOSES RESOLUTION TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF THE "N" WORD AND MARK IT OUT OF THE DICTIONARY ON AUGUST 1, 2006

—Attorney Roy Miller of Atlanta, Georgia is calling on all persons to mark the "N" word out of their dictionaries on August 1, 2006. Additionally, Attorney Miller is challenging black groups, clubs and organizations to adopt resolutions discouraging the use of the "N" word against a child or to describe a child and to make the resolution a part of their guiding principles. Attorney Miller has been an advocate for this cause for more than a decade. He single-handedly was successful in getting the agreement of Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary to delete the word from its future publications.—

Atlanta, GA (BlackNews.com) - When she was 12 years old, Attorney Roy Miller's niece was first confronted with the "N" word. She went to her new dictionary for its meaning. What this innocent Black child saw was not a definition, but a description of profanity that pointed right back at her.

That incident provided the motivation to make Attorney Miller beseech dictionary publishers to delete the "N" word from future publications. In 1994, Attorney Roy Miller became the first and only person to succeed at having the "N" word deleted from a major dictionary. Part of his argument has been that, if we have any respect at all for our ancestors, Black adults should be ashamed to refer to their



Attorney Roy Miller

Black babies and children by that offensive and disparaging term.

The City of Baltimore, Maryland, at the encouragement of Councilman Melvin Stukes, drafted a resolution discouraging the use of the "N" word. Attorney Miller argued for the declaration that was adopted as a non-binding resolution in 2002.

In 2006, Attorney Roy Miller is calling on black groups, clubs and associations to adopt resolutions pledging to acknowledge the "N" word as the ultimate insult against the black race. Furthermore, Attorney Miller is asking that all persons mark out the definition in their personal dictionaries on August 1, 2006 as a show of unity. A sample resolution can be found on Attorney Millers

website, www.attorneyroymler.com

Miller says, "Zero tolerance towards being disrespected must be established in the Black community and it must start with Blacks respecting Black children. How can our babies be children of God and 'N' words at the same time? Does not such reference to the child also refer to the father?"

For further information call 312-371-2716 or e-mail Michele Posey at selfrespect1@bellsouth.net.

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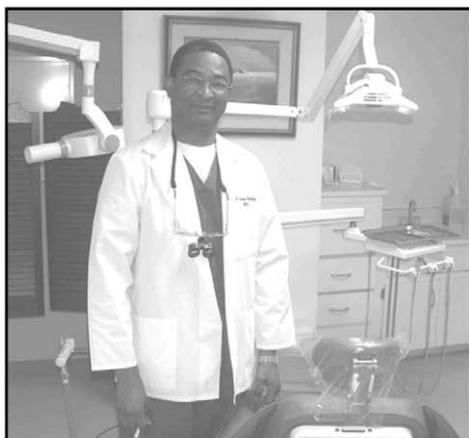
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LEADERSHIP continued from page 17

James Amps, III served as keynote speaker, where his address to the 500+ participants focused on the need for strong relationship-building skills, as well as getting a good education and creating a job as opposed to the old mantra of get a good education and find a job. Amps challenged them to follow his personal motto, "If you want something you've never had, do something you've never done."

Following the banquet was the second Midnight Success Madness of the retreat, during which the business entities added final touches to their marketing presentations. At 2:00 a.m., the participants were led to a lake where they were separated, preventing them from talking to each other. This was their time to reflect on the session, and meditate on their futures. After 30 minutes of reflection, James Amps and Juan Casimiro spoke with each student individually, emphasizing how proud they were of each one, and reminding them to realize that this weekend was only the beginning of a successful life.

Amps says he was impressed with how COLA was never afraid to partner with an outside group to bring in a different perspective on how businesses are set up. "It's a testament to Seretha Tinsley's success," he said. "She wants her young people to succeed, and she is willing to do whatever is required of her to ensure they have the necessary tools."

Amps challenged the participants to follow his personal motto, "If you want something you've never had, do something you've never done." Amps said, "We look forward to working with COLA again next year to expand on what was done at this retreat. We expect to have businesses up and running in the community, proving that our youth can compete for dollars and create ventures that the community can be proud of."

Concluding on Saturday, the four teams participated in a business competition, during which they presented their business ideas - complete with venture capital dollars for the first three places, to their very impressed parents.

According to Ms. Seretha Tinsley, "As a coordinator of the event, watching the growth of the young people, ages 12 through 18, from the beginning of the retreat to the end of the retreat was phenomenal. Not only did the young people have some life changing experiences, the chaperones and advisors did also. The confidence, self control, pride, self worth that we evidenced in the young people was remarkable. James Amps, Sophia Nelson, Juan Casimiro and their team are the real thing, they deliver what they say they will deliver"

The winning team, dubbed 'Jump Start Consulting Services,' presented a Power Point presentation accompanied by a group presentation that wowed the audience and the judges. All four business presented unique ideas and concepts proving the retreat was a success.

Dr. Frank Till, Superintendent of Broward County, FL schools, who participated in the retreat last year, said it best, "The A.M.P.S. Institute provides a needed benefit to the educational system in preparing our young people for entrepreneurial ventures. The retreats are life changing, intensive and creative. If asked, I would participate again!"

Contact ampscomm@bellsouth.net for more information or to set up an interview with James Amps, III.



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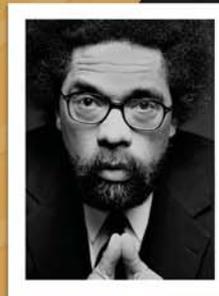
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■ Detail your major expenses over a year or two. Did you really need the \$3,000 plasma television or other new technological toys? Could you have driven to that vacation 300 miles away instead of taking a plane?

■ Keep track of how you can reduce your current bills. In recent years, many people have refinanced their mortgages to lower payments. Evaluate all other loans for cost cutting opportunities, including student and car loans.

■ Spend more to save more. This sounds contradictory, but it isn't. Energy-efficient appliances can cost you more, but save much more on energy costs over the long term. Even smaller purchases, like energy-efficient light bulbs, can save you money over time. Value isn't always the cheapest initial price.



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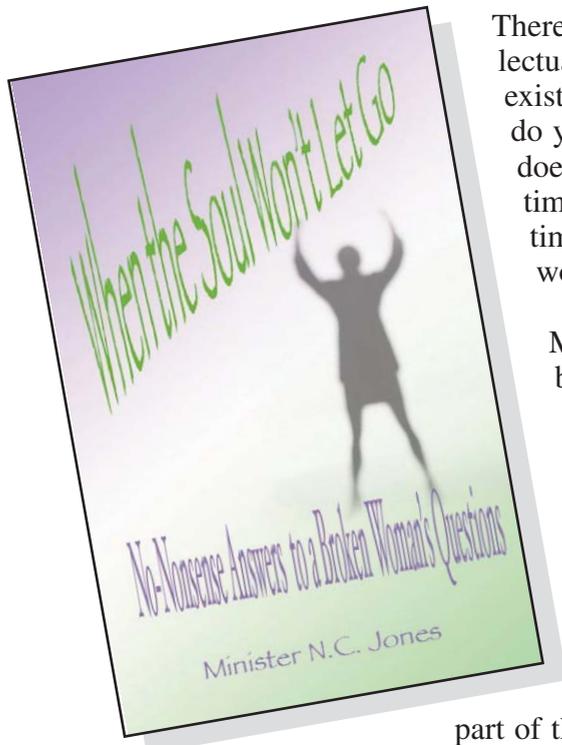
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No-Nonsense Answers to a Broken Woman's Questions



Review of Book Written By Minister N.C. Jones
Gainesville, Florida



There exists a new breed of woman in this world today. She is spiritual, intellectual, and successful in her own right. But, at the underside of this new woman exists a confusion, pain, and heartache only the hands of an irresponsible man could create. What do you do when you have it all, but don't have a man? What do you do when the man you love doesn't love you? What do you do when your soul won't let go of Mr. Wrong? For the longest time, women have chalked romantic disappointments up to mistaken decisions. For the longest time, we have waved away our pain through lifted hands Sunday morning. For the longest time, women have wanted a way of escape, but lacked the open door.

Minister Nona C. Jones presents a fresh perspective on relationships in her highly acclaimed book, *When the Soul Won't Let Go: No-Nonsense Answers to a Broken Woman's Questions*. *When the Soul Won't Let Go* is teaching women how to let go and choose God! This young lady is revolutionizing the way women view their love lives, giving scripturally founded counsel in a loving, but no-nonsense way. Available on her website at www.WTSWLG.Bravehost.com. *When the Soul Won't Let Go* has left readers inspired and convinced that there IS a better way!

Readers have remarked:

... I only read the forward part of this book and I am in tears... You did not even have to do the rest of the book to touch my heart in places that I thought I had put away... Thank you.

...I scanned through the table of contents while sitting in traffic, and decided to start at chapter 13, "Becoming God's Woman". I was brought to tears. This book was written for me, about me... I thank God for you writing this book. God worked through you to show me that there IS light at the end of the tunnel...

... I was up until 11:30 at night reading this book. I couldn't put it down! I read half of it the first day I bought it!

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Minister Nona C. Jones is a sought after preacher and motivational speaker in the North Central Florida area. Though only 22 years old, she is the much talked about author of *When the Soul Won't Let Go: No-Nonsense Answers to a Broken Woman's Questions*. *When the Soul Won't Let Go* chronicles Minister Jones' personal struggle with relationships and provides scripturally founded insights into the hurtful situations women face. Visit www.WTSWLG.Bravehost.com for more information, or call TNJ Ministries at 352-745-0928. You may contact Minister Jones via e-mail at NonaCJones@Yahoo.com



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Message 2 **"THE DA VINCI CODE OF OLD"** July 16, 2006
Message 3 **"THE DA VINCI CODE OF TODAY"** July 23, 2006
Message 4 **"JESUS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD"** July 30, 2006

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“A Bridge Over Troubled Waters”

By Aundra Bryant
Tallahassee, Florida

Several years ago, soul singer Aretha Franklin recorded one of my favorite songs entitled “A Bridge Over Troubled Waters”. When I first wrote this article, I thought about using the subject “An Answer To A Thirty-Eighth Year Old Question” however, the tune of this song stayed with me when I grappled with our lesson today in the Gospel according to St. John, chapter five verses six and seven. Jesus asked the lame man “Do you want to be made whole?” The man replied, “I have no one to help me get into the pool when the angels troubled the water.”

I’m sure that you have heard this story over and over but this time something leaped from the pages. There are three reasons why Jesus wanted the man to know that he was “A Bridge over Troubled Waters.” Firstly, Jesus noticed all the people who had gathered at the pool of Bethesda waiting on the movement of the water to be healed. Jesus reminded them that he was the only one who could bridge their hopes of the past and take them into the future. If we would but trust him, Jesus is able to do what no other power can do. The great Negro spiritual says, “God specializes in anything that seems impossible”.

Secondly, Jesus asked the man “Do you want to be made whole?” The man as he had always done in the past, came up with an excuse that



Aundra Bryant

people always jumped in front of him. Jesus assured him that he had stretched his love, grace and mercy over forty-two generations to make sure that he received his healing. We as Christians get discouraged sometimes when we see others being blessed and we are not. However, as the great song of the church says “There is no secret what God can do, what he has done for others, he’ll do for you”.

The Word of God tells us that there is power in the name of Jesus. He was bruised for our transgressions and by his

stripes we are healed. We no longer have to trust in roots, the two-headed man, voodoo, psychics and so on, because through his death and resurrection, Jesus has bridged the gap between death and life. Jesus made it very clear when he said “I come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.”

Finally, the man had so much confidence in the water that he forgot about who made the water. As we journey through 2006, we as members of the Body of Christ may be a little worried about what tomorrow holds. Let us not forget that we know the one who holds tomorrow in his hand. Let us not forget that the Gospel of Matthew says “And ye shall call his name Emanuel, which means God with us, and he shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty Prince of Peace, and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

When you’re weary feeling small
When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all
I’m on your side, oh when times get rough
And friends just can’t be found

When you’re down and out, when you’re on the street
When evening falls so hard, I will comfort you
I’ll take your part, oh when darkness comes
And pain is all around

Your time has come to shine, all their dreams are on their way
See how they shine, oh when you need a friend
I’m sailing right behind
Like a bridge over troubled waters I will lay me down

Written By Leann Rimes

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*Theme: "LOOKING TO THE FUTURE"
Living a life pleasing to God – 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-2*



In the mid 1980's the men of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church organized, planned and executed a program to enhance professional and personal relationships among the male gender within the church. The men organized a barbeque for the men and boys within the community to break down the walls between the young and the young-at-heart. This was a valiant attempt to foster a long-lasting and indestructible bond between the adult males, teenagers and young boys of our community. This profound bond was not only healthy for the individual, but indeed for the future survival of the Black family unit.

This tradition has prevailed over the years and the 14th annual Men and Boys conference and workshop was held during June 9-11, 2006, at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Harvey L. Riley, Pastor, and Deacon Moses Harvin, Coordinator.

The following is an overview of activities: Friday June 9, 2006: **Opening Ceremony**; outdoor activities, barbeque, and preparation for "The Ultimate Challenge" which was conducted on Saturday. **"The Ultimate Challenge"** was composed of various competitive activities and workshops that were designed to teach cooperation, respect for others, self-respect, team building exercises, and General Christian Character.

Friday evening: Included the following motivational speakers: **Drug-Free:** Information on how to remain drug-free was presented by Mr. Andre Johnson. **Gang-Free:** Information on gangs and how to remain gang-free was presented by Mr. David Decuir. In addition, the men and boys were entertained by a **magic show** conducted by Mr. John Calvett.

Saturday, **"The Ultimate Challenge"** included the following workshops: **Smart Money:** Presented smart ways to Spend, Budget, and Save Money. Facilitator: Mr. Tom Wells. **Decision Making:** The workshop presented ways and essential skills that are needed for making good decisions. Facilitator: Mr. Lewis Williams. **Health & You:** Ways to maintain a healthy mind and body. The men and boys were encouraged to get annual medical check-ups etc. Facilitator: Mrs. Janette Thompson. **Golf Clinic:** The men and boys received an introduction to the game of golf, which included a challenge in sportsmanship, respect for others, the game and general character building. Facilitator/ Teaching Golf professional: Mr. Keith Williams.

The Summit Banquet: Saturday Evening: Speaker: Major Michael Brown, Brevard County Correctional Center (Jail). Major Brown provided information regarding the jail, and challenged the boys and teens on how to stay out of the criminal justice system.

Sunday Worship Services: Guest Speaker: **Mr. Benjamin Crump, Attorney at Law**

Many young men no longer held respect for their parents and particularly young ladies that was apparent in the 1950's and 1960's. In our society, the young African Americans who were called Negroes before the 1970's, then Black in the 1980's and now African American in the 1990's have been exposed to many experiences. Even though this evolution of change has been considered positive by many people, others viewed it as a downward spiral in traditional values and principles. This change

see SUMMIT page 31



SUMMIT from page 30

was negative in nature and required intervention by men of integrity and character. The positive image of a strong family structure and community was slowly slipping away.

These character changes were recognized by some of the most wisest and honorable men of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Harvey L. Riley. Therewith, the barbeque became an annual event held under the majestic oak tree on church property. Lending a helping hand to every person regardless of race was the trademark. The great oak symbolized strength and wisdom. The majestic oak tree was a reminder of our inner strength and depth.

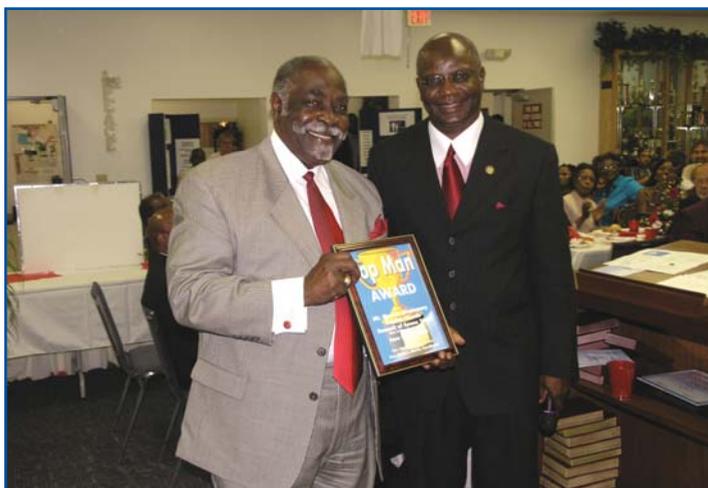
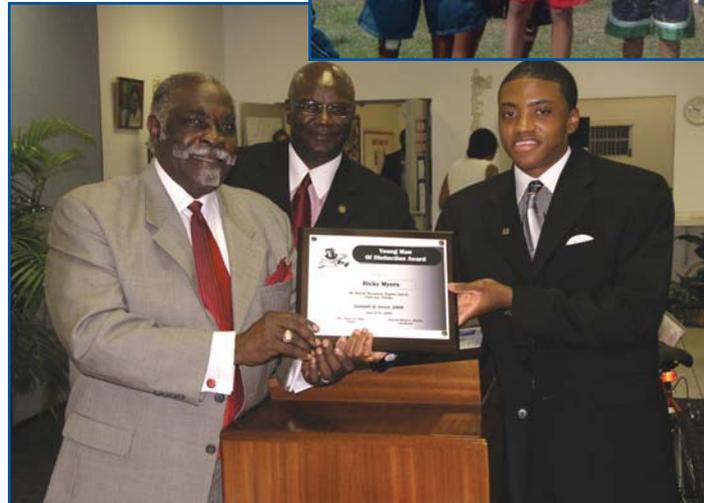
Mr. Earl Gordon was one of the pioneers to organize this event. Gordon, within his own right, had deep roots, defining strength and unity. He assisted other men in the development of this outreach program for all males within both communities of Palm Bay and Melbourne. Mt. Moriah is strategically located on the border of both cities, although it is physically located in Palm Bay. Therefore it was natural to service both communities. Mr. Gordon and the other men seized the opportunity and continued the program despite low attendance.

In 1993, the Summit of Seven emerged as a transformation of the annual barbeque. This Summit of Men was reestablished by Deacon Moses L. Harvin to enhance this annual historic event that included workshops and seminars with first class instructors were added to the program. This event drew over 200 participants in its first year of operation and climaxed to approximately 300 in 1999 versus seven to ten participates in 1992. There were several corporate sponsors such as American Services Technology, Inc., Creative Management Technology, Florida Power & Light Company, Health First Incorporated, The Paxen Group and several other county agencies and concerned citizens. Mr. Moses L. Harvin became the first coordinator for this conference. Each male was challenged to bring seven other males with him to the Summit, hence the name "Summit of Seven". Spiritually, Seven means completeness.

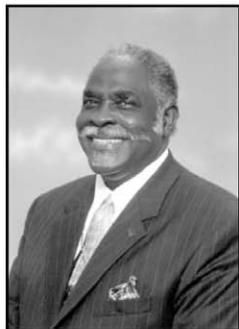
The Summit has attracted prestigious guest speakers such as Congressman James L. Clyburn of South Carolina and Chairman of the National Congressional Black Caucus; Attorney J. David Weeks, Attorney and State Representative of South Carolina. Our other distinguished guests have been State Senator Patsy Kurth, Congressman Dave Weldon, and the Mayors of both Melbourne and Palm Bay. Our presenters include Brevard Law-enforcement agencies, Defense and Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Brevard Joblink, Cocoa Beach Area and Melbourne/Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Today, the 'Summit of Seven' has an annual budget of \$10,000 and anticipates a future budget of 15K. We have added a Friday evening Opening Ceremonies, and Saturday Banquet to further our cause and commitment to our community. Thanks to God, family, friends and corporate America for the great success of the Summit of Seven.

The first recipient of 'The Earl Gordon Award' was presented to Reverend John W. Taylor in 2001. In 2002 the Summit again recognized two outstanding individuals with the 'Good Guy Award' and 'Top Man Award' who contributed hours of volunteer services to our community. These awards recognize the effort of men who actively encourage participation and diligently work to ensure the success of the Summit. Our first recipients were Mr. Willie Ghent and Mr. Eddie Cockran.



Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church



Dr. Harvey L. Riley, Pastor

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THE NEW ORLEANS KILLINGS

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson
Guest Columnist

When the FBI released its latest annual crime report that showed violent crime on the upswing in many big cities, a bevy of law enforcement, state and federal officials, and criminologists hoped and prayed that the report was just an aberrant blip on the crime chart. There was good reason to hope that. Murder rates have plunged in big cities during the past decade, and there was every expectation that things would stay that way.

The recent slaughter of five teens in New Orleans and a desperate plea from Mayor Ray Nagin to send in the National Guard to help patrol the streets shattered that hope. While the murder rate in big cities is still lower than it was a decade ago, the terrifying reality is that in New Orleans and other big cities, the victims and their killers are almost always young black males. In the quarter century of homicide record keeping from 1976 to 2002 by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, blacks are six times more likely to be murdered than whites, and seven times more likely to kill than whites. They are far more likely to be gunned down over gang or drug disputes. New Orleans police speculate that that was the reason the five teens were killed.

President Bush recognized that big city violence was a crisis problem. In his State of the Union Address in 2005 he pledged to shell out \$150 million to youth education and violence prevention programs. It was well intentioned, but it was still a far cry from what was needed to stem the gunplay on urban streets. And as has been the case with other Bush's initiatives, unveiled with much public fanfare, the attack on urban violence has fizzled out due to lack of money, lack of political will to push it through. But even if the money and will were there, that would not get at the cause of why so many young blacks kill each other.

More police, prosecutors, three strikes, and mandatory sentencing laws, the death penalty, and the nearly one million blacks behind bars, have been done little to curb this carnage. Despite the pet theories of liberals and conservatives, blacks aren't killing each other because they are violent or crime prone by nature, or solely because they are poor and oppressed. Or even because they are acting out the obscene and lewd violence they see and hear on TV, films, and in gangster rap lyrics on the streets. The violence results from a combustible blend of cultural and racial baggage many blacks carry.

In the past crimes committed by blacks against other blacks were often ignored or lightly punished. The implicit message was that black lives were expendable. It would be no surprise if the killer or killers of the New Orleans teens had long violent laced rap sheets, but still roamed the streets. Many studies have confirmed that the punishment blacks receive when the victim is white is far more severe than if the victim is black. This perceived devaluation of black lives by racism has encouraged disrespect for the law and has forced many blacks to internalize anger and displace aggression onto other blacks, especially those that are perceived as weak, and defenseless.



Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Far too many young black males have become especially adept at acting out their frustrations at white society's denial of their "manhood" by adopting an exaggerated "tough guy" role. They swagger, boast, curse, fight and commit violent self-destructive acts. When many black males indulge their murderous impulses on other black males, they are often taking out their pent-up frustrations on those whom they perceive as helpless and hapless. This is a twisted, and warped response to racism and deprivation, blocked opportunities, powerlessness and alienation.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics noted that the other powerful ingredient in the deadly mix of black-on-black violence is the gang and drug plague. The resurgence of the drug trade in recent years and the flood of felons from prisons have made black gangs

even bigger and more dangerous. Drug trafficking not only provided illicit profits but also made gun play even more widespread. Gang members used their arsenals to fend off attacks, protect their profits from hostile predators, and to settle scores with rivals. Broken homes, miserably failing inner city public schools, and a chronic unemployment rate among young blacks that's double and triple that of white males in urban areas haven't helped matters.

Other than Comedian Bill Cosby and some outraged, and terrified local black leaders, mainstream civil rights leaders haven't said or done much about the black murder carnage. The sight of the National Guard on New Orleans streets may be a temporary comfort to residents and city officials but it's only that temporary comfort. An impassioned Mayor Nagin put it best, local residents and community groups must put their foot down and say enough is enough, and take back their streets. That's still the best way to stop the violence.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a columnist for BlackNews.com, an author and political analyst.

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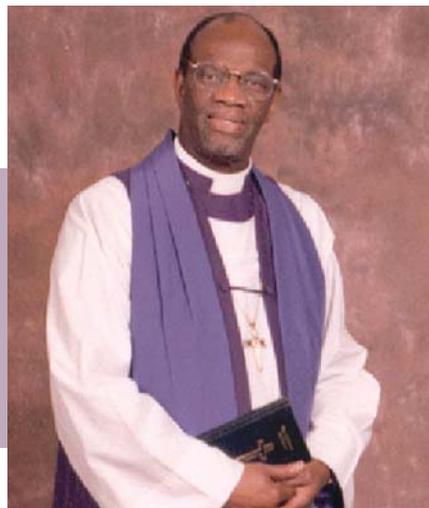
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Mr. Speaker Speaks

WE MUST DISCOVER WHO WE ARE

By Vincent T. Edwards
Blessed Enterprise
Tallahassee, Florida

I was once informed and have come to realize that there are basically three types of people:

1. the ones who make things happen
2. the ones who watch things happen
3. the ones who wonder what happened

I went to basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. and I can still hear my drill sergeants saying “make it happen men, make it happen.” As an infantry soldier without a doubt you made it happen. In order to make things happen you have to know who you are, your purpose in life, have faith coupled with action, possess the knowledge, skills and ability to act and have the desire and motivation to change your current situation.

Many today sit on the sidelines watching the world pass them by. Even though they have sight they cannot see because they are without a vision. So they wander through life and wonder what in the world is going on. I can hear the words from a sermon by Bishop Eddie Long “There is no such thing as standing still. You are either moving forward or falling behind.”

Falling behind is what happens in life when you constantly and consistently blame others for where you are and refuse to take the initiative to change. To make things happen you have to become responsible and accountable for your actions. By doing so and establishing trust with others you can acquire more resources to do more and be entrusted with more.



Vincent T. Edwards

Stop wondering and watching. Start making: friendships, relationship, yourself more marketable and valuable. Start making people take notice because of who you are and what you represent. This means you have to begin to make good things happen for individuals, companies and organizations. What can you do now to make a positive impact and a memorable impression? Those who make things happen think BIG and “outside of the box. Do it now!

Vincent T. Edwards “Mr. Speaker” is an inspirational and motivational speaker/radio talk show host. On the web at www.blessedenterprise.com or by email at mrspeakerspeaks@blessedenterprise.com

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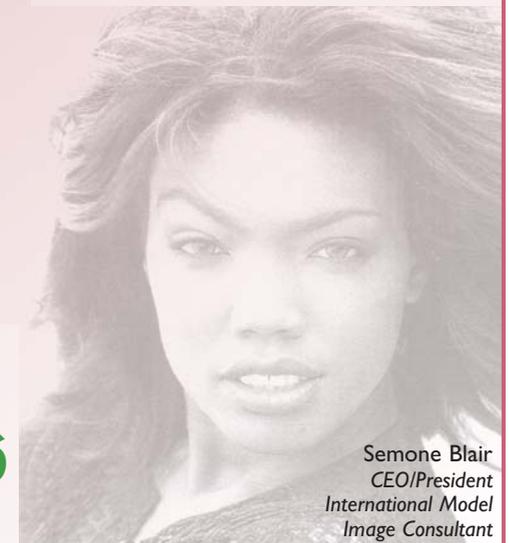
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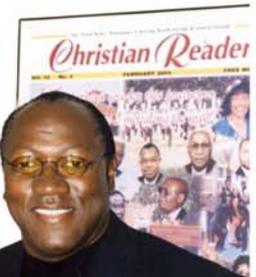
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Publisher's Editorial



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



WINNERS AND LOSERS

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

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

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

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

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

Self-evaluation is very important in life. What does it profit you to lie to you? To correctly evaluate yourself, you must first take away all the gray-areas. The world we live in is Black or White, Right or Wrong, Up or Down. Many times when we evaluate ourselves, we find it hard to admit being wrong, so we pencil ourselves in a

gray-area. Not quite Black; Not quite White... Gray! Somewhere between right and wrong – in the middle.

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

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

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

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

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

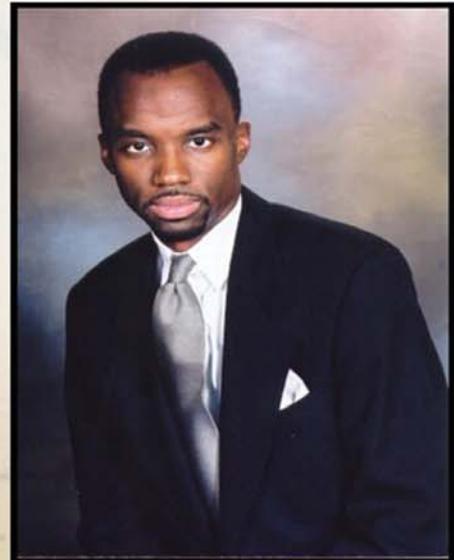
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The Importance of Education in Our Black Communities

By William Jackson
Instructor Edward Waters College
wjackson@ewc.edu

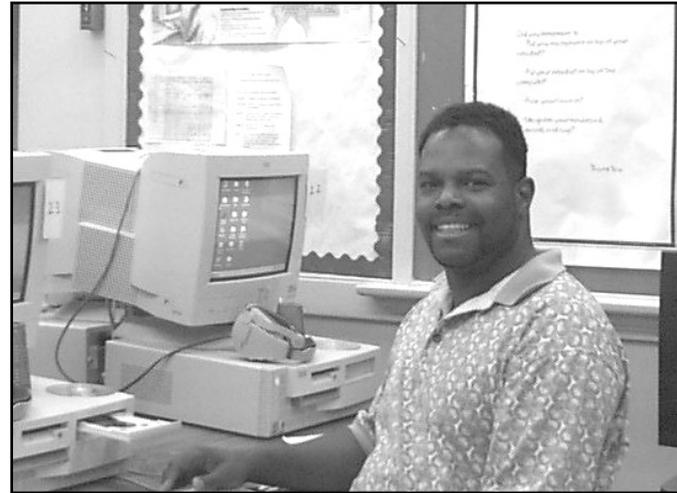
How important is education in our African American communities? Do we really see the difference between ignorance and intelligence? Do we as a community tell our intelligent and gifted children that they represent us as a culture and to pull us along in their quest for greatness or do we humiliate them by calling them “white” or “selling out to the white man”.

That question is answered daily when you listen to conversations with our African American families that tell our children you will be going to college when you get out of high school, that is the dream, but the reality is many do not get the chance to further their education. Our youth need to understand the struggle and sacrifice Blacks have had to endure and are enduring to achieve an opportunity to attend an institute of higher learning. I look at my children and wonder if my wife and I will have the finances to get our children through the college or university that they choose to attend. We are a blended family, I have two children; and my wife has three; all are gifted in their own rights, in the top ten percent in their respective classes. Two are in gifted classes while the others could be if they wanted to, but for their own reasons choose not to. My wife and I are teachers in different school districts and in different states.

Being born in the Caribbean and a pilgrim gives my wife a unique perspective on American and African American life. I try and see things through her eyes as a Pilgrim. She arrived here on a boat, child of two Haitian parents. Neither speaks English very well, but like all foreigners saw a chance to improve their lives through working hard and reaching for the American dream. Education is the key to achieving anything you want in this country. Why do foreigners realize this, but our own children take it for granted and don't apply themselves?

My mom taught me that as long as I can remember, she was a high school business teacher at Camden High School in Camden, New Jersey. My wife's adopted mom was a teacher in Miami, Florida, so we both heard the same speech that we religiously give our children. They cringe just like we did from the “speech” about education and how it is important especially for Blacks in America.

The June poll of 1,264 people between ages 8 and 18 found that 89% of Black youths planned to attend college; the numbers for Whites 79% and Latinos 77 percent was lower. This survey shows the importance of education in African American families. The survey was performed by Harris Interactive, JA Worldwide and Diversity Pipeline Alliance. Why do I not hear leaders of the community especially churches and ministries yelling that we need more college graduates instead of inmates. In the past the church put Black kids through school, what has happened today, I wonder. The “mega-churches” can fill stadiums, but how many college classrooms do they fill? They can get their Pastors, Bishops and Deacons cars, but how many churches get train, plane and bus tickets for freshmen trying to make it to schools in or out of state? What kind of internal educational genocide is this?



**William Jackson, Instructor
Edward Waters College**

My children's leaders do not advocate education, but recreation with rap music and degrading our young women in scantily clad outfits and artificial enlargements. I wonder who will pickup the duties and responsibilities

to guide and give them direction in the 21st century? Technology in hand and the ability to shape, mold and contribute to our world, but who has their hearts and minds? What drives and motivates them? What roads are open to them? We must instill in them the need to appreciate Black heritage in education and community. Black heritage is needed because of events that still happen in our country as the result of racism, ignorance, and hatred. What Black Heritage is - is education, family, and a determined spirit to be better than the past.

Racism is a fact of life for blacks everywhere, and we as a people must work diligently so we are not denied basic human rights, the right to support Black businesses, the right to speak kindly to our brothers and sisters each day we see them. The right to treat each other openly and consistently with respect instead of speaking on one side of your mouth and gossiping on the other. We must service and respect our actions not based on the color tones of our skin. To allow us to be accepted instead of tolerated, we as a race must seize all of the opportunities presented to us, study hard, work hard, get as much education as we can. Always strive to better ourselves.

What would our past leaders say about FCAT, fight against it or accept it with open arms and rise to face the challenge and show that we as a people can overcome academic persecution. Are we going to groan and complain about a test, an assessment as the establishment refers to it or in the spirit of Malcolm X use all means necessary to overcome. Work to train our children how to defeat this behemoth that threatens to retain our children and force them to alternative means of educational achievement or force them out of the educational system that does not meet their needs. What other direction is there, but a life that leads to crime.

During the course of their academic careers if a student fails the reading portion of the FCAT which is on a 10th grade level they can never go to the armed services, go to college, go to trade school, go to journeyman's school go to beauty school, go to culinary arts school, get a federal loan in their lifetime. This is a portion of the “No Child Left Behind Act” that is not publicized. How does it affect our children? What kind of direction do they have?

It takes a village to raise a leaders as Senator Hillary Clinton once said, but she is White, what do our Black politicians say? Where are their voices in the wind either in support or opposition of the direction of education in America? Where is yours?



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