

Christian Reader

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FREE MONTHLY

AGAINST ALL ODDS

DR. PROPHETESS BARBARA D. MIMS

Chosen for Such a time as this.

In the heart of Jacksonville, Florida in the Mandarin district is Jacksonville's best kept secret, hidden for such a time as this is Dr. Prophetess Barbara D. Mims, Senior Pastor of the New St. James Holy Family Church, Inc. Known to many as the Demon Destroyer, Dr. Barbara Mims takes her call very serious. Dr. Barbara Mims was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, graduating with honors from Samuel W. Wolfson Senior High School where she was the first Black to become Student Council Vice-President in a predominant white school.

Dr. Barbara Mims mother, Sis. Henrietta Walker recalls her even as a child concerned about ministry and the souls of many, her mother recalls her being only ten years old sitting outside on the steps of the church waiting for the other youth to come and participate.

Dr. Barbara Mims was baptized in the Holy Ghost in 1983, and was called as an Evangelist, against all odds, not knowing that her faith would be greatly tested. Dr. Barbara Mims who at that time was Evangelist Barbara Smith would go through a divorce that almost caused her to lose her mind. With the love and support of her family and church, and knowing that there was a mandate on her life to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, she pulled herself through this trial, being the mother of three children and knowing that her children's destiny depended on her survival.

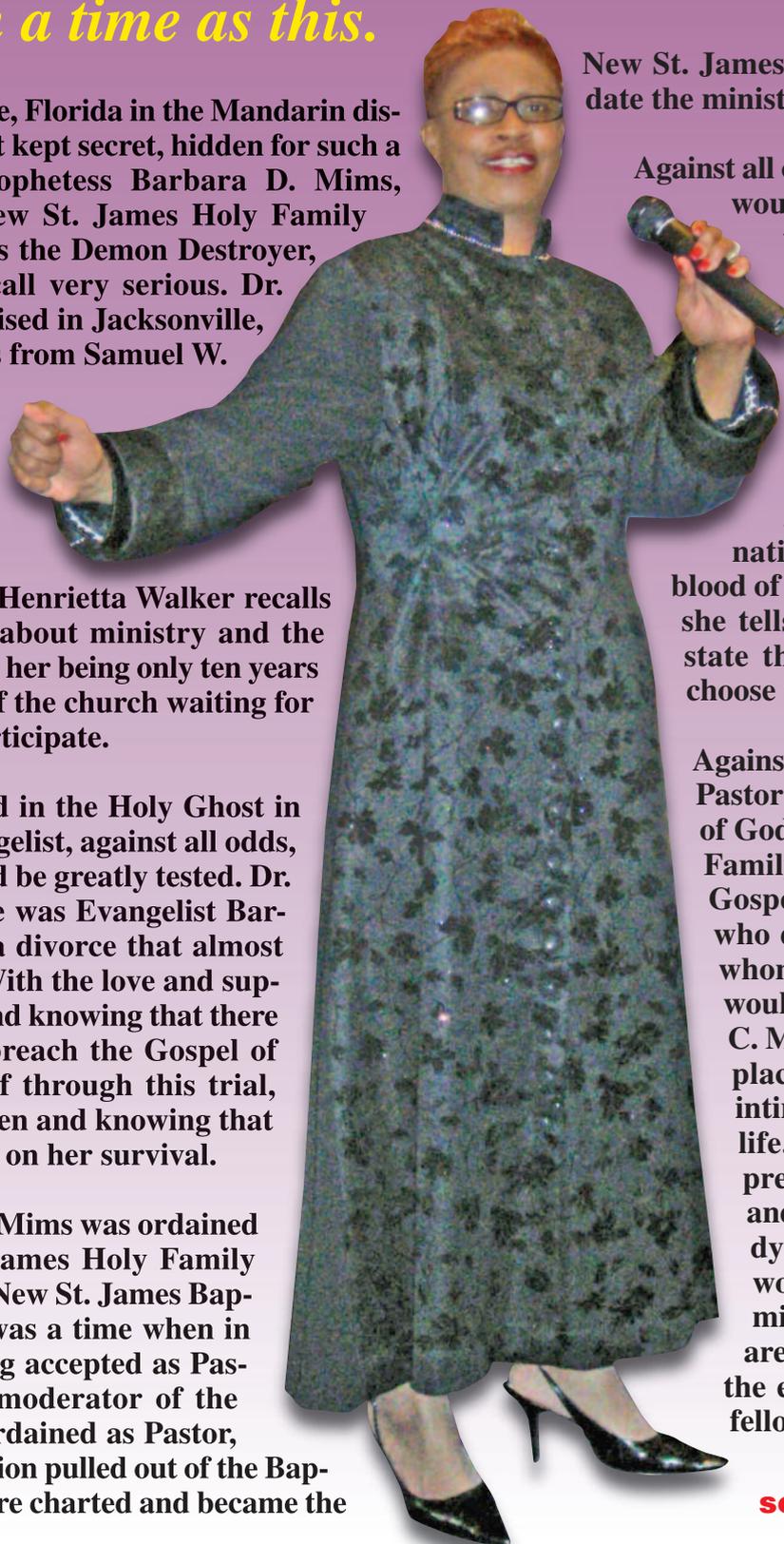
In September 1986 Dr. Barbara Mims was ordained Senior Pastor of the New St. James Holy Family Church, which at that time was New St. James Baptist Church Holy Family. This was a time when in the South women were not being accepted as Pastors. After being told by the moderator of the district that she would not be ordained as Pastor, the church by a unanimous decision pulled out of the Baptist Association in which they were chartered and became the

New St. James Holy Family Church, Inc. As of this date the ministry continues to grow strong.

Against all odds, not knowing that in 1994 her faith would be tested again, Dr. Barbara Mims was diagnosed with Lupus, a painful disease that carried the possibility of crippling her for life. Knowing that this was an attack from Satan, Dr. Barbara Mims began to renounce this disease. Determined to do all that God called her to do, she continued to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of her determination to live, she is now healed by the blood of Jesus! "You must have a mind to live!" she tells those who may be under attack. "I state that every morning when I awake - I choose to live!"

Against all odds, Dr. Barbara Mims as a single Pastor took on the challenge to obey the voice of God and pastored the New St. James Holy Family Church without compromising the Gospel and allowing the opinions of those who do not understand that the Lord calls whom he pleases. In September 1993 she would meet and marry Evangelist Rudolph C. Mims, a true man of God who knows his place in the Kingdom of God and is not intimidated by the call that is on his wife's life. This dynamic duo works together preaching, teaching and mentoring men and women. Because of the oneness of this dynamic duo's preaching with signs and wonders following every message, the ministry has grown from 38 to 375. They are presently undergoing renovations for the expansion of their new sanctuary and fellowship hall.

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Congressional Update: DNC Offers False Choice to Florida Citizens

(Washington D.C.) - In deciding to strip Florida of its delegates to the Democratic National Convention, the Democratic National Committee presented Florida with false choices and no real options for reversing their decision and allowing the votes of 1.7 million Floridians to be counted. When state officials refused to choose between two unrealistic and undemocratic choices, the citizens of Florida, innocent bystanders in the process, were stripped of their voice in their party's presidential nomination.



Congresswoman Corrine Brown

Democratic Party officials instructed state party leaders to either push Democratic legislators to pass a new law moving the state's primary to a date on or after February 5, or hold a separate party caucus on or after the February 5 date. These two alternatives seem to be reasonable solutions to the problem until you look into the reality of the situation and the complete set of facts.

Option 1: Push Democratic Party legislators to introduce and pass a bill in the state legislature moving the state's primary to a date on or after February 5. This would seem practical except for the fact that Democrats are outnumbered 2 to 1 in a state legislature where the Speaker of the House was determined to move the primary ahead of both party's approved dates. According to a New York Times account, the Republican Speaker Marco Rubio in rebuffing national party leaders went as far as to proclaim, "At the end of the day the truth of the matter is that the nominee of either party is going to want to make sure they have not offended the big donors and the biggest activists in the most important state in the country that is electorally available."

With the odds against them, on April 4, 2007, Democratic House Minority Leader Dan Gelber and Democratic House Leader Pro-Tempore Joyce Cusack introduced an amendment requiring that the state primary be pushed back to February 5. As expected the Republicans in the legislature easily defeated the amendment with the support of the Republican Governor.

Realizing there was not a legislative way to change the primary date, Democrats reluctantly voted for the final bill which contained a provision requiring a paper trail of all votes cast by electronic machines. This measure had long been sought after by Democrats still angry about the disputed results of the 2000 election.

Option 2: Hold a state-wide caucus on or after February 5. This too would seem like a reasonable alternative until you look at the history

and effects of holding an election by caucus. There is historically a very low turnout rate among voters for elections held by caucus. In addition to being a major logistical nightmare for a state which is not accustomed to holding caucuses and which has the fourth largest population, many citizens are disenfranchised by such a system. Not to mention that in a state that has seen the effects of citizens being disenfranchised in a presidential election, the specter of the state Democratic Party instituting such a system that prevents many citizens from participating is outrageous and not a valid option.

To cast your vote in a caucus system a citizen has to be present in a certain place, at a certain time, and dedicate at least two hours to cast a vote without the benefit of a private ballot. This might not be a problem unless you are a worker on the night shift and cannot afford a missed day's salary, a student out of state attending school, an elderly citizen not comfortable leaving home after dark, a single parent who cannot find or afford a babysitter, a police officer or firefighter working at night to protect fellow citizens, a nurse on the night shift helping to save lives, or a member of the Armed Forces overseas fighting for our democracy. A caucus would be a great alternative if you do not mind telling these hard working citizens that they are out of luck when it comes to their right to participate in choosing their party's nominee for President of the United States considering the debacle of 2000.

According to an analysis by GeorgeMasonUniversity, the large disparity in turnout between primary and caucus elections is just as profound this year as ever. In an election cycle that has seen record turnout the average turnout among all states which have to date held primaries for both parties is 24.6% compared to just 6.4% turnout of eligible voters for states holding caucuses. Almost 75% more eligible voters on average vote in states which have primaries as opposed to caucuses. In the "first in the nation" primary and caucus held in New Hampshire and Iowa respectively, the Iowa caucus, normally the caucus with the most participation had a 16.3% turnout rate. While the New Hampshire primary, held a week later had a 52.5% turnout. The disparity is similar in 2004 where turnout in the Iowa caucus was 6.1% compared to 29.9% in the New Hampshire primary, a 36 percentage point difference. In 2000 turnout in the Iowa caucus was 6.2% compared to 44.4% in the New Hampshire primary, meaning 85% more people participated in the New Hampshire primary compared to the Iowa caucus. The disparity between the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary is reflective of the disparity between all primaries and caucuses nationwide.

The second choice given to state Democratic Party officials, holding a statewide caucus, is not an acceptable choice as it would disenfranchise between 75% and 85% of voters.

The Democratic National Committee stripped Florida of its delegates and thereby has disenfranchised Florida Democrats while giving them no true and realistic option to avoid this monumental action. The Republican Governor, Republican Legislature, and Republican Secretary of State have for the second time in eight years ensured that the votes of Florida Democrats were discounted, this time with the assistance of the Democratic National Committee.

What Difference Does Easter Make?

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson
Guest Columnist

So what if the Easter bunny wins the hearts of children everywhere? So why not strike “Easter vacation” from the vocabulary of our schools and substitute “Spring break”? What difference does Easter make anyway?

It makes a lot of difference to those who are in touch enough with reality to take life and death seriously. It made a lot of difference to a very real woman named Mary. Let me tell you her story.

Mary had the heart-wrenching honor of washing the dried blood from Jesus’ lifeless body as two other followers prepared the tomb cut into Jerusalem’s cold limestone. Mary wept as she washed—wept and remembered....

She had been born to luxury, heiress to a textile fortune, a native of Magdala, a town along the coast of Galilee. “Little good it did me,” she mused. Money had brought the opposite of happiness. She look back at her teen years as a blur of painful, compulsive acting out. Her parents had thrown up their hands in despair, she recalled. She recollected the gnawing fear, the self-loathing that ate at her very core. And she could remember the caring boldness in Jesus’ penetrating eyes as he had confronted the demons that tormented her and commanded them to be gone forever. That had been the last of the frantic, distraught Mary. A gentle, peace-filled Mary had taken her place. Until today.

Today she had seen her Lord die an excruciating death, his body weight hanging limp from the nails driven through his hands and feet, suspended from a cross like a common criminal.

Her heart caught in her throat as she remembered and wept and washed away the caked blood with her tears. She wept, too, as she watched the men lift Jesus’ corpse onto the tomb’s carved ledge, and roll a massive stone across the doorway.

Was all her hope for nothing? What of all the thousands of diseased bodies he had healed? The broken lives he had restored? The promises of the Kingdom of God?

But early Sunday morning she was back at the tomb to finish anointing his body. When she arrived the tomb stood open, stone pushed to the side, ashes of the Roman guards’ watchfire still smoldering. “How can they be so cruel?” she cried as she ran to tell the apostles. So cruel.

But it wasn’t cruelty that rolled away the stone that Easter morning. It was the powerful hand of God as Jesus Christ stepped forth brimming with Life.

Mary saw him, mistaking him for the gardener. But there was no mistaking his familiar voice—“Mary.” She fell at his feet, tears of grief melting into tears of joy. “Rabboni,” she said as she looked into his face. “Teacher.”

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about Spring break, but you and I know what really happened on Easter.

In an instant history changed forever, because where once the human mortality rate had held stead at 100%, now it skipped a beat as Jesus,



Savior of all mankind, stepped out of dead statistics into life. Death is the last word no longer for Jesus’ followers, life is.

“Believe in Bhudda,” some still insist amid the marketplace of the world religions. “Confucius,” say the Chinese. “Mohammed,” cry the Muslims. “Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh,” shout his followers, and on it goes.

“Jesus,” Mary would tell us, “He changed my life.” And millions around the globe would echo, “Mine, too. He touched my life, too.”

For while religious leaders have come and gone, the fact remains: only One stepped forth from the tomb. Only One has risen from the dead. Only One has conquered death. Only One offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him.

“I am the resurrection and the life,” Jesus said. “He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

So why do Jesus’ followers gather in churches on Easter morning? To show off their Easter finery? God forbid. Rather

To celebrate the victory of Life over death,

To help their children and grandchildren share their faith that Jesus is alive, and

To declare that Jesus Christ is Lord indeed!

We hope you’ll join us and millions of Christians around the world this Easter Sunday.

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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.

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

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

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FAMU/BCU PRESIDENTS STATE THAT THE FLORIDA CLASSIC IS HERE TO STAY IN ORLANDO

ORLANDO, Fla. – Florida A&M University and Bethune-Cookman University released the following statement regarding the Title Sponsorship of the Florida Classic that draws well over 60,000 people from all over the nation to participate in the largest historically black college or university (HBCU) Classic.

In a joint statement, Dr. James H. Ammons, President of Florida A&M University, and Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, President of Bethune-Cookman University, declared, “This Classic is more than a game. It is a family reunion that has evolved into the greatest competition between two historic universities in the state of Florida. The football game, the band competition, the tailgating, the display of school pride, as well as the student recruitment and educational fairs now attract individuals as far away as New York City and deliver a near \$30 million economic impact to the Central Florida economy.”



Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed
President of Bethune-Cookman University and
Dr James H. Ammons
President of Florida A&M University

Presidents Ammons and Reed stated that in spite of just learning yesterday, February 28, 2008, that Walt Disney World would no longer serve as Title Sponsor, they are confident the Florida Classic would continue as the # 1 HBCU Classic in the nation.

Steve Hogan, Executive Director of the Florida Citrus Sports, the non-profit organization engaged by the school to manage the game, stated, “Upon hearing that Walt Disney World was pulling out as the Title Sponsor of the Classic, our office has received numerous calls from major fortune 500 companies eager to discuss the vacant title sponsorship. He further stated that, “the Florida Classic is a powerful brand with passionate fans ready to support companies associated with the event. We believe the Classic will enjoy a new partner read to move with the universities to the next level of excellence.”

Ammons and Reed expressed appreciation to Walt Disney World for a long and successful partnership in the development of the Classic. “While Walt Disney World has decided to discontinue their relationship with the Classic as Title Sponsor, we hope that neither Walt Disney World, nor any other organization will encroach on the Florida Classic brand by bringing other HBCU teams into Orlando to replicate, or to engage in activities that would diminish the Florida Classic.”

Toward that end, both universities have agreed not to play other teams in Orlando.

Representatives of the National Alumni Organizations of both universities stated that, “This is not just a game, but a meaningful gathering of our alumni, supporters and friends and one of the strongest matches in black college sports where the universities control the revenue and the destiny of the game.”

Both presidents are elated that companies are now lining up to compete for the Title Sponsorship of the Classic. “We are looking forward to the Classic staying in Orlando, and being bigger than ever!”

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The Debt/Credit Crisis & the New Bankruptcy: How Bankruptcy Can Work For You.

By Donald L. Dempsey, II, Esquire
Jacksonville, Florida

In order to obtain debt relief, an individual only has two reasonable, test-proven options: (1) pay the debt in full, or (2) file bankruptcy to discharge the debt and/or partially satisfy the debt based upon his or her financial situation. Since the introduction of the new bankruptcy law entitled Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 on October 17, 2005, American consumers have been exposed to countless negative news reports, newspaper editorials; articles as well as numerous advertisements by businesses in the debt consolidation industry, mortgage industry, and credit repair industry concerning the negative implications of bankruptcy. Bankruptcy can work for any individual who is confronted with a debt / credit crisis when he or she has the benefit of legal counsel to assist them in navigating through today's new bankruptcy law.

Bankruptcy should not always be viewed as a measure of last resort because it supersedes other solutions involving the replacement of old debt with new debt or temporary solutions for creating new debt without any increase or growth in an individual's income. The primary purpose of the bankruptcy system is to permit consumers or



Donald L. Dempsey, II, Esquire



businesses with an opportunity to seek a fresh new start by acquiring debt relief. Despite the negative reports and advertisements of competing businesses, the new bankruptcy law was designed to prevent abuse of the bankruptcy system by repeat filers and debtors who failed to adhere to all the applicable rules of law under the bankruptcy code and rules.

Although no one wants to see irresponsible consumers rewarded for reckless spending habits, most people who need to file bankruptcy are not career bankruptcy petitioners nor do they live at the Ritz. A Harvard study released in 2005 found that nearly half of all Americans who file bankruptcy do so because they are burdened by excessive medical expenses. Moreover, the same study revealed that the remaining number of Americans who file bankruptcy do so because of an unexpected job loss or divorce. Another purpose of the bankruptcy system is to balance two competing objectives: giving the debtor (consumer) a chance to eliminate pressing debts and make a fresh start, versus the creditor's interest in collecting legitimate debts and desire for at least parity with other creditors. Given the delicacy of this balance, it is not surprising that bankruptcy law changes with the trends in the national economy.

The advisability of bankruptcy filing, and the best time to file, depend on the amount and type of debts burdening and individual debtor. Debtors who select a particular Chapter of the Bankruptcy Code must be sure that they can satisfy its requirements: for instance Chapter 13 debtors attempting to avoid foreclosure must have regular income. If a debtor is judgment-proof, or has many small unsecured debts that would not be worthwhile for the creditor to sue over, bankruptcy may offer few practical advantages. On the other hand, a debtor whose debts are fully secured doesn't gain much from bankruptcy either, because fully secured

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creditors get favorable treatment in bankruptcy. The bankruptcy filing can be counterproductive if the debtor has valuable unencumbered property that is not exempt, because the creditors would have to choose to take action against the debtor, and few or none of them might actually do so; bankruptcy entitles them to collect a portion of their debt. But a debtor who is at risk of property executions, foreclosure and repossession by creditors is likely to benefit greatly from bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy does carry a stigma; one which creditors are at pains to emphasize- bankruptcies become part of the debtor's credit history and the Fair Credit Reporting Act permits the reporting of bankruptcies for ten years. Ironically, some creditors seek out past bankruptcy debtors to offer them credit, knowing that the debtor will not be able to obtain another discharge of any debt for six years as a result of a previous filing under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Once the decision to file bankruptcy has been made, the question arises as to the appropriate form of bankruptcy. Consequently, it is critical that individuals confronting a debt or credit crisis seek legal consultation regarding the option of filing bankruptcy before deciding upon other solutions that may only create additional debt without providing any practical relief for a fresh new start. Under the new bankruptcy law, attorneys are required to meet with perspective debtors and ensure that said debtors satisfy all the requirements for filing under a particular chapter of the bankruptcy code. Moreover, legal counsel may also assist consumers in negotiating settlements with creditors in the form of a workout or short-term payoff, especially where the creditor is represented by counsel. In short, it is important that we change our way of thinking about solving any debt or credit crisis by exploring all options, including but not limited to the filing of bankruptcy when seeking relief from debt to acquire a fresh new start.






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2008: A Year to Provide Answers

Representative Geraldine F. Thompson District 39 - Orlando

As we celebrated Black History Month throughout the month of February, we celebrated the achievements, the accomplishments, and also the struggles that African Americans have endured since the first slaves arriving on the shores of Jamestown, almost 500 years ago. The most important struggle, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, revolved around eradicating racial inequalities wherever they existed.

Unfortunately, in 2008, racial and ethnic inequalities are no more frighteningly evident than when examining the effect that the HIV and AIDS epidemic is having on the African American community. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States government agency leading the fight against the disease, point out the inequities, especially here in Florida. On the National level, the most recent figures available from 33 states show that while blacks make up only 13 percent of the population, about half of all people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS were black. African Americans also account for about half of all people living with HIV/AIDS. Even more disturbing are the numbers for black children – 63 percent of children under the age of 13 diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 33 states were black.

Along with being infected more frequently, African Americans with HIV/AIDS don't live as long as people from other racial and ethnic groups, making it a leading cause of death in our nation's black community. Here in Florida the story is much the same. More blacks are living with HIV/AIDS, or have already died from the disease, than any other group. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among black males and females ages 25 to 44. In short, for a variety of economic and cultural reasons, HIV/AIDS' presence in the African American community is far from proportionate to our numbers. It's a problem that needs to be, and is being, addressed through long-term improvements in economic conditions as well as in attitudes and culture.

But one of the surest and quickest ways to deal with the scourge of HIV/AIDS in Florida's black community is through increased HIV testing. Testing has become one of the cornerstones of prevention efforts, and a major push of National African-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. There are three important reasons to be tested.

First, for more than 10 years, doctors have had effective treatments for people infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. People who know they are infected and who take the new drugs can live for many years with the disease, much like people with heart disease and diabetes who take medicine to live near-normal lives. While a cure has not been developed to end these conditions, modern science is improving and extending the lives of infected persons.

Secondly, persons should be tested because the sooner the infection is discovered, the more successful these treatments can be. Unfortunately, many people don't think about being tested until they start having symptoms. By this time, it's often too late for the new drugs to be fully effective. The time to be tested is before any kind of symptoms appear that might be linked to HIV/AIDS.

Finally, testing has become critical because it is a primary means of slowing and someday stopping the spread of the disease. Despite the progress that has been made over the years in treating HIV/AIDS, nearly as many people are being infected today as 10 years ago. One reason is because people can be infected with the disease – and infecting others – for many years without knowing it.

The CDC believes about one fourth of the people in the United States who are infected with HIV don't know it. With some 80,000 cases of HIV/AIDS here in Florida, this could mean more than 20,000 people in the state have the disease and don't know it. Throughout the United States, these people are thought to be responsible for one half to three quarters of all new HIV infections. Routine testing could seriously reduce these figures.

The good news is that studies have shown that people who discover they are infected will try to avoid infecting others. So helping these people find out that they carry the AIDS virus could produce dramatic drops in new cases of the disease. That is why the CDC last year began recommending that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 be tested for HIV as part of a normal visit to a doctor or other health-care provider. From now on, having a fluid sample taken for an HIV test should become as routine as a having a cuff wrapped around your arm to test your blood pressure.

Learning our HIV status is the single most important step most of us can take to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community. The great African American playwright, Zora Neale Hurston, once said, "there are years that ask questions and years that provide answers." In fitting observance of the recent National African American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and Black History Month, I encourage each of you to get tested and make 2008, a year that provides answers.

For more information on testing, prevention, and how HIV/AIDS is affecting the African American community, see the Department of Health and Human Services' website at www.aidsinfo.nih.gov



**Representative
Geraldine F. Thompson
District 39 - Orlando**

*Share The Resurrection of Christ
with Family and Friends
Happy Easter from the Christian Reader*

News From The Movement



A New Day & A New Way

The SCLC Orlando Chapter is calling all members who are interested in joining the Board of Directors or becoming Officer's. Elections will be held

March 24, 2008 at 30 N. Coburn St Orlando, FL 32805 6:00 PM. All submission should be made no later than March 17, 2008. Please submit

resumes and interested positions to Mr. Benjamin Griffin at ifcministry@peoplepc.com or fax to 407-297-4009

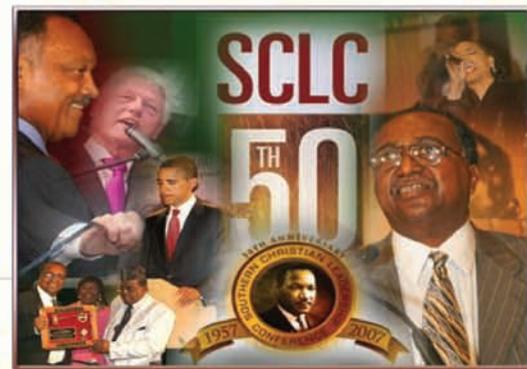
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March 24, 2008**

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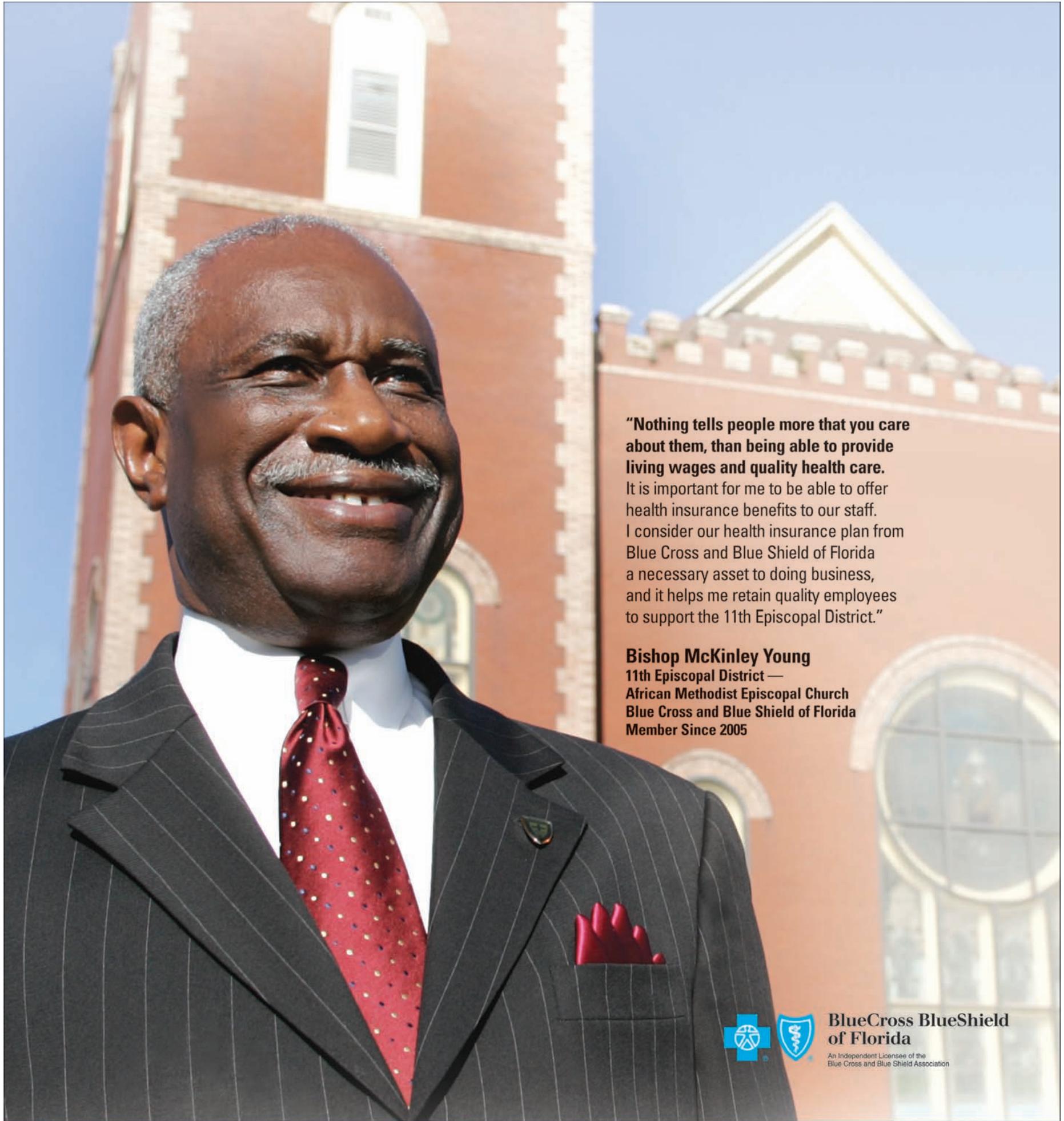
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AGAINST ALL ODDS from Page 1

The ministry reaches out via radio ministry and can be heard every Wednesday on AM 1360 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm. She also serves as Assistant Host to It's a New Day, which airs cable channel 29 every Wednesday from 9:30 pm – 10:00 pm.

Against all odds, Dr. Barbara Mims was recognized by the Heritage Registry of Who's Who among outstanding Business Leaders of America. She is proud to have received her Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Thomas Christian College in September of 2003.

Dr. Barbara Mims would birth a new ministry in 1996 called International Strong Women for Jesus. The mission of this ministry is to help women of all walks of life regardless of race or denomination to receive healing of the mind, body, spirit and soul. This ministry started with a conference in the Ramada Inn Mandarin with 50 people in attendance. With power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost this conference now brings in attendance over 500. This conference has birthed leaders, teachers and ministers. Strong Women for Jesus has brought in some well-known National Evangelist such as: Evangelist Valerie Boyd and Psalmist LaShun Pace. This ministry has partnered with the Hope Foundation and will be launched in Liberia Africa. Each year the Strong Women for Jesus Conference is held in Jacksonville, Florida. This year the conference will be held in May 2008.

Dr. Barbara Mims and Evangelist Rudolph C. Mims are proud to be under the covering of Bishop Jan D. Goodman who is their Pastor and serves as the Senior Pastor of One Accord Ministries International, Jacksonville, Florida.



New Orlando Police Chief Val Demings Officially Takes Post



**By Alan Grayson
On Special Assignment
For The Christian Reader**

Val Butler Demings at age 50 assumed her job as Orlando's 36th Chief of Police this past January. Hundreds of city residents, ministers and fellow police officers turned out to cheer as the city's first woman chief in 133 years formally took command of the Orlando Police Department. She will command control of over 750 sworn officers and 250 civilians.



"Men and women of OPD . . . it's our time," Demings said during her swearing in ceremony. "Until you are given the opportunity, the world does not know your potential."

Thanking her mother who cleaned houses and her father who repaired them, she said they raised her "to look beyond present circumstances" to work for a better day. She and her staff are determined to make Orlando a better place to live. Chief Demings ran the department's patrol division, and has worked in or supervised criminal investigations, intelligence, internal affairs, tactical operations, and drug enforcement units.

The African American community leaders came out in great numbers to demonstrate their support for the new chief and the changes she is making. She is going to need the cooperation of us all to be successful. This writer as a resident of Orlando pledges his full support.

"Orlando, I challenge you to make a difference whenever and however you can," Chief Demings said realizing it was the Will of God that enabled her to stand in her current position. "In closing, to God be the glory."



Alan Grayson celebrates the swearing of Chief Val Demings with many community leaders including (above) Rev. Dr. Randolph & LaVon Bracy, former Chief Mike McCoy, and (below) husband Jerry Demings, candidate for Orange County Sheriff.



The Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc.

Dr. James B. Sampson, President

133RD ANNUAL SESSION APRIL 7-11, 2008



Dr. James B. Sampson

HOST PASTORS



Rev. E. L. Murray



Rev. Tom Diamond



Rev. Eugene Diamond



Rev. Herring and his wife

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008

10:30 AM

OFFICIAL OPENING

(Convention Called to Order)

St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church
5863 Moncrief Road
Rev. E. L. Murray, Pastor

7:00 PM

MUSICAL/WELCOME PROGRAM

Abyssinia Baptist Church
10325 Interstate Center Drive
Rev. Tom & Eugene Diamond, Pastors

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008

ANNUAL ADDRESS,
PRESIDENT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008

6:30 PM

RETREAT BANQUET

(Tickets \$50.00)

Omni Hotel
245 Waters Street

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008

7:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church
5863 Moncrief Road
Rev. E. L. Murray, Pastor

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

2:00 PM

STOP THE VIOLENCE SAVE OUR CHILDREN YOUTH EXPLOSION

St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church
5863 Moncrief Road
Rev. E. L. Murray, Pastor

7:00 PM

CLOSING SESSION

Baptism & Communion
St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church
5863 Moncrief Road
Rev. E. L. Murray, Pastor

*Sessions will be held at St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church,
Rev. Ernie Murray, Pastor and Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist
Church, Dr. Robert Herring, Pastor.*

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

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374 North Ridgewood Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

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Email: fgbci@bellsouth.net

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UNDER RENOVATION

By Bishop Carroll Johnson
Maximum Life Church Orlando

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2 NKJV

One of the highlights of living for me is to daily explore God’s purpose and plan for me as one of his chosen ambassadors in this world. Romans 8:29 says, *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,”* which inspires me to know He has a mold designed for me and the smartest thing for me to do is conform myself as quickly as I can to fit His mold for my life. God’s plan was programmed into us before the foundation of the world and the purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to teach you about you and bring to your remembrance the things that were spoken into you when God conceived you.

Our theme scripture admonishes us not to be conformed to this world and the word *“conformed”* has interesting Greek roots. It is *“suschematizo”* from which we derive words like *“schematic”* and *“scheme”*. The world has a scheme designed for us – a diagram all drawn up for us to follow that has no other purpose than to steal from us, to kill our hopes and dreams, and to destroy us in every way possible. We can rejoice because Jesus came to bring us life and that more abundantly and to destroy all the works of the devil. When we accepted Jesus and His plan for our lives we took on a new schematic, a new flow chart, and a new organization chart with Jesus being our head and His word our procedure manual.

Maximum Life Church is *“Where the Power of the Holy Spirit is Transforming Lives.”* Life is an exciting and sometimes depressing series of transforming images. It’s fun to sometimes pull out the family photo album and see our parents or ourselves as newborn infants, and later as children, teenagers and adults. We recognize the transformations that we have gone through and sometimes wish for our old waistlines and hairlines, but we understand that change is inevitable. Our outward changes in form are sometimes very dramatic and so are our inward transformations. Some people change their thinking politically and go from left wing radical to conservative republican and some have made drastic alterations in our religious affiliations and thinking over the years. No matter what happens on the outside, we realize the real important transformations are those that originate in the spirit and are ratified in our mind and then ultimately affect our outward lifestyle.

I want to challenge you today to take another diligent look at the schematic that God has for you. Let me share something that always stirs and excites something inside me. I like to observe declining properties such as shopping centers, office buildings, and even neighborhoods.

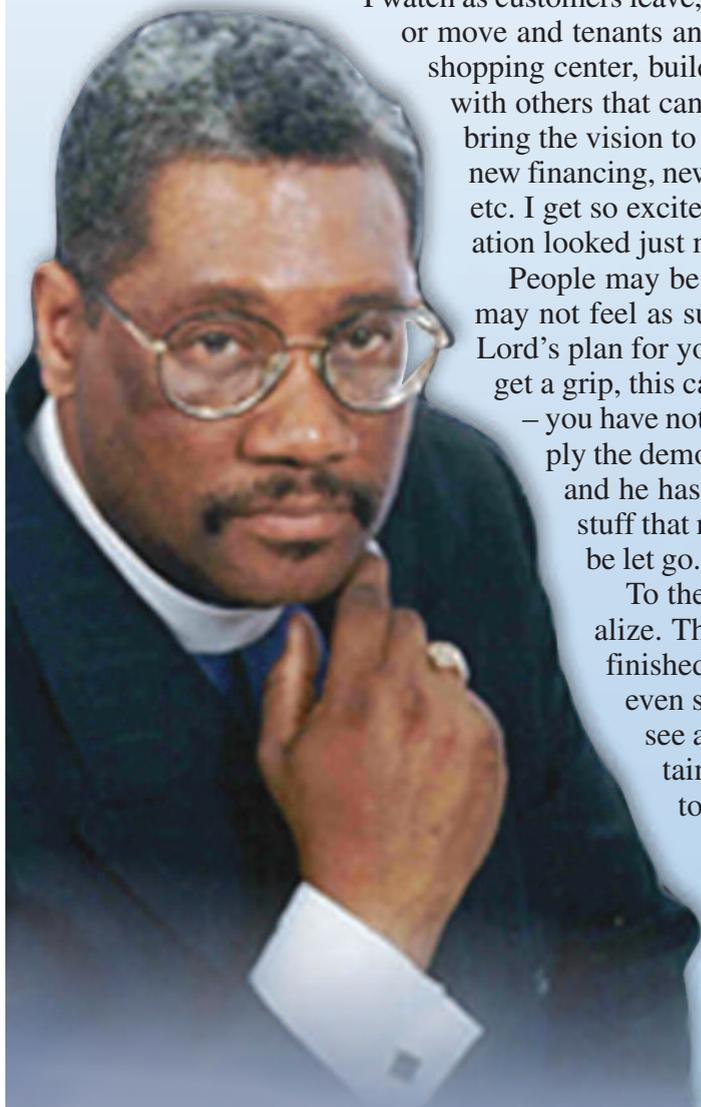
I watch as customers leave, spread bad press to their friends, which encourages further decline as businesses go under or move and tenants and customers find other places to patronize. While most are writing the obituary for the shopping center, building or neighborhood, some visionary is rejoicing over a new schematic, is negotiating with others that can see that new vision for the property, and is excitedly lining up money and resources to bring the vision to pass. It requires a renewing of the mind of the owner, a new architect with a new vision, new financing, new plans and it will draw new anchor stores, new tenants, new customers, a new ad agency, etc. I get so excited to see the new shopping center come to fruition as I realize how down the whole situation looked just months ago to people who had no idea that something was brewing.

People may be looking at you and indeed your own view of yourself may be depressing today or you may not feel as successful in your life as you envisioned, but I am here to exhort you to lay hold on the Lord’s plan for you. If you are at the point where you feel abandoned by people and you are struggling to get a grip, this can be the most exciting time of your life as you allow yourself to refocus. Think big now – you have nothing to lose. Put yourself under mental renovation. The wreck you see of your life is simply the demolition phase. Renovation is a dirty, dusty, ugly mess. See Jesus as the General Contractor and he has given Satan the demolition contract. During this phase of your life there is a lot of old stuff that needs to be demolished and hauled away. Old relationships that were unprofitable should be let go. They were unfaithful to you and unsupportive. God is making all things new in your life.

To the untrained eye, construction plans and early stages of construction are difficult to visualize. There will be many that cannot see where God is taking you and have no concept of the finished work. As we were building our church I can’t tell you how often I tried to take people, even staunch supporters through the construction site and explain what was happening only to see a blank expression on their faces, which let me know they didn’t quite get it. But at a certain point even the least sophisticated begins to understand the vision and must say “Amen” to the plans of God.

Get excited about your renovation and let those around you know, “Please be patient with me, God is not through with me yet.” In the words of the old hymn,

*His power can make you what you ought to be;
His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free;
His love can fill your soul and you will see
T’was best for Him to have His way with Thee.*



5 STEPS FOR BLACK ENTREPRENEURS TO GET BUSINESS CREDIT

By Dante Lee

www.BlackBusinessCoach.com

It's been estimated that fewer than 10 percent of all entrepreneurs know about or truly understand how business credit works. So, let's first define what exactly business credit is.

Having business credit means that you have a line of credit (credit cards, loans, etc) separate from your personal credit. This essentially means that if you take out a business loan, it will only show up on your business credit report - not your personal. In fact, anything you do on your business credit will only affect your business.

So the question is how do you get business credit?

1) Repair your personal credit. Although they are separate, you likely will not be able to get a line of business credit, if your personal credit is bad. This is because initially this is all a banker has to go on.

2) Open a business banking account. Be sure to do this at the same bank where your personal bank account is. This will allow the banker to see that you are a good customer. Make sure to open the account in



the name of your company with a business tax ID, and try to keep at least \$1,500 in that account.

3) Approach your banker about business credit. After months have gone by with a business account at the bank, now you can ask your banker about giving you a line of business credit. You may only qualify for \$300 or less, but take it.

4) Utilize your credit line. If you were approved for only \$300, this is okay. Use it every month, and pay it back every month. Within 6-8 months, they will likely increase it to \$600 or more. Repeat the process, and you will one day have access to thousands of dollars.

5) Pay your bills on time. Don't mess up your business credit. You need to pay your bills on time. You can lose this line of credit, just as fast as you got it. Be responsible, and it will pay off in the long run.

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



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

- Romans 8:18

New Program in Duval County Encourages Drop-Outs to “Drop Back In”

Many students “Drop Back In” to earn their high school diploma with Alternatives Unlimited’s program for students who have not been successful in a traditional high school setting. In August of 2006, Alternatives Unlimited, a 10-year-old for profit company, opened five “Drop Back In” sites throughout Duval County. Starting with five students, the enrollment increased to almost 800 students at the end of the year. With the addition of another site, a total of six schools are located in the Northside, Southside, Westside, Eastside and in Arlington for the 2006-2007 school year.

Students are allowed to work at their own pace to finish the credits needed to obtain their Duval County High School diploma. They must follow the same criteria as a “regular” student, earning 24 assigned credits, maintaining a 2.0 GPA, passing the FCAT Reading and Math, and in addition, completing 40 hours of community service. Amazingly, 98 students walked across the stage at First Coast High School for Duval DBIA’s first graduation, with 40 earning diplomas and 48 earning Certificates of Completion. (Those students will go to classes this summer and retake the FCAT or will return in the fall to work on these skills.)



There are no costs or tuition for students in the Drop Back In Academy. Under a contract with the Duval County School Board, it is funded through per-student state funding generated by the students in the program with 95% of the money going to Alternatives Unlimited and 5% kept by the district.

The program is designed for students ages 16-20; so even if it has been a couple of years since they quit, older students can go back to finish their high school education. In addition to math, intensive reading and FCAT review, students get training in daily life skills, personal hygiene, goal-setting and preparing for a career. Their typical school day of five hours is comprised of 75% computer work and 25% direct instruction. Each site has a certified Lead Teacher, Teacher and an Aide, supervised by a Director.

A unique and successful concept is that the DBIA’s are in partnership with local churches because most sites are located in spaces leased from churches. This has proven to be beneficial to the students, the parents, the church, and the community. Volunteers within the church community help in the schools and provide positive role models for the students.

community help in the schools and provide positive role models for the students.

Duval County DBIA is opening two more sites for the fall and anticipates over 1000 students. In addition to Duval and Broward Counties, more Drop Back In Academies are opening in Polk and Palm Beach Counties for the 2007-2008 school year, thanks to the hard work of Dr. Gerald Luongo, VP of Florida DBIA. All counties are now accepting applications for the new school year.

Students are finding that they indeed can be successful and can graduate from high school with individualized help and guidance from caring, accepting adults. All students can learn and succeed at their own time, at their own pace, with their own gifts. Drop Back In Academies are proving this big time!

For more information on the Drop-Back-In program through

Alternatives Unlimited, visit www.alternativesunlimited.com or call 904-448-6180.

Duval County Drop Back In Sites:

Central DBIA
Academy of Electrical Technology
4951 Richard Street
904-448-6180

Northside DBIA
St. Matthew AME Church
880 Melson Ave.
904-388-9712

Campus Park DBIA
New Bethel AME Church
1231 Tyler Street
904-791-9700

Arlington DBIA
Arlington United Methodist Church
1400 University Boulevard N.
904-744-3603

Murray Hill DBIA
Edgewood Avenue Christian Church
1041 Edgewood Ave. S.
904-387-0132

East DBIA
Greater Payne AME Church
1230 Claudia Spencer Street
904-359-9790

Monument Road 1 and 2
Faith United Church
1820 Monument Road
(new sites)

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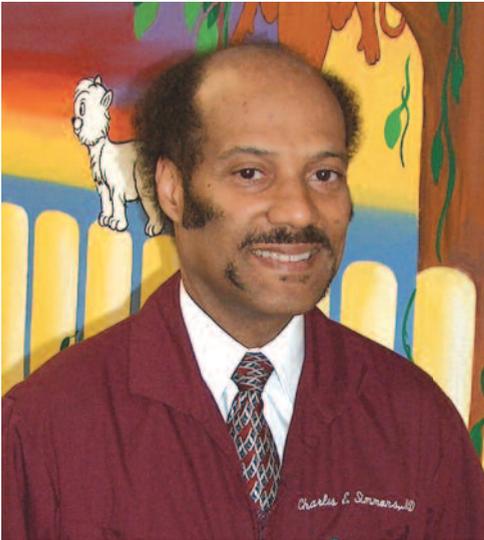
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Dr. Charles E. Simmons

TEETHING BABIES

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



Has your baby been a little more irritable than usual? Find your shirt drenched in drool and dribble? Has your furniture even become the new chew toy? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, chances are your baby is teething.

Teeth are developed in the mother's womb, like most other physical features. However, it is not until the baby is between 6 and 9 months that they begin cutting teeth. Teeth break through their tooth buds, and begin appearing usually one at a time over a period of months. There is a common order that teeth appear, but like most things, there are the variations. Usually, the bottom two middle teeth appear first. Following their arrival, the top two middle teeth come in. Then the side and back teeth follow

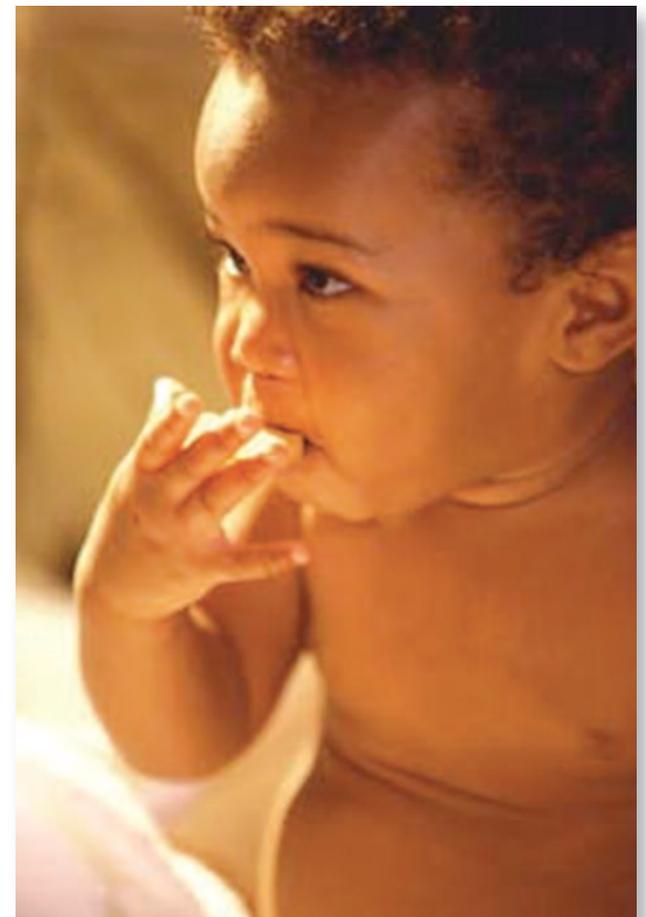


suit. Teeth may not come in straight, but over time, they tend to straighten and align themselves. Around the age of two, your baby's last teeth should be appearing. A child should have a full set of 20 baby teeth by their third birthday. These teeth will carry them until their permanent teeth are ready to come in a push the baby teeth out by age six.

A teething baby needs a lot of sympathy, care, and support. After all, there is nothing that we can do to speed up the process, and relieve all of the pain. The only thing that can be done is try to remove some of the discomfort, and let nature run its course. Restlessness and change of sleep patterns can occur as a result of teething, along with other common symp-

toms. Some symptoms are drooling; sore, red gums; loss of appetite; excessive chewing and biting; and a slight rise in temperature. To alleviate some of these discomforts, there are the traditional methods. Having something cold and easily accessible is great for babies. They want something to hit the right spot and at the right time. Teething rings are great toys for gnawing and massaging. Sometimes, they are hard to maneuver to the right location on the gums, but for the most part they do the trick. To alleviate some of the pain, Tylenol and Motrin are great. They can be given in their children dosage and it suppresses the pain for up to four hours. Another option would be any of the products designed to numb the gums of the child.

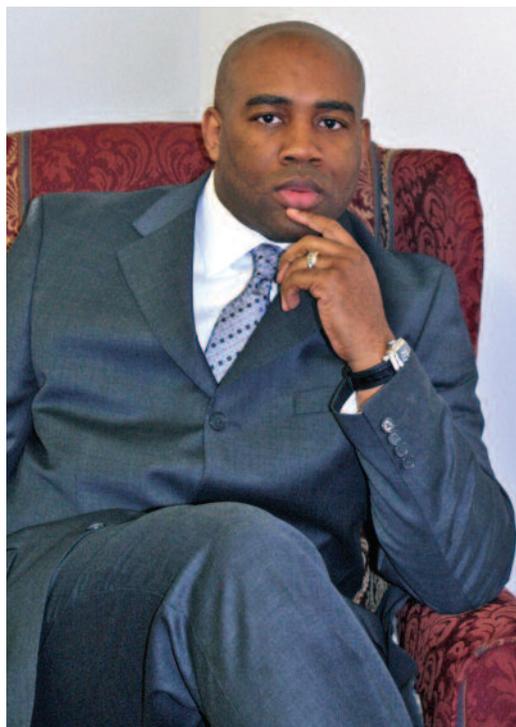
Teething is another factor in this game we call life. It brings discomfort to both the parent and the child. However, try to stay positive and help this transition pass by with little irritation. Invest in a lot of bibs and just wait for those little pegs to appear. For that memory alone is worth the pain. Say cheese!



The Search for a New Pastor

One Church's Guide to How They Discovered the Will of God in Selecting a Pastor

By Deacon Eddie Bell
Riverview Missionary Baptist Church
Kingston, New York



Pastor Harold R. Jolley

in nature. The spiritual responsibility is to be led to discernment by the Holy Spirit through much prayer and fasting. The secular responsibility is to develop a process that is efficient, fair, confidential, and seeks to incorporate the collective will of the church.

Riverview Missionary Baptist Church, located in Kingston in upstate New York, was without a pastor for four years when our search began. We were under the covering of an interim pastor, Reverend John H. Gilmore, who guided us through the demanding process. Only one of the committee members had ever undertaken a pastoral search. As the lead servant (chair), I did have search experience in higher education and that proved beneficial from a training and organizational point of view.

We fortunately did a number of things right before the actual search began and it helped us avoid procedural pitfalls and disharmony among the committee members and reduce uncertainty in the church body. The four I consider the most important are (1) having a clear understanding of our constitutional respon-

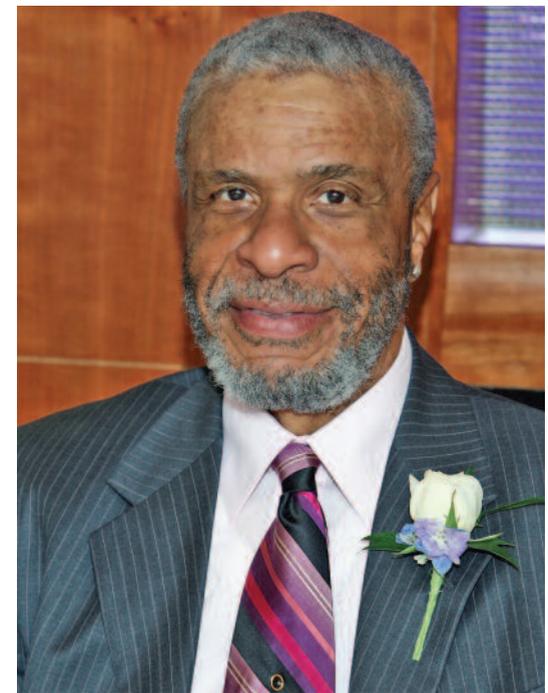
If there ever is an opportunity to work directly with God, it is serving on a Pastoral Search Committee. The year that our committee spent seeking the right Shepherd for our church was filled with excitement, disappointment and exceeding reward. But through it all, the most meaningful lesson that I learned is that God, our Father in Heaven, will truly send the pastor.

The job of the Pastoral Search Committee (often referred to as the Pulpit Committee) is both spiritual and secular

sibility and authority (an up-to-date church constitution is a must); (2) surveying the membership to ascertain their individual desires for the type of pastor they would like to have; (3) outlining a procedure that the committee would follow to screen candidates; and (4) providing training for members. The latter was important because some of the committee members were not familiar with reading college and seminary transcripts; and some had not been involved with the interview process.

The Deacon Ministry and Interim Pastor recommended a slate of names to the church membership that would eventually make up the search committee. Careful attention was given to such personal attributes as: age, church loyalty and church experience, open-mindedness, ability to be a team player, and very important, not having a personal agenda. Balanced representation was the goal and with the exception of a school-age member, which we lacked, we achieved that goal fairly well.

Before the formal search began, the committee determined the major qualifications that we were seeking in candidates. This kept us on one accord and kept us focused as we later examined credentials and interviewed applicants. Because we engaged in a national search and



Deacon Eddie Bell



Pastor and several church leaders in prayer before service.

received a large response, having an established set of criteria made our task easier.

The make up of our congregation suggested that we needed a pastor with youth experience; teaching ability and experience; formal academic training from an accredited college and seminary; organizational skills; grounded in his/her faith; possess a loving spirit and, of course, be an engaging preacher.

We were asking a lot of applicants and in the end we were blessed with a pastor that possessed all of these qualities. It wasn't easy and God had to step in along the way to insure the person that *we* called was the one that *He* was sending. In a way, the pastoral search is much like Samuel seeking out a King from among Jessie's sons. The candidate that you are searching for may not be the first to be offered.

The lead servant of the pastoral search committee has a special responsibility. He or she must help the committee maintain its integrity and



CHURCH SERVICE: GIVING

guide the members through the process as efficiently as possible. The second most important member is the secretary, who must work very closely with the lead servant in order to keep the search process flowing. The primary responsibilities of the secretary are record keeping, file maintenance, and communication. It is important for this individual to have the necessary computer skills required for these tasks. Our secretary also arranged dinners with potential candidates and handled travel accommodations and reimbursements.

It is important to note that God will communicate with the lead servant directly and indirectly. He or she must be in constant prayer throughout the search process and should be aware that God will send messages through other spiritual people. In my case, these messages came from outside Pastors and a Deacon and Trustee from Riverview. One pastor told me at a prayer breakfast that I attended with a group of area pastors, "That "God may reveal things to you [as lead servant] that He may not reveal to the members of the search committee." This to a degree proved true also.

Eventually, the pastoral search committee will narrow the search down to the candidate that it intends to present to the church body for a formal vote. Prior to reaching this pivotal point in the search process, several fundamentally things need to have taken place in

order to reduce the chance of failure. First and foremost the committee has to be aware that all that glitters is not gold. An applicant can create a resume that makes them seem more qualified than they actually are. It is incumbent upon the committee to verify the candidate's academic credentials and to conduct a thorough check of his/her references and personal background.

The financial board of the church must prepare a basic salary and benefits package for the intended new pastor. In today's world, this amounts to a business contract between the church and the pastor. Our package included basic salary and housing allowance, retirement, travel and educational allowance, moving expenses and a personal contingency account. It is also vitally important that the salary and benefit package be presented to the church prior to salary and benefit negotiations with the candidate. Since it is church members who will bear this financial burden, they must understand and approve this substantial budgetary obligation.

I mention contract negotiations with the candidate *prior to* the vote of the membership in order to avoid the unfortunate scenario of formally 'calling' the candidate only to have he or she refuse the 'call' because the financial package is unacceptable. A sense of fairness with the candidate is essential. The honest approach is to be open with the candidate about church's current financial position and the true active membership numbers. These are factors that any candidate has a right to know so



CHURCH SERVICE: CHOIR DIRECTOR

that they can make an informed decision about whether or not to accept the pastorate if the call is extended.

We provided our candidate with a current financial report during the interview process and supplied him with information about Bible Study, Sunday School and Worship Service average attendance.

Last, but certainly not less important, the membership must have multiple exposures to the selected candidate before the formal vote. This exposure should consist of several preaching experiences at regular Sunday morning worship services and

see PASTORAL SEARCH page 22

PASTORAL SEARCH

from Page 21

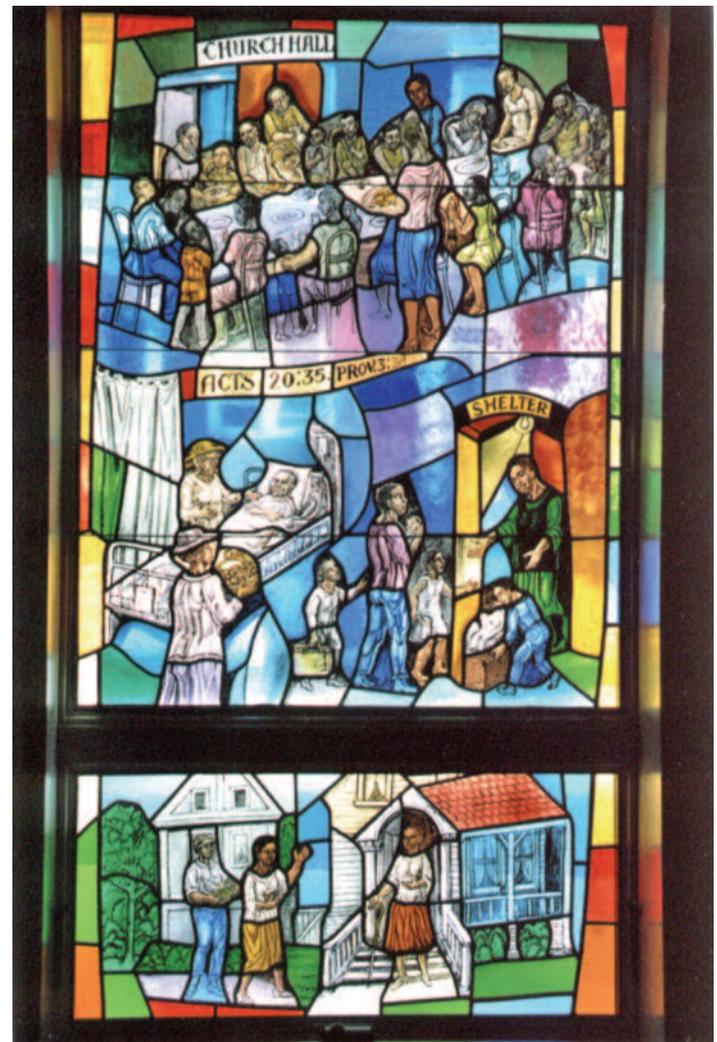
formal face-to-face interviews with the various ministries and members at-large. If teaching ability is important to the membership then an opportunity(s) for the candidate to teach should be made available.

It almost goes without saying that the search committee should try to achieve unanimity in all of their decisions. If this is impossible, then formal votes need to be taken and recorded with the decision given to the majority. The result of any such votes should remain confidential within the committee so as not to convey a divided message to the church at-large.

I have this final word to share about the pastoral search committee. Love and respect for each other is essential. Each member has a responsibility to put aside their personal desires as much as possible and think about what's best for the church. Meetings of the committee should occur in an atmosphere that encourages full and honest discussion. Just as importantly, each member's assessment of applicants is essential and should be thoughtfully considered. God doesn't only speak to the lead servant.

And finally be mindful that the Pastoral Search Committee is in it for the long haul. The Lord's grace sometimes requires steadfast patience. If the committee is patient with God, and is open to His direction, He will send the Pastor.

Calling the sent pastor is already paying big dividends for Riverview. Our membership has steadily increased. Our financial position has greatly improved and our congregation has regained the vigor that it had lost during our transition. Reverend Harold R. Jolley is opening new vistas to the congregation and is providing the training and inspiration needed to move us to next higher level of ministry to ourselves and to the community. Our pastoral search was a complete success!



The Brickyard Window (left) and Missionary Window (right), two of a six window series at Riverview, original designs by church members, the series reflects church history.



Riverview Missionary Baptist Church 240 Catherine Street – Kingston, NY

Founded August, 1933 by Rev. Walter R. Thompson. This is our 75th year.

**Active Membership: Approximately 150
Only three previous pastors.**

Our Daily Bread

By Pastor Leon R. Bing
Northside Christian Church - NJFWC.ORG
Jacksonville, Florida

Matt 6:11

11 Give us this day our daily bread.
KJV

John 6:31-35

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32 Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.**

33 **For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.**

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

KJV

John 6:48-51

48 **I am that bread of life.**

49 **Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.**

50 **This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.**

51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

KJV

As we read the above scriptures, we see how we come to understand what and who our daily bread really is. After Jesus has fed five thousand plus people with two fish and five loaves of bread, there was a discussion on the next day between the crowd and Jesus. The people wanted to tell Jesus how Moses fed their ancestors manna from heaven. Well Jesus quickly corrected them by letting them know that 1). It was not Moses who fed their ancestors in the wilderness, it was His father. 2). the bread that they were fed was him.

Let's take a quick look at six revelations of Jesus in the manna that the Israelites ate in the wilderness. We will read three verses that describe manna. Exodus 16:14, 31, Numbers 11:7

Exodus 16:14, 31

14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a **small round** thing, as small as the hoar **frost** on the ground.

31 And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, **white**; and the taste of it was like **wafers made with honey**.

Numbers 11:7

7 And the manna was as coriander seed, and the color thereof as the color of **bdellium**.

KJV

I have underlined six descriptions of manna; note the revelations between the manna and Jesus.

Small reveals the humility of Christ

Round reveals the perfection of Christ

White reveals the holiness of Christ

Frost reveals the freshness or newness of Christ (the words I speak are spirit)

Wafers made w/honey reveals the fruitfulness of Christ (Song of Solomon 2:3)

bdellium (which is a precious stone) reveals the preciousness of Christ

So we can say that every morning Jesus is humble, perfect, holy, new, precious, and sweet as honey! If the Jews would have realized that Jesus was with them way before they saw Him walk on the earth, how much better do you think they would have appreciated the goodness of God?

Jesus is our daily bread, we are to partake of him each and everyday! He is the living bread, the bread of life. For those who don't know, the Word of God is that bread of life, He is our daily bread! In these difficult days, we need our daily bread to give us peace, to restore joy, and to strengthen us in our time of weakness. We need not to be as ignorant of the goodness of God in this day and time.

Our minds are being infiltrated by so much junk these days that we need to find away to filter out the junk! Well, we already have the cure it is the Word of God! There are so many ways we can get our daily dose of God's Word. We can read the bible, listen to the bible on tape, CD, MP3 / IPOD, and even the little Daily Bread booklet. But understand there are different levels of desire for God's Word just as there are different levels in anything else. Just be aware that the more battles you are fighting, the more of God's Word you want to consume! Remember when the manna fell to the ground, they could gather as much as they could eat. You also can consume as much as you desire to eat, just be consistent and eat your bread, daily!



The Power of One Positive **WORD**



One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down.

It took the remainder of the class period to finish the assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" she heard whispered "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much." were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

A few years later, one of the students was killed in Iraq and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pall bearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded: "yes."

Then he said: "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

"We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

"Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around.

Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home."

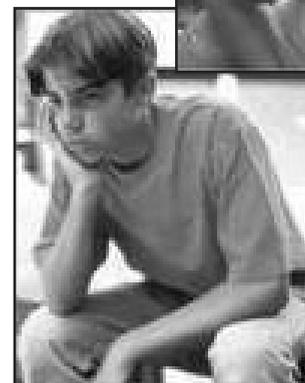
Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album."

"I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary."

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said and without batting an eyelash,

she continued: "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher finally realized the magnitude of that little assignment, one simple day, to a small small group of students that needed to know they are valued.



MT. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church 16th Annual "Dual Day" Celebration and Marriage Enrichment Seminar March 3 - 9, 2008

"Dual Day" was initiated in March 1992, to jointly combine Men and Women's day programs, channeling our efforts into funding and paying for our fellowship /Educational Building Project. The building was completed and dedicated along with the Corner Stone laying ceremony on March 19, 1995.

"Dual Day's" focus is on the family and the God ordained sanctity of Marriage. In Past years, Dual Day showcased couples married over 50 years and 5 years and under. Marriage vows will be rededicated during the Sunday 11 a.m. services followed by an Annual Soul Feast.

In 2008, a two day Marriage Enhancement Seminar and Nationally Renowned Speakers have been added to enrich and propel the church and community forward, focusing on our 2008 theme of "Running with the vision". Habakkuk 2:2

The Week Long Itinerary is as Follows:

Monday and Tuesday, March 3-4, 2008-
Opening Presentations

* Family & Marriage Enrichment Seminar- 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Seasoned certified Marriage Counselors Deacon Jim and Sister Vickie Siedle will usher both married couples and singles into the preparation, patience and commitments of marriage.

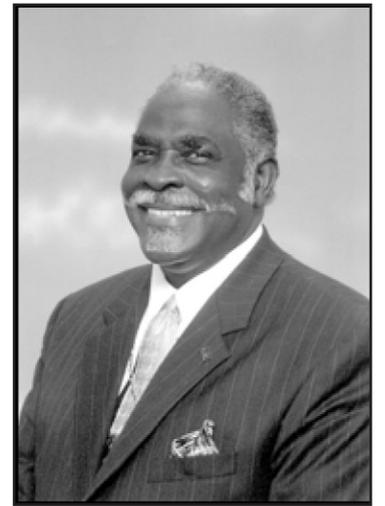
Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Saturday, March 8, 2008, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

* Annual Gala Celebration. Spend an intimate evening with two stellar Women, from the National N.E.C. Baptist Association Inc. Renowned speakers, Mrs. Naomi Bently,(5th Vice President) and Dr. Hugh Dell Gatewood ,(President of the Women's Auxiliary) will shower us with pearls of wisdom over a splendidly prepared dinner.

Sunday, March 9, 2008, 8 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

* Dual Day Worship Services
* 8 A.M. Speaker- Mrs. Naomi Bently
* 11 A.M. Speaker -Dr. Hugh Dell Gatewood
* Honorees- Couples married over 50 years and Renewing of vows by all married couples. Colors are purple, white and Gold.
* Soul Food Feast and Delicious Wedding Cake will cumulate this event.



Rev. Dr. Harvey L. Riley
Pastor, Mt. Moriah
Missionary Baptist Church
Palm Bay, Florida



Dr. Hugh Dell Gatewood,
President of the Women's
Auxiliary, National N.E.C.
Baptist Association, Inc.



Mrs. Naomi Wilson Bently
5th Vice President,
National N.E.C. Baptist
Association, Inc.

Special Thanks to the tribe members of Ruben, Simeon and Levi for planning the 16 Annual Dual Day Celebration under the tutelage of Pastor Harvey L. Riley and Sis. Johnnie Riley.



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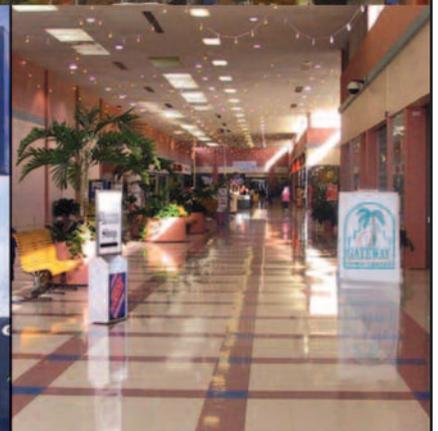
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Psalms 127:3-5



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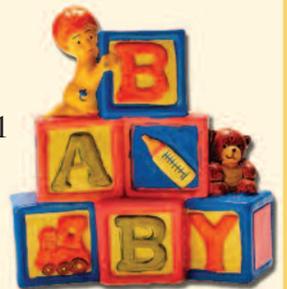
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AKA Sorority Embarks 2008 Celebrating 100 Years of Service and 30 Years of Fashion

By Clara Davis
Melbourne, Florida

2008 started off with a bang for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Just fifteen days into the New Year, members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority celebrated its official 100 years storied and humble beginnings in the city of Washington, D.C. There on the campus of Howard University, January 15, 1908 is where it all began. On January 31, 2008, in that same spirit of jubilation, Iota Pi Omega Chapter celebrated 30 years of hosting the world famous and only one of its kind - Ebony Fashion Fair in Brevard County.

Ticket sales exceed the last three years putting attendance close to 600. The lovely, state of the art, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy Upper School, with its surround stadium seating made this years show a picture perfect event. There were no bad seats in the house. The lovely models and the ever vivacious commentator, Jada Collins thrilled the audience with the seasons “Glam Odyssey: A fashion Journey into Bliss and Beyond. Sorors joined together on stage during intermission to capture the moment with a lighted AKA symbol in the background.



Heartfelt thanks go out to the entire community for supporting this event through the years. Net proceeds from this event coupled with the sorority’s “Little Miss Fashionetta” presentation, another signature event, make it possible to award scholarships to deserving local graduating seniors from around the county. Proceeds are also returned back to the community through a series of programs aimed at economic empowerment among Blacks, rebuilding the Black Family structure and preservation of the Black male.

Sorority Sisters are preparing for their July pilgrimage to DC where over 20,000 sorority sisters from around the world will come to witness the culmination of the 100 year celebration.



Resurrection? Prove It to Me

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson
Guest Columnist

“Raised from the dead? Sure. Right. And I have a bridge I’d like to sell you.”

That’s how Thomas might have responded if he had lived in our day. “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” He’d seen dead people before. And Jesus was dead. He sounds like sophisticated rationalists of the Twenty-first Century. “It isn’t plausible,” they would contend. “It didn’t happen.”



Caravaggio (Italian painter, 1571-1610)
“The Incredulity of Saint Thomas” (1601-02)

But what if it did happen?

Thomas was convinced when Jesus appeared to him, reached out his hands to Thomas, and said, “Put your finger here.” Thomas dropped to his knees. “My Lord and my God!” It was self-hypnosis, you counter. The disciples wanted to believe that their Lord was not dead, so they just invented it out of whole cloth.

Really? Let’s look at some of the evidence:

1. **Jesus’ body was missing.** If the Jews could have found it, they could have stilled the preaching of Jesus’ resurrection that filled Jerusalem. But they could not.

2. **The body wasn’t stolen.** The Romans had no motive. The

Jews had no motive. Ah-ha, you say, the disciples stole it. There is the matter of the Roman guards, and the disciples’ initial disbelief when the women brought them the news early that Easter morning. This brings me to my third point.

3. **If the disciples had stolen the body, you wouldn’t expect them to risk their lives.** People don’t die for what they know is not true. But the disciples put their lives on the line, and nearly all were eventually martyred for their faith. They certainly believed it.

4. **The church mushroomed size in Jerusalem, the very place he was crucified.** Followers of Jesus in the city of Jerusalem grew from a few dozen to thousands upon thousands soon after Jesus’ resurrection. They believed it was true.

5. **Contemporary documents refer to the event.** Thallus the Samaritan, Suetonius, Tacitus, Pliny contain references to Jesus. Jewish historian

Josephus writes about Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. They knew something had happened.

Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is actually more plausible than any other explanation. That’s why we Christians make such a big deal about Easter. That’s why we celebrate.

Jesus’ resurrection means that death is not the end. That though my body may lie mouldering in the ground, Jesus, whom the Father raised from the dead, gives me eternal life. Ultimately, we Christians believe, our bodies, too, will be raised from the dead.

And since Jesus is not dead, people can encounter him today. You can know him through a personal relationship. I could point to lots of people who can testify what Jesus has done

GET HEALTHIER: EASY AS 1-2-3

By Makeisha Lee

Health and Nutrition Consultant

www.CleanseFormula.com and

www.GuideToCleansing.com

Have you abandoned your New Year's Resolution to get healthier? If you have, you are not alone. You are amongst millions of Americans who unfortunately by this time of year have not done as well. Don't beat yourself up about it. Make the decision to just get back on the saddle, start from where you are in order to get healthier. It is better to make small changes at a gradual pace that are realistic and achievable, than to give up, throw in the towel and go back to unhealthy eating. In 3 simple steps you can immensely enhance the quality of your health and life - today!

1. Never skip a meal – instead snack on any of the foods. Apple halves, dried fruit combinations, brown rice cakes, raw almonds or, dry whole-grain cereal packed in little baggies can provide a practical, inexpensive, yet healthy alternative to junk food when you are in a hurry!

2. Drink pure water – essential to human health, drinking pure water helps with digestion, keeps the skin healthy, wards off fatigue and removes impurities from the body quickly to optimize good health. You must use a pure water source or you will be doing more harm than

good. Using an inexpensive water filter in your home to bottle your water is ideal. It is best to sip on water throughout the day to hydrate the cells rather than gulping down huge quantities all at once.

Drinking half your total body weight in ounces is recommended to be properly and thoroughly hydrated.

3. Physical activity – 20-30 minutes a day will help keep the doctor away! If it's doing laundry, put extra effort into it. Walk the dog, go out dancing, and just go at it vigorously! This helps with good cardiovascular function, good mood, increased energy and more. Start out with doing some kind of physical activity for at least 20 minutes a day and gradually increase the time as you get into a routine. If you miss a day, don't scratch the whole week, just pick it up the next day and do 30 minutes on that day.

These are 3 easy stepping stones that lead to the complex journey of life that we all must travel down; but whether you go through and arrive at the inevitable final destination in a Rolls-Royce, or break down half-way in a beat up lemon is the choice you must make!

Once you have implemented these 3 easy steps into your everyday life, you will feel more confident about adding another 3, and another, until finally you are living the life we all were meant to live.

T.H.E – T- total, H – health, E – euphoria – THE life.
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Makeisha Lee is a health and nutrition consultant. For more information about cleansing and detoxifying your body, contact her at 614-595-1425 or znck04@yahoo.com or learn more at www.CleanseFormula.com

She is also the author of "Why Black People Can't Lose Weight" available at www.WhyBlackPeopleCantLoseWeight.com and in bookstores nationwide.



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

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

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



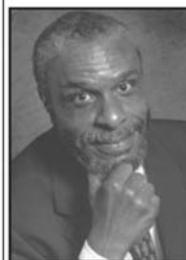
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*Don't think only about your own
 affairs, but be interested in others
 too, and what they are doing.*

Philippians 2:4 (NLT)



Margie K. Cody
 President/CEO

People are the spice of life! From kids to grandparents, friends to neighbors – they all make life more fun and meaningful. Life is filled with many marvelous reasons to celebrate. Celebration is fun, healthy and necessary. Celebrating *special* times with *special* people can be done throughout the year. Special celebrations can be held every day of the week.

There are many times to honor individuals that are important in your life:

- ❖ Your Spouse
- ❖ Dad
- ❖ The Graduate
- ❖ Grandparents
- ❖ Mother
- ❖ Children

Listed below are ideas to keep the celebration going.....

- ❖ Celebrate your marriage each month on the day you were married (flowers, candy, love notes or a special dinner).
- ❖ **Grandparents Day** – Take a picture of all of the grandkids. Have all the grandkids sign with a big **WE LOVE YOU!**
- ❖ **FUN Night (Family Unity Night)** – Come together as a family at least once a month and enjoy an evening of fun (cook-out, talent night, bowling, etc.) This gives family members a special time to enjoy being with each other and just having fun.
- ❖ **Girl Time** – Have a Mother/Daughter Pampering Party; have a mini fashion show while previewing the latest in women fashions.
- ❖ **For Guys Only** – Attend a Father/Son sports event; plan and participate in a Father/Son event (fishing), just hangout together and have wholesome fun.

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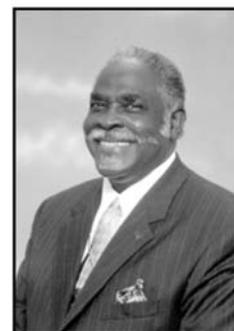
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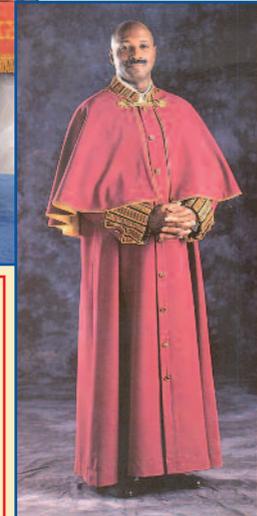
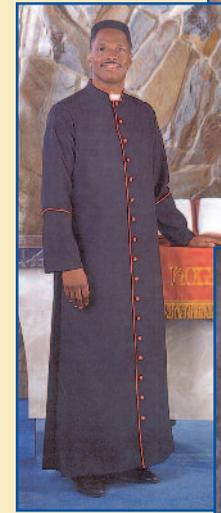


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FROM GOD'S CORNER



“GOD’S CELL PHONE”

By Aundra Bryant
Tallahassee, Florida

It seems as though everyone in the world has a cellular telephone. When you are walking down the street or riding in your car just look and notice the number of people who have one. In thinking about the growing popularity of these phones, my mind went back to the book of Acts Chapter 16 and how Paul and Silas used God’s Cell Phone to unlock the Roman jail. The Word of God said at midnight Paul and Silas sang and prayed until the earth shook and the jail cells came open. God’s Cell Phone has three main features.

Firstly, when we buy a cell phone, we have to choose a minute program but if we use God’s Cell Phone called prayer, we can call him in the morning, at the noon day hour or at midnight. The God we serve never slumbers nor sleeps. The Word of God says that man ought to always pray. We no longer do we have to take our concerns to the priest to intercede for us rather we can take everything to the Lord in prayer. The hymn writer put it best when he says “Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pains we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Through Jesus Christ, we have immediate access to the Father.

Secondly, our cell phones are no use to us unless we have them with us at all times but we carry God’s Cell Phone in our heart. The old traditional tune says “I’ve got a telephone in my bosom and I can call him up at any time”. The Lord knows our wants and needs before we even ask. If we are unable to talk we can still communicate with God through the Holy Spirit. One may lose their cellular phone and someone else can use it but God knows us personally and we can tell him our troubles and he will not tell anyone else.

Finally, if we try to call our family or friends and we forget the number we are in trouble but God’s Cell Phone is different. When we need to talk to him we can say Almighty God, Lord, I need you or have mercy Lord. All we need to call is call 111, one for the Father, one for the Son and one for the Holy Ghost. We don’t need call forwarding because God is everywhere at the same time. I’m glad God doesn’t need star 69 because he even knows the strains of hair on our heads. God doesn’t need call waiting because he can be healing in Quincy, delivering in Tampa and giving sight to the blind in New York. God does not need three way because he knows our thoughts before we even think them. God does not need speed dial because he is quicker than at once.

There was a story told of a man who had been stabbed in a pool hall. As the paramedics treated him he called his brother and told him that he had been stabbed and was scared that he wasn’t going to make it. The brother on the telephone said “Hold on until I get there”. Suddenly, the wounded brother replied “I don’t have anyone to hold onto”. This is an example of someone who had never called upon the name of the Lord. However, Jesus said “whosoever calls upon the Lord shall be saved”. God’s Cell Phone is available to every man, woman, boy and girl so let us dial 111. One for the Father, one for the Son and one for the Holy Ghost.

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Answers From Page 33



Bible Wordsearch

Solution to Puzzle No.142

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

Letters in BOLD above are the hidden verse

reading left to right starting at the top left hand corner and going down through the letters the hidden verse is:

Sing praise to His name

Psalm 68:4 N.I.V.

**Share Your
Christian Reader
With A Friend**

(Over, Down, Direction)

ALTAR(4,2,S)
AROUND(3,4,S)
ARRIVAL(2,4,SE)
ASAPH(6,1,W)
BROTHERS(6,2,E)
BUILD(5,9,SW)
CAPTIVITY(12,3,SW)
CARPENTERS(12,3,S)
CYMBALS(3,15,NE)
EVENING(15,9,N)
EZRA(8,4,E)
FAMILY(13,1,W)
FEAST(6,15,NW)
FOUNDATION(6,15,NE)
GOD(2,9,N)
HENADAD(2,1,S)
HODAVIAH(6,14,E)
ISRAEL(5,3,E)
JERUSALEM(11,9,N)
JESHUA(15,15,N)
JOPPA(4,7,NE)
JOY(15,15,W)
JOZADAK(14,6,S)
KADMIEL(1,11,NE)
LAW(5,12,SW)
LEBANON(1,1,S)
LEVITES(10,9,SW)
LORD(7,5,SE)
LOVE(8,10,SE)
MASONS(1,15,NE)
OIL(5,4,N)
PERSIA(12,15,W)
PRIESTS(7,6,SW)
RETURNED(7,3,SE)
SHEALTIEL(13,2,S)
SUPERVISE(6,3,S)
TRUMPETS(6,13,E)
VESTMENTS(11,11,NW)
WORK(1,8,S)
ZERUBBABEL(14,3,SW)

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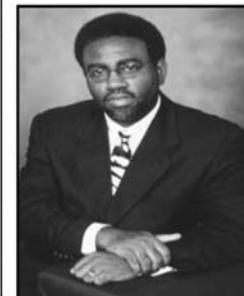
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LOCAL YOUTH PASTOR CREATES SOFTWARE TO BATTLE CYBERCRIMES

TELL-it-PC Helps Parents Monitor Kids' MySpace, Chat room and Internet Usage

Jacksonville, FL – Creative Christians, Inc. a Christian-based marketing firm has developed a new Internet monitoring software—TELL-it-PC. TELL-it-PC monitors anything that happens on a PC or the Internet including websites visited, e-mails, downloads, keystrokes, chat rooms, instant messages and much more. This information is recorded, stored and emailed to parents for review at their convenience.

“Alarming statistics reveal the overwhelming threats and dangers the Internet poses to our children; but TELL-it-PC can be the invisible supervisor parents need to protect their children from dangers not only outside of the home, but those that lurk inside the child’s computer,” said Edward Weston, founder and CEO of Creative Christians, Inc.

TELL-it-PC is inconspicuous software that captures the following: keystrokes typed; websites visited; appointments opened and closed; internet connections made; files opened and printed; chat room conversations; windows opened and e-mails sent.

“Our children are targets for all kinds of predators. Access to every imaginable vice is available on the internet,” said Weston, who is also Youth Pastor at First Baptist Church of Mandarin. “I

am gravely aware of the urgency to monitor what youth are exposed to via the Internet.”

According to the state Office of the Attorney General’s website, Florida ranks fourth in the nation for the volume of child pornography. A Journal of American Medical Association report on Cyberspace and Virtual Networks estimates that about 89% of sexual solicitations of youth were made in either chat rooms or through instant messaging. Dateline NBC in their ongoing Cybercrime coverage, reported that as many as 50,000 sexual predators are online at any given moment; as a result, thousands of children are at risk for molestation, kidnapping and murder because of contacts and conversations that take place on the Internet.

TELL-it-PC, gives parents and guardians the unique opportunity to protect the children in their lives from dangers lurking online. They will know what sites their children have visited, what they have typed, to whom and when. This knowledge helps identify potential threats and could very possibly prevent them.

TELL-it-PC requires Windows 9x, 2000, XP or Vista, a Pentium Class PC (133 MHz or higher) and 20MB hard disk space. For more information or to order TELL-it-PC call 1-877-593-2626 ext.1, or visit the website www.tellitpc.com

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ALAN GRAYSON

FOR

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For any candidate, the key question is not "what are you promising?" It's "what have you done?"

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Publisher's Editorial



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



Wasted Talent

The recent surge of Barack Obama into mainstream America has been great. He has given us as African Americans a new hope. Many of us echoed the sentiments of Michelle Obama who stated she has never been more proud of her country her entire adult life. For the first time in a long time, we all feel there are great possibilities for the advancement of us all. There may be a chance the glass-ceiling will be lifted. Maybe organized racism is no longer fashionable to wear as a badge of honor. Maybe it is that the table of life has become so scarce that anyone who can bring something to the table can sit regardless of the fact of their past rejection.

Obama is hope. Because of his success, all of us are looking in the closet and pulling out suitcases of talent we have long packed away. The bell of opportunity without notice is suddenly ringing as a surprise to us all. Those of us who have been diligently working toward a positive future are ready and in place. Those who were discouraged by the dark clouding of the struggle and sat in apathy eating the malnutrition of television and drinking the filth of music produced by a society without the slimmest sight of hope, of course are totally unprepared for this moment in time.

I am reminded of the Bible story Jesus told us of the Talents where upon traveling on a journey, a man dispersed talents (a portion of money) to his servants. To one he gave five talents, to another three, and another one. Then the man, the Bible says, took his journey. After an unspecified period, the man returned and call for his servants to see how they fared with the talents they were given. The one with the five talents reported he worked and doubled his five

to ten talents. The one with three did the same doubling his to six. The one with the one talent reported he buried his talent not using it at all.

Many preachers have told a variety of reason as to why this person buried his talent. However, none of the explanations have kept so many from doing the same today. For most it has been an unconscious journey taken with little subtle steps of hopelessness and dissuasion. For

others it is simply derelict of duty, thinking they had more time than they really had, therefore they played more than they worked, and now the time of accountability has come and they must report they buried their talent not using it at all.

Obama has caused me to do my own self-evaluation. The word evaluation in itself means appraising value. Therefore self-evaluation is the process of you looking at you to determine if you have any worth at all, and if so, how much worth do you have. Obama just a stone's throw away from the White House, first affect me with the fact of him being born in August and just 46 years old, I am three months older than he. That means, people my age are now running the country and influencing the world. What am I doing?

Well, as a PaperBoy, I long considered myself retired as compared to the things I used to do being self-employed all of my adult life. I have educated my children and feel that now is the time I can take it easy and do many of the things time restraints and lack of money prohibited me from doing in the past. Obama's presence, drive and future outlook says to me and many others, now ain't the time to sit... we've only just begun. Don't pack away your talent and ambitions just yet.

In the process of my own self-evaluation, I discovered that I have not buried my talent. However, I can not say I have used it to the fullest. There is room for self-improvement. Several ways I can do better and be better. Also in the process, I discovered a great number of things I did well and things of which I could feel extremely proud. Over the fifteen years we have published The Christian Reader Newspaper, we have united the Black Church Community with the Black Business Community invigorating positive gains. We have published articles and information that have stimulated thought and actions that has inspired us as a people to excel spiritually, economically, socially, politically, and medically. We have published over 3,000,000 newspapers, traveled over 2,000,000 miles, and have been read by over 5,000,000 individuals. To God be the glory.

Yet still, there is room for so much more. Obama for President is a call to us all for action. We don't want this time in history to past without our full participation ensuring its success. I am afraid for this country if Obama does not win, for he is the most qualified candidate to change and unite us for the common good. For him not to win means orchestrated methods of abhorrence and discord prevailed compelling us backward even farther as a nation. The bell of opportunity is ringing. Now is the time to put your talent to good use.





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