

Christian Reader

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FREE MONTHLY

A Salute To A Life Well Lived

Veronica Kathryn McCoy

By Gwendolyn Bennett
A Very Best Friend
Orlando, Florida

*“When we are in service to others,
we are in service to our God.”*

“Ronnie” as she was affectionately called by her family and friends, always wore a big smile... she never left home without it. That smile was only a glimpse of the abundance of love that lay in her heart. She made you feel special as her friend, and taught you so many ways to make others feel special. “Ms. McCoy” is the term so many others referred to Veronica as, and these are they that knew her as a Businesswoman. My very best friend Veronica, help so many in so many different ways.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa. with family roots in St. Augustine Florida, she came to Orlando, Florida in 1979. In Philadelphia, she excelled in school and was valedictorian of her graduation class. She attended the University of Pennsylvania –Wharton School of Business for a few semesters and changed paths to marriage, children and a career in banking. Her career in banking started in the mailroom and achieved the level of Branch Manager. In fact, she was one of the first African American bank managers in Philadelphia. She was one of the founding members of the Urban Bankers in Philadelphia an organization that helped paved the way for others African Americans.

After a successful 20 year career in banking, she decided to relocate to Orlando and this is where she spread her wings. She took a few non-descript jobs while she was getting licensed in Real Estate. Once licensed in real estate, she worked with Rev. Archie Williams and then took the plunge and opened her own business - A-1 of Florida Realty in 1988.

Most of us are aware, that if you do what you want as a career with passion....you will be successful. She not only did what she loved to do with passion but also with the attitude of service. During her career she assisted thousand of folks in achieving their lifetime dream of home ownership. She embraced the Haitian and other Caribbean communities when others would not take the time to understand their desire for home-



ownership. She many times, actually gave up her commission so that a family could get in a home. Through acts of kindness and service her business was stable when others were folding. This makes you know that God is the Source and when you do the right thing you will be rewarded.

Along with her real estate business, she partnered with many other small Black businesses to aid financially and to give expert advice. Among these businesses were restaurants, roofing and carpeting companies, and motels to name a few. The *Christian Reader* Newspaper was one of those companies. She was definitely the personification of the entrepreneurial spirit and encouraged many to pursue their dreams. She was often called upon by City and County Officials as a pulse of the community because they knew that she was out in the community listening and being actively involved.

She incorporated all the above into the training of her two children Darrin McCoy and Djuana Doby.....who have now stepped up to the bat and are keeping alive their legacy A-1 of Florida Realty. A scholarship fund has been established for those wanted to honor Veronica’s legacy of giving. Contributions can be made to: The Veronica McCoy Educational Scholarship Fund, Urban Trust Bank on Goldwyn Avenue in Orlando, Florida.

I will miss my Best Friend. Not only did I experience and see the business accomplishments of my dear friend but also experienced and saw our spiritual growth. Being friends for fifty two years is a very long time and not from afar.... but up close and personal. We went to Jr high school, high school, college, worked at the same bank, actually moved our families to Florida in the same moving van, worked in allied businesses and interfaced on a daily basis. We went from being two children age twelve to two women aged sixty three understanding that we where still children of an All Loving God.

Gwen Bennett

Veronica K. McCoy
June 9, 1943 - March 19, 2007

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In the mist of the turmoil, the world is asking “Where is the Church?” The force that for centuries has been the catalyst (that substance that increases the rate of positive reactions without itself undergoing any change) to making our communities better. It is true the Church has been the focus of many negative headlines of the media in the past few years, however, the Church has not relinquished nor had it been stripped of its responsibility.

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

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

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THE CHRISTIAN READER

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"The Moral Compass"

By, Edna Turner-Crawford
Living Water Ministries
Tallahassee, Florida



Edna Turner-Crawford

"So that if I can't come for a while, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the Living God, which is the Pillar and support of the Truth." 1 Timothy 3:15 New Living Translation (NLT)

The Body of Christ was left by Jesus in the earth to be an example of Truth. I was listening to one of my favorite morning ministries, *The Believers' Walk of Faith* with Bill Winston, and during the course of his teaching, he confirmed something that had been a part of a discussion that I had shared with another person in The Body of Christ. He said that the Body of Christ (the church) was left in the earth as the moral compass of society. The example that Christ left when He walked the earth is the same example that Christians are to leave as we walk and live day to day. The model for living should be defined by the Body of Christ, and not the world. The ways of the world should not infiltrate the process in the church; instead the church should be setting the standard for the world.

There are those who will attempt to justify certain actions and behavior in the Body of Christ by saying *times have changed, and we must keep up with the changing times in order for the gospel to be relevant.* Indeed, times have changed, but the Word of God will never change. The Word will not change for us or for the times. In all things, we must find ourselves totally aligned with God's way of doing things. He has assured us that heaven and earth will pass away, before anything in His Word will change. The Bible is the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.

As the moral compass for the world, it is our responsibility to live our lives in such a way that the compass will lead the lost to Christ. We should be determined every day and in every way to be that light that leads others to eternal life. Jesus did some awesome things as He walked the earth, and He said that we would do *even greater things.* The Holy Spirit was left in the earth so that we could be empowered to do the greater things. We have no excuses for not living a life that reflects the Holy One. When Jesus died on the cross, He

took away all excuses for everything that comes against or tempts us. His Word proclaims that He has provided *a way of escape.* The world needs to see believers taking the 'way-out' rather than observing God's children partaking of the same things in the same ways that the world does. We can't say to the world "do as I say, but not as I do." It is imperative that we are living examples of the Word of God.

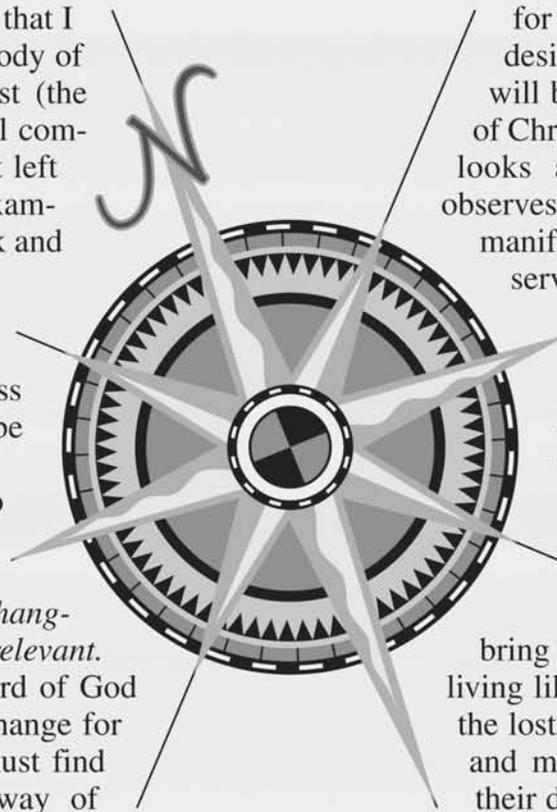
When an individual is traveling, a compass provides direction so that one will not get lost. The church is that compass for the world. Jesus said that it is not His desire that anyone be lost. Yes, (He said) some will be lost. It is the responsibility of the Body of Christ to live in such a way that when the world looks at our actions, hears our testimonies, observes the love we have for others, and sees the manifestation of Christ in our lives that it will serve as that compass that leads those who are lost to a Father who loves them.

God sent Jesus to die for all that were lost. Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of the Father until He comes back for us. In the meantime, He issued the Great Commission that *we go into all the earth and make disciples of men.* It's not an option. We are expected to daily bring someone into the Kingdom. We can't

bring someone into the Kingdom, if we are not living like the King. When we live like our Father, the lost will be attracted to the *light of Jesus* in us and make the decision that will forever change their destiny.

As Believers, we are individually and collectively *the church ... the moral compass.* It is important that we do not take lightly the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us until Jesus returns. As His disciples, we are to follow the examples set by the Great Teacher. When Jesus went into a city, He made disciples of men. He had great followings, lives were changed, and the people and the city were changed because Jesus had been present. So should it be even greater with us His followers?

Jesus never became like the world. He was the moral compass, the standard, the model that led lost souls to His Father. So should it be with us!!



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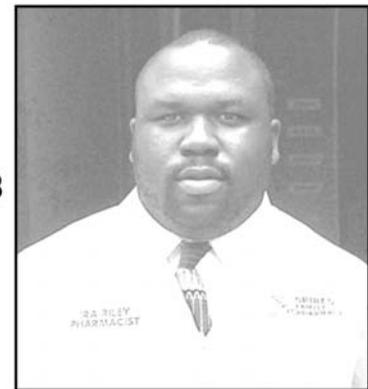
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DIVERSITY: The Imus Eliminator

Last month we began by stating that workforce diversity has become a joke to many Americans largely due to a wide perception gap and poor communication. Days later we had the Imus debacle and many were quick to blame diversity. There is a tendency to report limited information regarding episodes of diversity. Those actions open the door for immense scrutiny for supporters of diversity-related initiatives. In light of the recent attacks on diversity we present this article to defend our belief structure regarding workforce diversity.

Diversity, in its purest form, is nothing more than a description of an object. And yet, each time there is a cultural dilemma in America the common theme that resonates is that of diversity. Throughout my experiences and research the ease by which others can both blame and promote diversity has created the greatest conundrum of our time: What is Diversity?

Diversity represents something different to each individual. In years past we “celebrated differences” and now we say we are “inclusive”. Who gets to decide these shifts in thought? The primary issue is that we must focus on the bare facts regarding this dilemma of diversity.

Firstly, we are secretly a nation divided on cultural issues. This fact can neither be disputed nor resolved. Instead, we must focus on promoting cooperation between ourselves rather than attempting to resolve insoluble paradoxes. This focus on promoting cooperation is much more attainable than resolution. The reason that we are divided on cultural issues is that each of us is unique in terms of the environment in which we have developed our prejudices, biases, and preferences. Yes, we all have them. It is only when we attempt to force them onto others do they become vile and discriminatory. It is a fine line that we walk daily without knowing and understanding ourselves. And yet, we yearn for others to understand our unknown plight of life.

Secondly, we must accept the fact that our country is one that remains a melting pot. This melting pot is represented beyond social categories and rises to the cognitive ability of individuals. Meanwhile, it has been the social category that has proved to be most important to

some. Nevertheless, it is here where we must gain the most ground in order to overcome this diversity impasse that we have been mired in for the last thirty years. I find it appalling that a dispute between two dissimilar individuals and/or groups can be quickly thrust into the diversity spectrum. Determining whether this position represents a misery that “we” have been unwilling or unable to fix is difficult.

Thirdly, the only thing worse is using the broad stroke of diversity as a descriptor for the nation’s ills. As a researcher and supporter of workforce



Dr. C. Lamar Robinson

Founder/Managing Partner
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diversity this subject is appealing because of the potential to succeed in leveraging human capital. However, it is disheartening to watch and listen to those who carry out hidden agendas under the auspice of diversity. Those entities and individuals have succeeded in “muddying” the very waters that many leaders have fought to clean. It is time to move the nation beyond this diversity conundrum.

While this position may appear noble it will be difficult. One reason is that everyone wants to put a number on diversity in the workforce or society. And yet, we are willing to accept whatever it (diversity) has to offer when applied to other objects such as financial instruments and capital. It seems illogical that an object (diversity) that can not manifest itself should warrant such critical analysis; this, despite the lack of agreement on what “diversity” is.

However, the primary reason for upcoming difficulty is that some entities and individuals are happy with “diversity” in its current state because it creates opportunities for political agendas. However, those that truly want to begin to heal some of the old wounds will have multiple leverage points. I will outline this plight below:

1. When someone says, “this is a diversity issue”, respond by asking them which form of diversity. Remember, diversity is a descriptor. Would they be referring to cultural; cognitive, racial, gender, ethnic, supplier, workplace, or workforce to name a few? Too often they just say diversity and expect others to know even when they are unable to explain.
2. Determine what diversity and inclusion means to you as an individual and compare that with different organizations that you associate with. Try to determine why the definitions are so different and then we can begin to understand why we are so divided.

Above I have listed only two leverage points in an effort to make it plausible even to staunch dissenters of “diversity”. In my recent work, Diversity Science Research Series Volume I, I create the metaphysics of workforce diversity and provide examples of minority occupancy in the workforce; these are actual experiences provided by interviewees. There are supporting statistics for most social categories and the findings contrast what is mostly reported on diversity in America and how it is managed in most organizations. I believe that this is a document that can help our nation move beyond the diversity conundrum. Whether this is a step that “we” want to take regarding the management of diversity in this country is questionable.

Dr. Robinson can be reached by phone at 877-668-4575 or email (preferred) clr@h-cm.net. In addition if you would like to comment on the company website; theoretical models; articles; and/or general questions feel free to post them in the company forum at <http://ur.train-inglive.net>. Your question, concern, or comment is surely shared by others. But if we fail to voice them then no change or learning can ever result. I look forward to your comments. Your analytical imagination can change the world if you let it.



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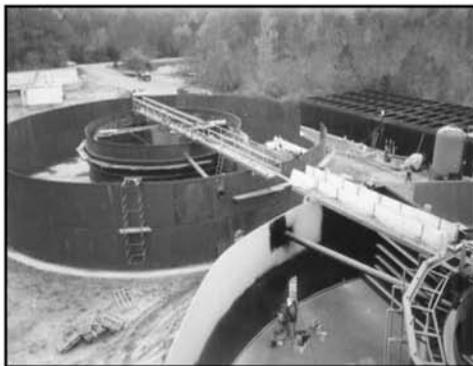
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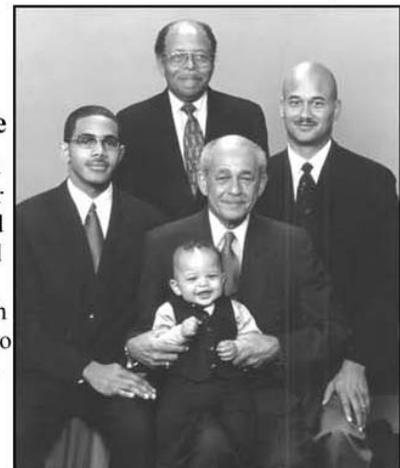
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Why? Because we are targeted to gold chains, saggy pants, and malt liquor we see little or no encouragement to protect our most valuable asset, “THE POWER OF OUR SPENDING DOLLAR”. If we as African Americans take the time to educate ourselves we could truly see how powerful we really are and what we can become.

We have a choice in how and what we spend and we need to educate and discipline ourselves to make better spending choices. Sure it is o.k. to entertain ourselves and even buy the material things but what do you really have to show for all the extravagances that you put on your list to buy? We have lost focus on the piece of the “American Dream” we continue to buy the “Bling” and make our counterparts rich. We allow their communities to grow and prosper while we continue to work two or three jobs to make ends meet because we won’t save our money and finance our dreams of homeownership. We ruin our credit and destroy our children’s credit by putting credit in their names. We destroy our own neighborhoods with drugs, crime and hatred. African Americans must learn to create businesses to earn money instead of spending it to create debt.

African Americans are less likely to receive information about loan programs that would help them achieve the “American Dream.” Who is at fault that we don’t get this info? It’s our own. With a vast of info from our state and local news to the internet, we are at fault for oppressing ourselves. We have to do our own research and ask questions. If you don’t know ask someone who does and if the answers are not satisfactory to you keep searching. We have knowledge! We have the power! Let’s empower ourselves by becoming owners of businesses and homeowners. Let’s get that 40 acres and a mule that we were promised. As Colonel Brown put it: “The difference between your former and your present condition is this: formerly your labor was directed, and the proceeds is taken by your masters and you were cared for by them, now you are to direct and receive the proceeds of your own labor and care for yourselves.”

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- Emergency sharpening of scissors can be achieved by cutting aluminum foil.
- When you crack a favorite dish, or plate, put it in a pan of milk and boil it for 45 minutes. Not only will the crack usually disappear, but the dish actually becomes stronger.
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- Rub butter or margarine over the cut portion of cheese to keep it from drying out.
- Freezer paper makes inexpensive shelf or drawer lining. Place shiny side out.
- When washing dishes by hand, eliminate soap film on glassware by adding a little vinegar to the water.
- Spill wine at a party? Sprinkle table salt on the stain. When dried, brush off.
- The easy way to clean a blender. Pour water in half-way mark, add a drop of detergent, put lid on top and push start.
- Always buy extra toothbrushes; you never know who may spend the night.
- Food too salty? Correct this problem by adding one teaspoon sugar mix with one teaspoon of vinegar to it.
- Rubbing alcohol or white vinegar cleans windows spotless.
- Instead of throwing away used aluminum foil, use it as a pot and pan scrubber.
- Postage stamp not sticking. Put clear finger nail polish on back. Let dry, then mail.



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To bring together various segments of the community in an effort to inform the public of the need for governmental action to help solve Florida's education, healthcare, economic, and social problems.

To issue public statements and to give testimony before legislative bodies urging the support of or opposition to ballot initiatives as well as passage of legislation concerned with Florida's problems.

To directly contact legislators as order to solicit their support of legislative proposals initiated or supported by the Florida Legislative Black Caucus.

To monitor the proper administration of existing laws.

Senator Anthony "Tony" Hill, Sr., District 1, Jacksonville, has served as Chairman of the Florida Legislative Black Caucus for the past two years. He states, "As the legislative sessions races to a close we are reminded of our purpose as state officials serving the people of this great state. We promise to continue to address the many issues surrounding our communities such as poverty, public education, healthcare, housing, economic development, adult and juvenile justice, to name a few. We assure you that we will stay in the fight to embrace these issues and strive to enhance the lives of the people we serve."

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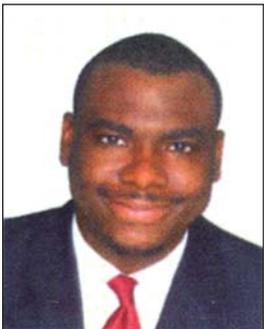
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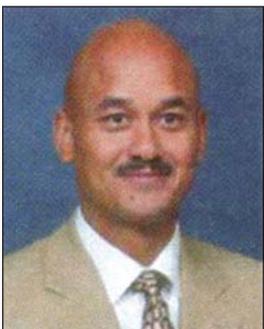
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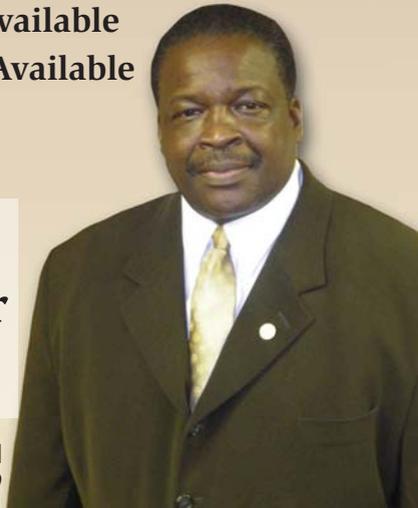
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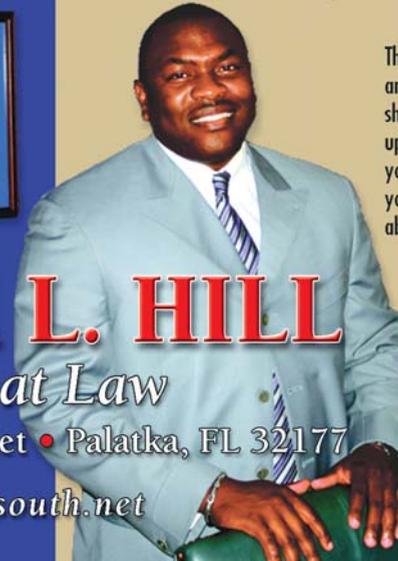
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Soul Food – Reinvented for Today’s Family

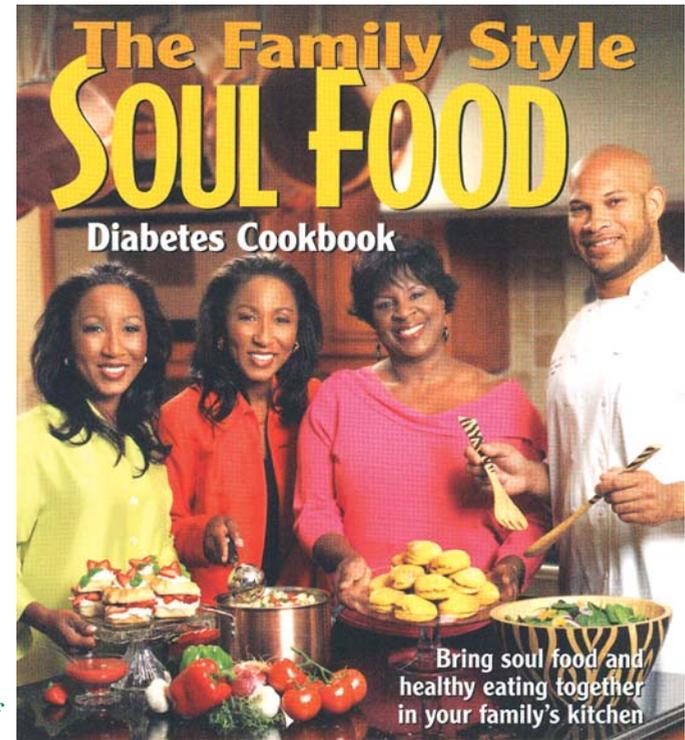
Soul food is a style of cooking that originated during American slavery. It is a common term used for an ethnic cuisine: the food traditionally prepared and eaten by African Americans.

Many of the various dishes and ingredients included in “soul food” are regional meals and comprise a part of Southern cooking. African slaves were given only the leftover and undesirable cuts of meat from their masters (whereas the white slave owners got the meatiest cuts of ham, roast, etc) Soul food is known for its robust flavor and delightful taste, and even though it arose from slavery, soul food is popular with most Southerners, both black and white.

Over the years, it has become apparent to us that there is a need to evaluate the nutritional content of soul food and to find exciting ways to improve its nutritional value while maintaining culture and tradition. We have found that it can be done. Many of the vegetables consumed in soul food are rich in vitamins, minerals and fiber. African Americans traditionally “made more” with vegetables, than “made do” with select soul food choices. Today, it is just as simple to take generations of recipes and create heart healthy substitutions using simple ingredients, all the while maintaining our valuable soul food traditions.

Cooking Soul Food the New Soul Food Way

You can easily make your regional and family favorites healthy with just a few substitutions and changes. This is what we like to call the New Soul Food Way. The following is a list of dishes or ingredients commonly found in soul food and how to make your meals healthier.



Left to Right: Roniece Weaver MS RD LD, Rojean L. Williams MS RD LD, Fabiola Gaines RD LD, and Shawn Fralin, Executive Chef

OLD SOUL FOOD	NEW SOUL FOOD WAY
Biscuits (a shortbread similar to scones, commonly served with butter, jam, jelly, sorghum or cane syrup, or gravy, and used to wipe up or “sop” liquids from a dish) Generally an oversize serving can be equal to two or three slices of bread.	Cut that portion in half and/or use sugar free jams and jellies. Reduce the amount of fat used in baking them.
Black eye peas (cooked separately or with rice, as in dishes such as Hoppin’ John).	Prepare with low-sodium bouillon, olive oil, smoked turkey necks and other spices instead of bacon fat drippings.
Butter beans and other dried, frozen or canned beans (eg immature lima beans, usually cooked in butter).	Prepare with low-sodium bouillon, olive oil, smoked turkey necks and other spices instead of bacon fat drippings.
Catfish (dredge in cornmeal and fried)	Pan fry, grill, or smoke catfish instead of frying.
Chicken (often fried with cornmeal breading or seasoned flour)	Oven fry (ie bake) chicken at high temperature to achieve the same crispy texture.
Chitterlings (Chitlins) – the cleaned and prepared intestines of hogs, slow-cooked, and often eaten with vinegar and hot sauce; sometimes parboiled and then battered and fried.	Make this a special dish for holidays only, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Keep serving sizes at less than 3 ounces.
Chow-chow- (a spicy, homemade pickle relish made with okra, corn, cabbage, green tomatoes, and other vegetables); commonly used to top black-eye peas, as a condiment or as a side dish.	This food is already pretty healthy. You don’t need to change it.
Collard Greens or Turnip Greens (usually cooked with ham hocks and often combined with other greens)	Prepare without meat or use low sodium bouillon or smoked turkey necks for flavoring. Use other herbs and flavorings that complement your recipes instead of fat.
Cornbread (shortbread that is often baked in an iron skillet, sometimes seasoned with bacon fat) and chicken fried steak (beef or chicken deep fried in flour or batter, usually served with gravy)	Prepare your cornbread with light (1%) sour cream or nonfat milk.
Cracklins (commonly known as pork rinds and sometimes added to cornbread batter)	Avoid adding this to your foods; cracklins are high in fat and don’t add much value to what you’re eating.
Desserts: cakes pies, cookies etc.	Use egg substitutes, low fat margarines and sugar substitutes such as Splenda baking for your sweet treats.
Fatback (fatty, cured, salted pork used to season meats and vegetables).	Prepare without meat or use low sodium bouillon or smoked turkey necks for flavoring. Use other herbs and flavorings that will complement these recipes instead of fat.

OLD SOUL FOOD	NEW SOUL FOOD WAY
Fried fish (any of several varieties of fish, such as whiting, catfish, porgies, bluegill; usually dredged in seasoned cornmeal and deep fried).	Bake, broil, poach, grill or pan fry these tasty fish.
Fried ice cream (ice cream that is deep frozen, coated with cookies and fried)	Have sorbet or sugar-free ice cream for dessert, in 1/2 cup servings.
Grits and cheese grits (often served with fish)	Prepare with water or nonfat milk instead of with whole milk. For cheese grits, use reduced fat cheeses.
Ham hocks (smoked and used to flavor vegetables and legumes/beans) Hog maws (or Hog Jowls, sliced and usually cooked with chitlins and beans)	Prepare without meat or use low sodium bouillon or smoked turkey necks for flavoring. Use other herbs and flavorings that complement your recipes instead of fat.
Hot sauce (a condiment made from cayenne peppers, vinegar, salt, garlic, and other spices), but not the same as Tabasco sauce, which has heat, but little flavor; often used on chitlins, fried chicken and fish.	You can use this as you like. It’s a great healthy substitute for fat-based flavorings.
Macaroni and cheese – a family favorite comfort food.	Use egg substitute, nonfat milk and reduced-fat cheeses.
Mashed potatoes (usually made with butter and evaporated milk)	Prepare with reduced fat margarine and non fat milk.
Meatloaf and meatballs (typically served with brown gravy).	Use lean ground beef or ground turkey breast to make these family favorites.
Neck bones (beef neck bones or pork neck bones – seasoned and slow cooked) and Okra (an African vegetable usually fried in cornmeal or stewed with tomatoes, corn, onions and hot peppers)	Prepare without meat or use low sodium bouillon or smoked turkey necks for flavoring. Use other herbs and flavorings that will complement these recipes instead of fat.
Pig feet (slow cooked, like chitlins, sometimes pickled and often eaten with vinegar and hot sauce).	Prepare without meat or use low sodium bouillon or smoked turkey necks for flavoring. Use other herbs and flavorings that will complement these recipes instead of fat.
Ribs (usually pork, but sometimes beef ribs)	Grill pork tenderloin instead of ribs to decrease your fat intake.
Rice (usually served with dried beans)	Use brown or wild rice instead of white rice. This will increase your fiber intake.
Succotash (originally a Native American dish of yellow corn and butter beans, usually cooked in butter)	Prepare without meat or use low sodium bouillon or smoked turkey necks for flavoring. Use other herbs and flavorings that will complement these recipes instead of fat.
Sweet potatoes and yams (candied or baked)	Use Splenda or a sugar substitute for sweetening and cooking.

A Message From
BILL COSBY



“We Can’t Blame White People”

*“They’re standing on the corner and they
can’t speak English.*

I can’t even talk the way these people talk:

*Why you ain’t,
Where you is,
What he drive,
Where he stay,
Where he work,
Who you be...*

And I blamed the kid until I heard the mother talk.

And then I heard the father talk.

*Everybody knows it’s important to speak English except
these knuckleheads.*

*You can’t be a doctor with that kind of crap coming
out of your mouth. In fact you will never get any
kind of job making a decent living.*

*People marched and were hit in the face with rocks
to get an education, and now we’ve got these
knuckleheads walking around.*

*The lower economic people are not holding up
their end in this deal.*

These people are not parenting.

They are buying things for kids. \$500 sneakers for what?

And they won’t spend \$200 for Hooked on Phonics.

*I am talking about these people who cry when
their son is standing there in an orange suit.*

Where were you when he was 2?

Where were you when he was 12?

*Where were you when he was 18 and how come
you didn’t know that he had a pistol?*

And where is the father? Or who is his father?

People putting their clothes on backward:

Isn’t that a sign of something gone wrong?

*People with their hats on backward, pants down
around the crack, isn’t that a sign of something?
Or are you waiting for Jesus to pull his pants up?*

*Isn’t it a sign of something when she has her dress
all the way up and got all type of needles [piercing]
going through her body?*

What part of Africa did this come from?

We are not Africans.

*Those people are not Africans;
they don’t know a thing about Africa. With names
like Shaniqua, Taliqua and Mohammed and
all of them are in jail.*

*Brown or black versus the Board of Education is no
longer the white person’s problem.*

We have got to take the neighborhood back.

People used to be ashamed.

*Today a woman has eight children with eight different
‘husbands’ — or men or whatever you call them now.*

We have millionaire football players who cannot read.

*We have million-dollar basketball players who can’t
write two paragraphs.*

We as black folks have to do a better job.

*Someone working at Wal-Mart with seven kids, you are
hurting us.*

We have to start holding each other to a higher standard.

We cannot blame the white people any longer”

Black Males and College: A Role for the Church

By Eddie Bell
New Paltz, NY
Guest Columnist

Young black males are opting out of the college experience in alarming numbers. The black church can help reverse this trend through an intervention strategy that can pay big dividends. To accomplish this challenging, but commendable endeavor, the church must be willing to assume the roles of motivator, counselor, teacher, and in many instances, the role of substitute parent.

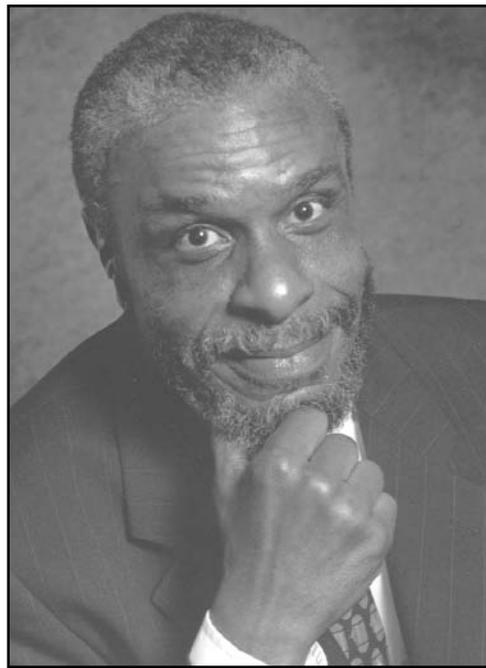
Society at-large has failed young black men. This truism is evidenced by the following dreadful statistics highlighting their position in the educational spectrum. Among 16-25 year olds in the nation in 2001, 13% of African American males had dropped out of high school (U.S. Dept. of Ed.); 42% of all African American boys have failed an entire grade at least once (U.S. Census); and in 1994 there were approximately 678,300 black males behind bars in federal and state prisons and local jails (Bureau of Justice). In that same year, the National Center for Education Statistics reported there were 549,600 black males in college. This means that in 1994 there were 128,700 more black males in jail than were in college!

With a relatively small financial investment, the black church can make significant progress in improving the rate that its young black male charges choose college over the unrelenting influences of street. This revolution can be accomplished by a twofold approach: developing plans that combine the resources of willing families, businesses, foundations, community service agencies and schools; and establishing multi-tiered college clubs (taking into account age, grade and maturity) that address early college awareness and comprehensive personal development.

church-based college clubs can be an effective tool for increasing student persistence in high school and enhancing student academic achievement. They can also be an important element in making the church relevant to their lives.

My many years as a senior university administrator have afforded me intimate involvement with the stakeholders in the educational system: parents, students, teachers, counselors and university administrators. Each of these entities can profit from an increased population of academically qualified black males. Therefore the ground is fertile for church-based college clubs to develop partnerships with schools, colleges and community agencies that can work together towards achieving this end.

The downward spiral of black male academic performance that frequently begins in the middle school grades and accelerates as they enter high school is virtually predictable. Thus the middle school years are an appropriate entry point for goal directed church-based college clubs. Early intervention, before black males sour on the school experience, can increase the potential for maximum success as measured by improved rates of high school graduation and college



Eddie Bell

enrollment.

There are, of course, complex issues working against the advancement of black males: poor schools, negative peer pressure, teenage pregnancy, lack of parental involvement, drugs and gangs, which must be addressed if there is to be substantial, uniform progress for minorities in the educational arena. This article, though not ignoring these larger societal issues, focuses on the role church-based college clubs can play in support of black male achievement.

We start with the reality that the black church is in a unique position to influence the lives of their black male youth by means other than placing total reliance on their spiritual development. It is probably a safe assumption to state that a significant number, possibly a majority of black males, attend church at one time or another during their formative years. This implies that the raw material is already in

place. The church need only take advantage of its captive audience that includes not only the young men, but also parents and grandparents. The challenge begins within congregations by building a child-centered atmosphere with a priority focus on educational advancement.

The primary task of church-based college clubs is to provide motivation, information and tools that enable black youth, (in this instance black males) to persist in high school and meet or exceed the admission requirements of the college of their choice. Coincidentally, it is a particularly advantageous time for the establishment of college clubs because of the vast array of obtainable opportunities for pursuing a college education at the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities.

The formation of church-based college clubs will not magically ensure college admission or relieve the individual student of his or her obligation to pursue high academic achievement. The college club is a supplementary project that should work in conjunction with middle and secondary schools to enhance students' academic preparation and their ability to establish goals and behavioral traits that lead to college admission.

Although each church-based college club should be structured to meet the needs of the students they intend to serve, there are twelve fundamental elements that should be basic to each club:

1. A well thought out plan of action with stated goals and objectives
2. Established rules for membership, participation and behavior
3. Instruction in the college admission process
4. Regular outside of class reading assignments
5. Personal essay writing instruction
6. Regular oral presentations of members' writing assignments
7. Standardized test preparation
8. Study-skills instruction
9. Computer access
10. College tours
11. Cultural exploration
12. Community service projects and summer internships

See ROLE FOR CHURCH page 18

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ROLE FOR CHURCH

continued from page 17

College clubs can be staffed by volunteers within the church or from the wider community, including college students affiliated with volunteer programs such as AmeriCorps. The basic requirements for the director should be a college degree and/or substantial experience in higher education; be an advocate of high academic standards; and possess a willingness to practice 'tough love' with their charges. Additional resources can be found on nearby college campuses and schools or within professional college counseling associations. Corporations can also be a valuable resource for professional volunteers and financial support.

Other important elements for college clubs are a confidential maintenance system for academic records, routine club meeting schedules, year-end program evaluations, and annual recognition/award programs for club members that persist. A 'parents club' may be difficult to form in the beginning, but is certainly a worthy goal to pursue. Parental participation can be the most significant factor in their child's educational career.

In summary, church-based college clubs can be an effective tool for increasing student persistence in high school and enhancing student academic achievement. They can also be an important element in making the church relevant to their lives.

The key to exercising the church's role in increasing black male college enrollment through college clubs is straight forward: acknowledge the issue and develop workable strategies that address the needs of aspiring pre-college students. It is appropriate and necessary to begin with 'doable projects' that evolve as the church grows in experience and resources. The payoff is watching the young men and women that you have nurtured from the time of their middle school years walk across the stage at their college graduation ready to make the world a better place for all of us.

Resource references for college clubs:

National Association for College Admission Counseling
(www.nacacnet.org)
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
(GEAR UP) (www.gearup.nmhu.edu)
AmeriCorps (www.americorps.org)
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I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Psalm 121



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A Peek at the Mormons

By Reverend Anthony M. Graham
Emmanuel Church of the Living God
Ormond Beach, Florida



Reverend Anthony M. Graham

I am sure everyone has seen the commercials from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints about family values, healthy living, and the always-blissful people that offer to send you a free Bible if you call. From the way the message of their commercials flow, it seems like this group is fulfilling the great commission by reaching out to the unchurched. However, upon further investigation, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly called the “Mormons”, is nothing but a cult draped in the appearance of a Christian organization.

Most people know little about the Mormons. They may be familiar with the names of the popular leaders, Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, and their practice of polygamy, but have no clue of their teachings or beliefs. Some Christians perceive the Mormons as just a conservative church with strict rules (no alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, coffee, or tea), but do not realize that there are major fundamental differences between this organization and most Orthodox/Traditional Christian churches.

Joseph Smith established the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1830 with a handful of members in the beginning. They believe that their organization is the only true and living church on the earth. This belief is the driving force behind their desire to deliver their message to the world, including Christians from other church organizations.

They have four canonized scripture books that they call the “Standard Works” of the church: The Holy Bible (King James version only), the Book of Mormon (translation of golden plates found by the founder), the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. The principals and teachings of these books constantly contradict themselves, but do not matter to the Mormons because the books are subject to the interpretation of the leader/Seer/Prophet/President of the church.

The Mormons portray themselves as a Christian organization that follows the teachings of Jesus, but the leadership of most Christian organizations is clearly subject to the teachings of the Bible. This is not the case with the Mormons. The absolute power given to the head of the organization to overrule or override the “Standard Works”, including The Holy Bible, explains why the doctrine of the Mormons is out of step with the beliefs of most Christian organizations.

Let us examine and scrutinize three beliefs and teachings of the Mormons to see if they are in harmony with the teachings of Christianity. We are going to look at their teachings about God, Jesus, and The Bible.

GOD THE FATHER – According to the Mormons, God the Father was once a man and has a resurrected body of flesh and bones. They believe that He is the example of what humans can

become when they achieve exaltation after they obey all the commandments of the Mormon Church. They believe that God was rewarded with this planet for his faithful service on another planet. According to the “Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, page 345, “*God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens. We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see.*” This belief about God goes against the teachings of the Bible that declare in Psalm 90:2, “...even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God”, and John 4:24 that states, “God is a Spirit”, not a human.

JESUS THE SON – According to the “Journal of Discourse”, Vol. 8: page 115, “*The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood – was begotten of his Father; as we were of our fathers.*” In other words, Mary cheated on her espoused husband Joseph and had physical sex with God. This is one of the most heinous and irresponsible distortions of events surrounding the birth of Jesus. The Christmas story outlined in the Gospels makes it clear that Mary was a virgin when she was pregnant with Jesus. Isaiah 7:14 sheds clarity to this argument by stating, “...Behold, a virgin shall conceive”, not a woman knocked up by God.

The Mormons also believe that Jesus is the literal spirit brother of Satan. Christians know that this doctrine is false because Jesus is the Son of God. One of the fundamental scriptures in the Gospel is John 3:16 where Jesus is described correctly as the “only begotten Son”.

THE BIBLE – Most Christian organizations depend upon the Bible as the Word of God. The Mormons have degraded the Bible to a level where it is just one of their “Standard Works”, and is only good if interpreted correctly from the King James version by the head of the organization. This is incorrect, because II Timothy 3:16 declares, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God.*” The word of the head of any Christian organization should never have precedent over THE HOLY BIBLE, but this is exactly the case with the Mormons.

There are many different Christian organizations in the world. We have different beliefs about Baptism (sprinkle or immersion), women in ministry, communion (real wine or grape juice), and the Trinity (Jesus Only or Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Nevertheless, when the rubber meets the road, whether Baptist or Methodist, Pentecostal or Presbyterian, Episcopal or

see **MORMONS** page 30



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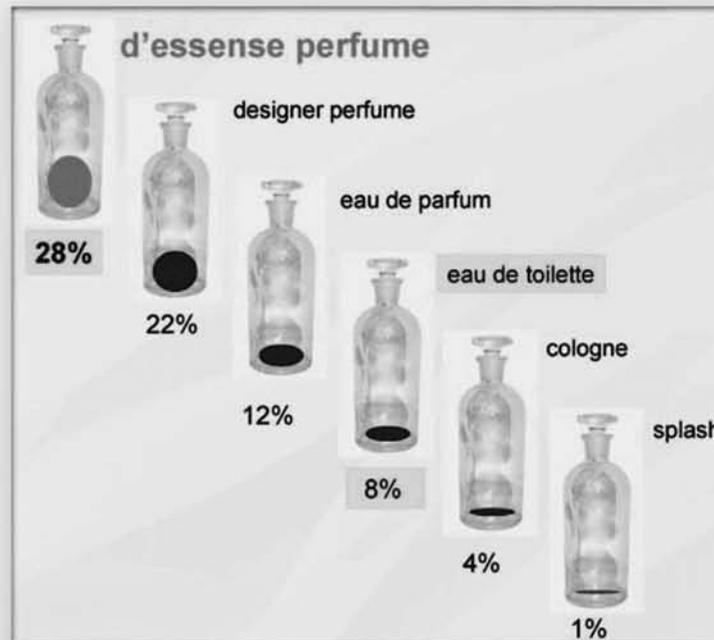
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When selecting the appropriate hair style, take into consideration your lifestyle, maintenance, budget, and how you would like to be perceived by others perception. For example, a fun energetic hair cut with multi colors is excellent for a retail position or the fashion industry but taboo for a school principal. In the retail industry the consumer is always looking for something new and exciting and a fun creative image may compliment the sale. Whereas in the professional industry, structure and order are a priority and an outgoing appearance may send the wrong message and could be considered a distraction.

IMAGE QUIZ: match the letter description with the appropriate profession.

- a) Trendy, dramatic hair cut, multi hair color and style
- b) Conservative tailored cut, color and style

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When Wisdom Speaks!

By Pastor Leon R. Bing
North Jacksonville Family Worship Center

Greetings to each and everyone you of you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I want to share with you a word that I pray will bless you and give you the encouragement to seek God with all diligence and faith.

I often wonder why it seems that many people live their lives as though they just don't have any clue as to what the Lord has directed them to do as it pertains to their lives. Some people attend church services and appear to have a grand time, but when they walk out of the door, they go back to the same way of life, a life that isn't producing any fruit. Some still have money issues, marriage issues, social issues, and of course, sin issues. Well, I think I know one of the many reasons, and that is what I want to share with you at this time. As I often do, I want to use the New Living Translation to help make this as plan as possible. Let's look at Proverbs chapter 8.

Proverbs 8

- 1 Listen as wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice!
- 2 She stands on the hilltop and at the crossroads.
- 3 At the entrance to the city, at the city gates, she cries aloud,
- 4 "I call to you, to all of you! I am raising my voice to all people.

One of the things that the saints of God needs to understand is that "Wisdom calls out" to every one of us! Wisdom is not silent, and it is not done in secrecy. Wisdom is calling out from every part of the earth! Everywhere that the Word is going forth, Wisdom is speaking out. We need to understand that all over the world as each minute goes by; someone somewhere is proclaiming the Word of God! Just as with every passing minute there are prayers going up to the Father somewhere in the world 24 hours a day. So as prayers go up, Wisdom speaks out! Wisdom is made available to all who choose to hear.

- 5 How naive you are! Let me give you common sense. O foolish ones, let me give you understanding.
- 6 Listen to me! For I have excellent things to tell you. Everything I say is right,
- 7 for I speak the truth and hate every kind of deception.
- 8 My advice is wholesome and good. There is nothing crooked or twisted in it.
- 9 My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those who want to learn.

Not only does wisdom speaks out to us but wisdom desires that we listen and that we take heed. Wisdom has excellent things to say to us, and everything that wisdom has to say is right! Now what you must understand is that if you have a need, then it is in your best interest to listen to what wisdom has to say to you in order to get the blessing, deliverance, or direction that you need. One thing we



can count on is this, wisdom speaks the truth and does not deceive, and in fact wisdom hates deception! That is why we must learn to seek what wisdom is saying and not just accept what man is saying. How is that done some are asking? The

Word of God gives witness to itself. In other words, judge the Word by the Word. And as verse 9 tells us, the Word is made plain to those with understanding and clear to those who want to learn! **Proverbs 4:7 "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." KJV**

- 10 "Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge over pure gold.
- 11 For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can be compared with it.
- 12 "I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.
- 13 All who fear the LORD will hate evil. That is why I hate pride, arrogance, corruption, and perverted speech.
- 14 Good advice and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine.

When it comes to wisdom you have to make a choice, to truly seek after Wisdom, or continue to put other desires ahead of Wisdom. I pray that the day comes soon when we all choose to put wisdom first. How can there be a difference? First Wisdom knows where to discover knowledge, look at verse 12, Wisdom lives with good judgment, and Wisdom seeks discernment. Wisdom lists character traits that He hates; **pride, arrogance, corruption, and perverted speech.** What we must understand is that if you are seeking after Wisdom, you must come "correct", what I mean by that is you must be walking in truth, not trying to hide your sin. Remember Wisdom hates deception. If you want true direction for your life, then listen to Wisdom, for "Good advice and success belongs to Wisdom" and "Insight and strength is His."

- 15 Because of me, kings reign, and rulers make just laws.
- 16 Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments.
- 17 "I love all who love me. Those who search for me will surely find me.
- 18 Unending riches, honor, wealth, and justice are mine to distribute.
- 19 My gifts are better than the purest gold, my wages better than sterling silver!
- 20 I walk in righteousness, in paths of justice.
- 21 Those who love me inherit wealth, for I fill their treasuries.

Wisdom is speaking here of those who have sought after Him, these are rulers who have reign and ruled well. Those today who

see **LEON BING** page 30

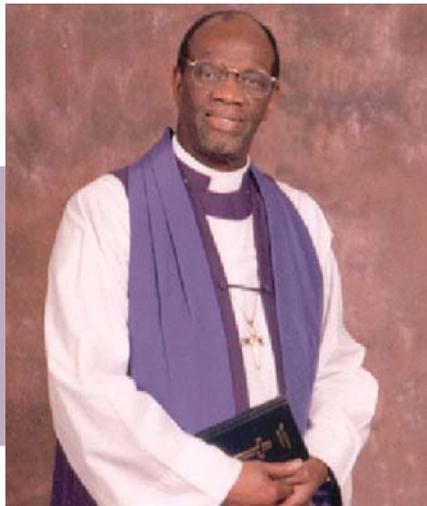
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African American Chamber Names Bell Interim Executive Director



Lonnie C. Bell

The Board of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida has named Lonnie C. Bell its new interim executive director. A recent retiree from Agere Systems, Bell is currently president of the Orlando Utilities Commission and is a past chairman of the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of Governors said Bell, a long-time Central Florida Business and Community Leader, will be responsible for the organization's programming, economic development, fund raising, membership development, partnerships, operations and public relations activities.

"We are extremely excited to have attracted someone of Lonnie Bells' caliber to lead our organization," said Paul Wyche, chairman of the Chamber's Board of Governors. "His wealth of experience and thoughtful leadership will be a tremendous asset to the Chamber and Central Florida's Black Business Community."

"I am excited to work with the Board of Governors and the Chamber team to help build and sustain the Central Florida business community," said Bell. "There is a lot of hard work to be done but we definitely have the experience and the resolve to make phenomenal inclusive business cooperation the standard in Central Florida."

Bell will be responsible for promoting the mission and objectives of the African American Chamber of Commerce by serving as an advocate on issues critical to the economic success of Central Florida's Black businesses, recruiting and servicing Chamber members, creating strong relationships with partners and sponsors, and building and sustaining an effective public image.

"This opportunity gives me the chance to help our business community to reach out to one another and connect the proverbial dots of economic development, workforce development and overall business development," Bell concluded.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Bell has been an Orlando resident since 1984 and recently retired from Agere Systems after 22 years. Bell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Central State (Ohio) University and a MBA from the University of Phoenix. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and a graduate of Leadership Orlando and Leadership Florida. Bell is a strong proponent of education and workforce development and has supported those interests through involvement with the NAACP, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida High Tech Corridor and Workforce 2020.

He and his wife, Joanne, have two children Greg (Florida A&M University) and Erin (Xavier University). In addition to the OUC Board, Bell serves on the boards of the Preserve Eatonville Community and the Red Cross of Central Florida.

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida serves as an advocacy and networking organization to promote and empower African American businesses throughout Central Florida, including Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and Volusia counties. For more information, visit www.blackcommerce.org



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Realty Speaking

Rising Foreclosure Rates Lead to Falling Home Values: The Immediate Future of Florida's Real Estate

By Linda McInnis, ABR, CRS, CSP, GRI
Jacksonville, Florida

(PRWEB) While Florida's foreclosure rate rose only 2% from 2005 to 2006, the volume of homes entering some stage of foreclosure was still the highest in the nation, topping out at 19,140. Over the past few years Florida has been home to one of the most unique real estate markets in the country as rapid development, rising home values and foreclosures have all come together to create a scenario of inflated home values and falling demand that points to a large imbalance in the market.

Ever since the early part of the decade, when the real estate market nationally showed signs of a boom, investors have been buying up homes and land in Florida. Predicting a surge in demand for housing, especially in the southern region of the state, due to a growing economy, Florida began to be developed at an incredible rate, and surely enough, growth followed right behind. This led to soaring property values, as well as a huge increase in the amount of new mortgage being taken out.

Many of these new mortgages were sub-prime loans, meaning they were doled out for extremely low down payments to borrowers with bad credit, who in other scenarios would not have been able to afford a home. However, most of these loans carried Adjustable Rates, so while the loan stayed at a low introductory rate for the first year of their life, after that period was up they began to rise drastically with the national average. This has led to an epidemic of defaulted borrowers unable to keep up with their loan payments, and many blame ARMs for being the leading cause of foreclosure in Florida.

However, now that job creation seems to be slowing in Florida, and the foreclosure scenario is leading many to reassess the state of Florida's real estate market, many things are becoming clear. While record development has occurred in the past few years, there is now a huge inventory of homes on the market due to the slowing pace of sales and the scare brought on by the foreclosure epidemic.

As a result, many are predicting Florida's sky high home values to come down significantly, though it's going to take time.



Linda McInnis
Broker Associate

Inflated home values are also seen as a huge cause of the foreclosure scene in Florida, since the higher the home value, the bigger the loan needed to buy them. Investors are becoming victims of their own role in driving up prices as well, since many are finding that they are stuck with extremely expensive homes that they are unable to sell for the values they predicted. This reflects the national trend as well, where the median home value from 2005 to 2006 stayed at \$222,000 with no gain whatsoever. In Florida, which already bucks national trends in the foreclosure market by having more than double the national rate of foreclosure, the median home price is practically guaranteed to see a significant drop. Some experts are predicting that over the next two years, home prices in Florida could drop by anywhere between 5 and 15%, depending on the region.

So for investors who avoided the rush to buy up home in Florida 5 or 6 years ago, now might be the time. Falling home values and a foreclosure inventory that is predicted to rise even further will give you plenty to choose from, and buying a foreclosure is likely to provide an even bigger discount.

It seems Florida's long unstable market is finally beginning to feel the effects of rampant development and over-investment.

Linda McInnis is a Real Estate Broker Associate and can be reached at CLLPMC@aol.com or by calling (904) 571-3619.



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GOVERNOR PATRICK ESTABLISHES FORECLOSURE MORATORIUM

Boston, MA (April 30, 2007) – Governor Patrick’s announcement today essentially establishes a moratorium on foreclosures. The Division of Banks will request that lenders delay auctions for at least sixty days for any Massachusetts resident who submit a complaint to them. The Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (“NACA”) and Massachusetts’s homeowners at risk of foreclosure strongly endorse and thank Governor Patrick for finding a way to stop foreclosures in Massachusetts.

While Governor Patrick and Attorney General Martha Coakley, could not explicitly institute a foreclosure moratorium they created a process that accomplishes that and more. “No lender,” states Bruce Marks, NACA CEO, “will say to the Massachusetts’s governor and attorney general, ‘drop dead’ when they request a delay of an auction. In addition, NACA is always ready and wiling to use its confrontational advocacy against the CEOs of lenders who go against the top public officials of Massachusetts.”

The Governor also requested that lenders modify their loans to what the homeowners can afford. These loans were not affordable over the long term and now it is the responsibility of the lenders to make them work. It is in no ones interest to foreclose. The commitment of lenders to modify loans is crucial since counseling cannot be effective without the cooperation of the lenders in converting these loans to truly affordable homeownership.

Governor Patrick’s Foreclosure Moratorium establishes a nationwide standard for what a governor can do to protect the citizens of their state. “The Governor’s efforts,” states Raymona Bowen a homeowner at risk of foreclosure “demonstrates the kind of leadership that is needed. We were very impressed last Thursday when Governor Patrick took the time to hear directly from me and the families being affected. He promised to do the right thing. He stopped my auction and now many others.”

The majority of loans written in the past few years have adjustable rates which are now resetting. The initial interest rates on these loans are often affordable, but many are resetting at double that rate or more, triggering a massive number of foreclosures and destabilizing communities. While NACA has committed one billion dollars to refinance homeowners out of predatory loans, Governor Patrick has stepped forward with a life line. Massachusetts homeowners need to become aware that real assistance is available. Homeowners are urged to call the Division of Banks at 1-800-495-BANK (2265) and can file a consumer complaint form available at www.mass.gov/consumer or NACA at www.naca.com or 1-888-297-5568.

About The Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA):

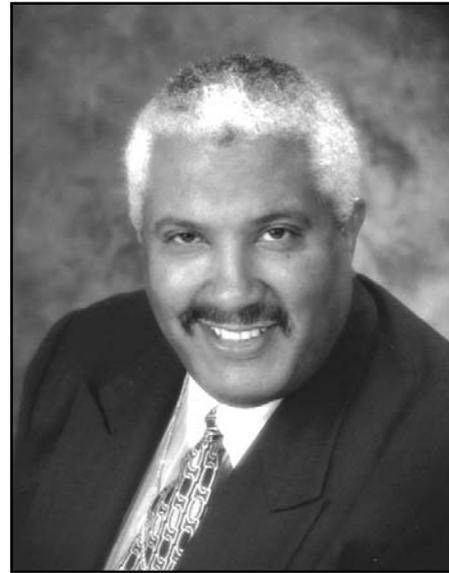
NACA, a national non-profit community advocacy and homeownership organization established in 1988, has been the lead organization in the fight to identify, expose, and oppose predatory lending and exploitive lending practices. NACA first exposed Fleet Bank’s lending abuses in 1991, followed by numerous other campaigns against companies that victimize low- and moderate-income people pursuing the dream of homeownership. NACA has more than 30 offices across the country and an unmatched program and national model for doing lending to working people *the right way*. NACA’s program and advocacy have been featured in the national and local media nationwide.

THE DEVIL'S SECRET WEAPON "UNBELIEF"

By Reverend Dr. Carlton Jones
Jacksonville, Florida

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, Peace be with you. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to the, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" New King James Version Study Bible John 20:19-31.

Now, Thomas, called the Twin (Didymus), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to



Rev. Dr. Carlton D. Jones

believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Do not let the devil block your blessings through doubt and unbelief. Thomas had to see Jesus in order to believe that He is alive. "Yes, Jesus is alive and is coming back again." The devil creates doubt and unbelief in our mind when it comes to believing in Jesus Christ. Jesus, said that we can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us." Jesus did not say we can do something's or a few things, but that we can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us.

When Jesus breathed on His disciples in verse John 20:22 and said unto them receive the Holy Ghost. The reference here reflects a special preparation of the apostles who became the foundation of the Church at Pentecost. Here Jesus breathed the Spirit onto the disciples. At Pentecost, the Spirit unified the believers into one body and empowered them to testify of Jesus. The reception of the Spirit here is reminiscent of the creative breath of God into Adam in Genesis 2:7 "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." This to is a test of our belief that God created us in His image and likeness, or do we believe that we were created out of the evolution of some unknown life cell?

I believe that God is God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit created us in God's image and likeness. God has given us a free will and it is up to us to believe in the Holy Trinity and receive the power of the Holy Ghost who takes us through the storms of life, who heals our bodies and has the power to transforms our bodies from mortality to immortality. Jesus came back to show the doubting Thomas's that in Jesus Christ name, we will be transformed from mortality to immortality.

Do not let the Devil through his tools of doubt and unbelief block your blessing. Jesus has given us the power of deliverance and the gifts that God has in store for us who believe in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "Peace to you in Jesus name!" Amen, Amen, Amen.

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MORMONS continued from page 19

Catholic, we can all come together and meet on common ground about our beliefs about God, Jesus, and The Bible.

From a distance, the Mormon Church appears to be a Christian organization trying to reach out to the world for Jesus. Upon further examination, their doctrinal beliefs about God, Jesus, and The Bible prove that they are nothing but a cult draped in the image of Christianity.

Reverend Anthony Graham is an ordained Reverend and the Church Administrator at Emmanuel Church of the Living God in Ormond Beach, FL under the tutelage of Bishop Dr. L. Delores Ward. www.amgministries.org

LEON BING continued from page 23

seeks after Wisdom shall be blessed in all areas of there lives, why, because Wisdom loves all who loves Him. If you want to see where you stand when it comes to listening to Wisdom, compare yourselves to verses 17 thru 21. Now if you see that you are a ways off from this model, then you just need to give every effort to listen "When Wisdom Speaks."

22 "The LORD formed me from the beginning, before he created anything else.

23 I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began.

24 I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters.

**25 Before the mountains and the hills were formed, I was born —
26 before he had made the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil.**

27 "I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans.

28 I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established the deep fountains of the earth.

29 I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations,

30 I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence.

31 And how happy I was with what he created — his wide world and all the human family!

Now we begin to identify Wisdom, if you already knew Him then you just may be one that listens when Wisdom speaks. But if you were not sure or did not know, now you understand that there needs to be more diligence in tuning in and listening when Wisdom speaks. In the Old Testament He was the spoken word, in the New Testament He was the Word made flesh, dwelling among man. Now He is the Word in man being proclaimed throughout the world.

32 "And so, my children, listen to me, for happy are all who follow my ways.

33 Listen to my counsel and be wise. Don't ignore it.

34 "Happy are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home!

35 For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the LORD.

36 But those who miss me have injured themselves. All who hate me love death."

The last point to make is this, in pulpits large and small, Wisdom is speaking! Hear Him! Wisdom is being spoken by men, women, young, and old we must learn to tune into wisdom, as a radio tunes in and picks up a certain signal from all of the signals in the atmosphere. Wisdom comes forth from both the teacher as well as the preacher, we must hear Wisdom if we want to see the abundant blessings of God in our lives. I pray that you listen when you hear Wisdom Speak!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

“THE INVISIBLE MAN”

By Aundra Bryant
Tallahassee, Florida

One of the greatest African American writers of our time was Ralph Ellison. He is known for his masterpiece entitled “The Invisible Man” which illustrated how whites treated blacks prior to the Civil Rights Movement. Ellison stressed the fact that we were invisible to whites because they didn’t acknowledge us as citizens nor human beings.

The same emotions that Ralph Ellison had when he wrote his book can be applied today. There is a constant stream of discrimination, injustice, political tricks and down right deliberate acts of hate against blacks and other ethnic groups. However, I believe there is a word from the Lord found in the Book of Joshua Chapter Two. In this chapter, verse eleven says “When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below”.

Joshua had sent two spies to go and look over the land. The spies ended up at the home of a prostitute name Rahab. The Lord placed on her heart an attitude of caring and she hid the spies but in doing so she placed her entire family’s life in danger. The two spies assured her that they wouldn’t do anything to jeopardize her family member’s lives. There are three things that I want to say briefly about the invisible man.



Rev. Aundra Bryant

Firstly, God has three attributes of power. God is omnipotent which means he is all powerful. Rehab realized that God was nothing to play with because she had heard about how God had delivered the children of Israel and destroyed Sihon and Og. We live in an age where people think that they can treat people any kind of way but Paul explains in Galatians that “God is not mock, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”. America needs to learn that when God wrath is

stirred up, we’ve got something on our hands. If I could borrow the words of our ancestors, “He is so high you can’t get over, he is so low you can’t get under and he is so wide that you can’t get around him”.

Secondly, God is omniscient which means that he is all knowing. If you and I would have chose someone’s house to hide out at it probably would have been one of the priest or religious leaders of the church. However, the Word of God tells us that “God’s ways are not like our ways and God’s thoughts are not like our thoughts”. The Lord had checked out Rehab’s heart even before the spies had arrived. Because of our intellectual and technological advances, our leaders feel sometimes that they are hiding something from God. Yet, the songwriter writes, “His eyes are on the sparrow and I know he watches me”.

Finally, God is omnipresent which means that he is everywhere at the same time bumping into himself as the Rev. Jasper Williams points out. Just as God has made a way in the past, he is making a way right now and he will continue to do so in the future. Rehab had insight into the real nature of God because even though she could not see God, she felt with all of her being that he was going to show up and show out.

In conclusion, you have heard the familiar story about the little boy flying his kite. An old man walked by and asked him “Little boy, I see the string but I don’t see your kite, how do you know its still up there?” The little boy said, “Sir, I can’t see it but I know its there because every now and then I can feel the string pulling back and forth”. God looks beyond our faults and sees our needs.

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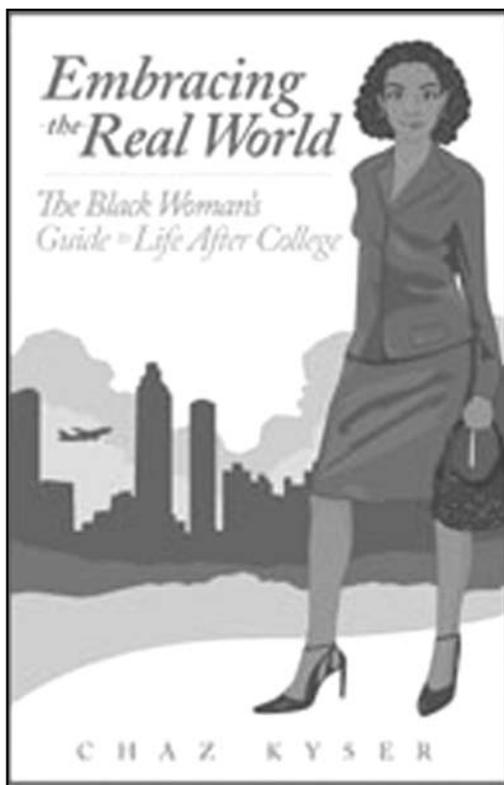
NEW CAREER GUIDE HELPS BLACK FEMALE GRADUATES GET READY FOR THE REAL WORLD

A new book, *Embracing the Real World: The Black Woman's Guide to Life After College*, has been published for Black women making the often challenging transition from college to the professional workforce. More than 80,000 Black women graduate from U.S. colleges each year.

Written by Chaz Kyser, a journalism instructor at Langston University, the book will help young Black women have a better chance of success upon entering the workforce. The information presented in the book is based off of Kyser's experiences, those of other college graduates, the insight of employers, and tons of research.

Readers will get schooled on everything from applying and interviewing for jobs, succeeding in a new position, choosing where to live, handling conflicts with co-workers, managing their boss, networking effectively, budgeting, negotiating their salary, and coping with job loss. But what sets this book apart from others on the market is that it's specifically written for black women and covers topics that most career-related books ignore.

"One of the problems with the average career guide is that it doesn't discuss sensitive topics or issues pertinent to people of color," Kyser said. "My book gives informative, inspirational and candid advice on how to succeed in corporate America, handle racial and sex discrimination in the workplace, build a positive image, and free oneself from self-doubt and the fear of failure. Most career guides just stick to the basics of how to find and keep a job. Black women - all college graduates actually - need to be armed with more information than that."



The book also features essays from successful black women on a variety of topics and a detailed resource guide. *Embracing the Real World* has been praised by college presidents, career experts, students, working professionals, other authors, and the proud parents of young black women.

Dr. Belinda C. Anderson, president of Virginia Union University, hailed the career guide as a "book that should be on every woman's bookshelf." Dr. JoAnn Haysbert, president of Langston University, has described the book as

"interesting, well written, and packed with practical information for anyone entering the job market."



CHAZ KYSER
Author

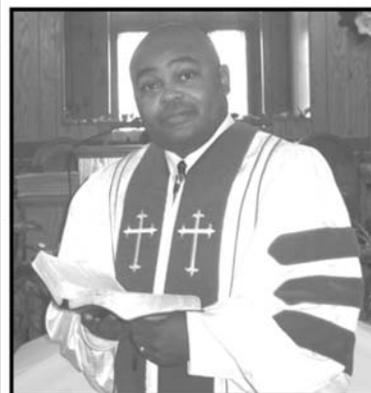
Kyser, 28, is also a freelance editor and writer. Her career columns for recent graduates have been published in numerous newspapers and websites. She received a Master of Science degree in publishing from Pace University in New York, and bachelor's degrees in print journalism and sociology from Texas State University-San Marcos.

Embracing the Real World: The Black Woman's Guide to Life After College (ISBN# 0-9788188-0-6) can be purchased for \$14.99 plus tax and shipping/handling off of the book's

website: www.embracingtherealworld.com. It is 302 pages. To contact Chaz Kyser regarding interviews, speaking engagements and book signings, send an email to info@embracingtherealworld.com or call 405-473-4743.

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VACCINES AND LEARNING DISABILITIES THE DEBILITATING CONNECTION

By Makeisha Lee, Health and Nutrition Consultant
www.CleanseFormula.com and
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Learning disabilities in children and adults are at an all time high. Each year more and more children are being diagnosed with some form of learning disabilities including a very common form known as autism. Interestingly enough is that prior to 1930 autism was never heard of. So it's caused us all to wonder what seems to be the cause of this influx of learning disabilities and autism cases.

According to many experts including Robert Kennedy, Jr., a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council and author of Deadly Immunity, says a drug called thimerosal is to blame. This drug which is actually mercury is found in vaccines that our children are given and that is in fact a deadly poison that is causing all types of brain dysfunction, learning disabilities and many other ailments to develop.

Consider this fact that on the first day a child enters into the world it is injected with a hepatitis B shot. According to the EPA guidelines,



Makeisha Lee

you would have to be 275 pounds to safely absorb the amount of poison in the hepatitis B shot all of our children are routinely given. This is 400 times the amount that the FDA and the EPA themselves consider safe. There is no wonder the brain dysfunction prevalence, as this deadly

drug is in all of these vaccines.

To make this connection crystal clear one has to note that before 1988 only one in 2,500 American children had autism, and then in 1989 our government mandated that vaccines increase. Subsequently since that time to the present one in every 166 children have autism while another one in six children have some type of neurological disorder. Then on top of this poison being put into our bodies more drugs are given to treat these illnesses.

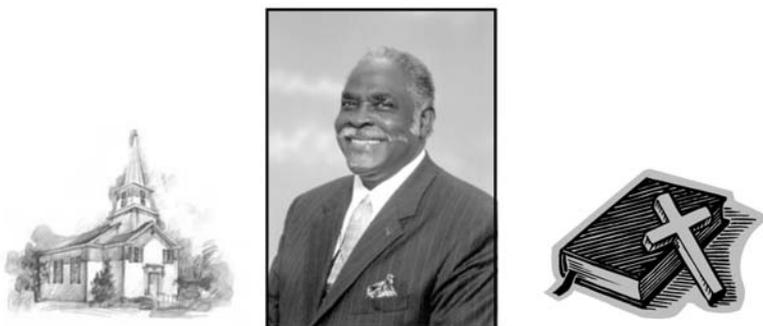
So at this point most begin to ask themselves what can be done if they or their children have already received these vaccines and/or already diagnosed with a learning disability. One very safe and natural alternative is through Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. According to the Gazette newspaper 2006 issue Dr. Rochelle Neally, D.C is finding huge success in treating autism, add (attention deficit disorder), and other developmental disabilities through this technique.

This is another way of repairing the damage of the debilitating effects of poisonous substances in our bodies. As has been mentioned repeatedly, drugs, chemicals, poisons all alike create toxicity within our internal bodies and if left unchecked will lead to dozens of illnesses and defects. All in a nutshell is that if you make the decision to clean out the toxins while minimizing the amount of toxins going in and support your body nutritionally, it will heal itself!

Makeisha Lee is a health and nutrition consultant. For more information about cleansing and detoxifying your body, contact her at 614-595-1425 or makeisha@cleanseformula.com or learn more at www.CleanseFormula.com

To download the African American Guide To Cleansing, visit:
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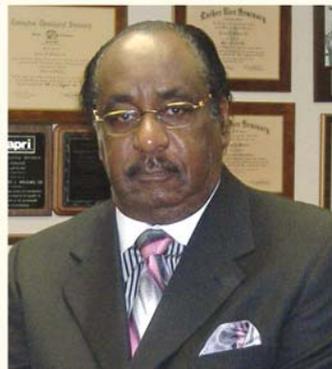


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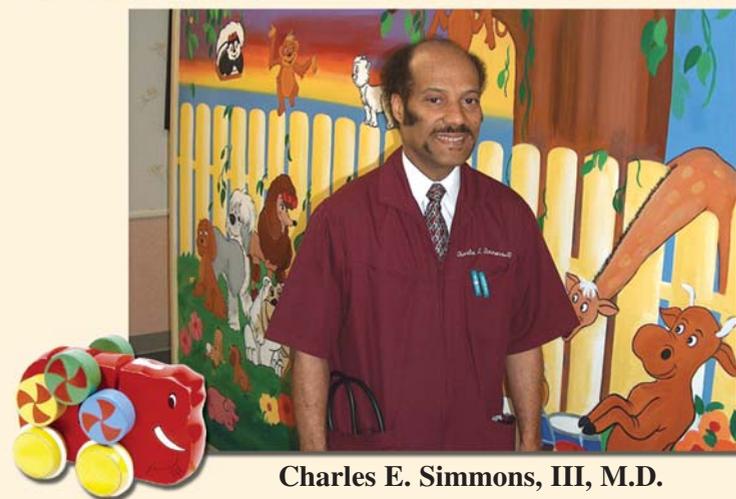
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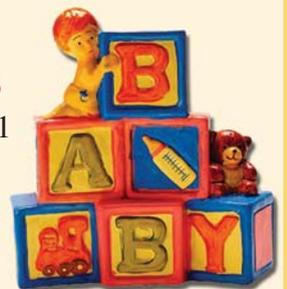
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The SWEAT of Success

By Vincent T. Edwards
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We often hear the phrase “The Sweet Smell of Success”, which describes the victory, but very rarely does anyone talk about the journey and what it takes to be successful. As I travel and speak to audiences of various ages, backgrounds and occupations one of the topics that I speak about is “The SWEAT of Success”. In this presentation the components of success are outlined in detail.

“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:19 KJV)

Success in simple terms is merely the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. Lets look at purpose. Purpose can be defined as the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists. Why do we exist? Purpose can only come from God. By being obedient to God, the scriptures and fulfilling their purpose one shall truly be successful.

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Joshua 1:8 KJV)

Success has a price tag like – late nights, early mornings, heartaches and pains. Many will never achieve their purpose (be successful) because they are not willing to pay the price. Success will never go on sale so do not expect to see clearance or 50% off signs for it. One must answer the following questions: What am I willing to lose to gain? What am I willing to give up to get? What am I willing to go through to obtain? Success requires effort and action. Fulfilling your purpose in life is not and will not be easy. Fulfilling your purpose will be rewarding and can be very beneficial financially.

When dealing with “The Sweat of Success” each letter in the word sweat stands for something. For now I will deal with the letter W and it stands for Work. The only place that success comes before work is in the dictionary. Nothing replaces hard work, a little elbow grease. Every great father/mother, speaker, writer, teacher, doctor, singer, athlete, musician had to work extremely hard to develop the skills necessary to be successful at their craft.

“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (II Thessalonians 3:10 KJV)

Successful people eliminate fear, procrastination, excuses, and negativity. They are disciplined, focused and determined to succeed despite what it may look like at any particular moment on their journey. They expend energy. They do not expect handouts. They avoid distractions because they know and understand that distractions can delay, deny or destroy your dreams. They practice. They



Vincent T. Edwards

have routines. They have a systematic plan that they perform (work) over and over and over again until it becomes second nature. In short they have faith and they WORK to achieve their purpose.

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:20 KJV)

The road (journey) of success is paved with failures. During keynotes and break out sessions I share my life’s experiences and disappointments with audiences and let them know that “Failure Is Not Final”. One must learn and apply the lessons learned in order to continue and succeed. Remember that the W in “The SWEAT of Success” is Work. I read somewhere that you should “Give out before you give up”. To achieve, to succeed keep working.

Vincent T. Edwards “Mr. Speaker” is an Inspirational and Motivational Speaker, Radio Talk Show Host and Columnist. He is available to speak at conferences, conventions, or special events. To book Vincent call 850.671.3900 or send an email to booking@blessedenterprise.com. Learn more about him at www.mrspkr.com.

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Shewanda Riley

Loving In The Red Zone

Is Your Perception My Reality?

By Shewanda Riley

*Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,
from men whose words are perverse, - Proverbs 2:12*

The media frenzy that surrounded the offensive comments that led to the firing of radio broadcasting icon Don Imus brought many questions that have lingered unanswered for years to the forefront. One of the more important ones was what, if anything, should be done about the vulgar lyrics of rap and hip hop music. Who should take the blame for the popular songs that seem to make it a point to degrade women, glorify the “pimp” mentality and promote violence?

One question that didn’t get as much notice but is equally as important concerns the response of the Rutgers Women’s Basketball Team. What was the question? Is Your Perception My Reality? Maybe more specifically, am I going to let your perception become my reality? When you are staring at the perception of others in your face and it has the potential to change your reality, the question may be simple but the answer is more complicated. Until the young ladies spoke during their press conference, most of the public had no idea who Imus was talking about. There was a glimpse of their response to the question during their news conference in which they eloquently articulated their feelings concerning the insult. Their answer to this question was No.

For some, it’s easier to look at the one concerning Rutgers and minimize it by saying that people are always going to talk about you. Some even go so far as to say that they talked about Jesus and pointedly ask are you better than him where people can’t talk about you. It’s kind of like the schoolyard rhyme of “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words never hurt.” Even though I have said those words as a protection from the cruel insults that are sometimes hurled my way, the truth is words do hurt. But I think that part of that hurt comes from the struggle to not allow those words to become your reality. Your reality is how you choose to respond to those words...not the words themselves.

Perception is nothing more than a mental image of something. When that mental image becomes illustrated through words, it becomes real, in a sense, but it doesn’t necessarily become my reality. What’s reality is how you respond to the words. I’ll admit that in recent months, I have my own challenges with others perceptions and my reality. Do I return insult and innuendo with insult and innuendo? Or do I “pray” hoping for God to “get them” for their harsh words. Or do I simply give the burden to God...and receive the grace to forgive the harsh words in return? The choice is mine...and that is my Reality.

Mark your calendars! The 7th Annual Love Hangover ConferenceDo the Write Thing: Answering God’s Call is June 16, 2007 in Dallas, Texas! Visit www.thewritethingworkshop.com for details and to register.



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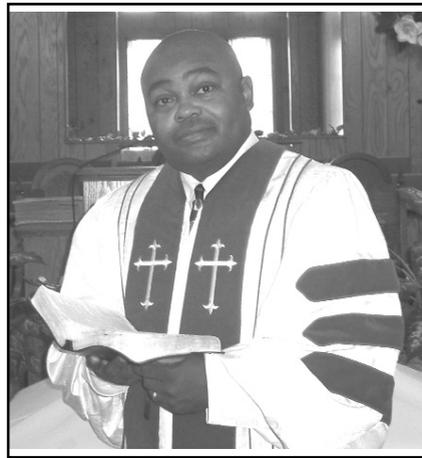


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A PRAYER FOR YOU



May the peace of God and the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in your thoughts, rule in your dreams tonight and conquer all your fears.

May God manifest himself today in ways that you have never experienced. May your joys be fulfilled, your dreams be closer and your prayers be answered.

I pray that faith enters a new height for you; I pray that your territory is enlarged and I pray that you step into your destiny within the ministry. I pray for peace, wealth, happiness and true and undying love for God.

Rev. Dr. Cecil Wilson
Pastor, New Zion MBC
Ocala, Florida

SUMMIT OF SEVEN

15th Annual Men & Boys Conference – Workshop

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church is excited to announce the 15th Annual “Summit of Seven” for all Men & Boys in the community, June 8-10, 2007. The theme this year is, “Bridging The Gap to Make a Difference.”

Once again, we will focus on activities that will assist in the male-bonding process, provide informative workshops such as Personal Financial Management, Etiquette, Career Choices, and Team Building Exercises. Last year there were over 275 participants.

The Summit of Seven will kick-off, Friday evening June 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Mt Moriah Missionary Baptist Church featuring a dynamic speaker and a car /motorcycle exhibition for your viewing pleasure. Registration begins Saturday at 7:00 a.m., with a full Breakfast, Workshops, various sport activities and snacks.

We will conclude our Summit on Sunday morning, 11:00 a.m. with a spiritual Worship Service . All Men & Boys are invited to this spectacular event at **Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist, Church**, 2295 Adams St., NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905, (321)725-1791, web-site www.mmmbc.org Deacon Moses Harvin is the coordinator for this event. For more information, please call the church.

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RAPPER CAM'RON WOULDN'T HAVE SNITCHED ON SEUNG HUI CHO

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson
Guest Columnist

At first glance, it defied belief. There was platinum selling rap artist Cam'ron brazenly telling 60 Minutes this past Sunday that if he knew the identity and the whereabouts of a mass killer, he wouldn't lift a finger to help police catch him. Presumably that meant that if Seung Hui Cho rapped and partied with Cam'ron, and then Cho blurted out to him that he intended to commit murder and mayhem at Virginia Tech, Cam'ron wouldn't squeal to the police. This is too serious to wave off as mindless blather of an airhead rapper out to sound hip, cool, and controversial, and of course sell more records.

Cam'ron sells a lot of records to a lot of impressionable young and not so young men. They hang on his image and words. Worse, his silly anti-snitch plea touches a nerve with many blacks. The long history of police-black community conflict, the rage that many African-Americans feel over the countless number of blacks that have been jailed and even dumped on death row merely on the word of a street or a jailhouse informant is a sore-point. A study by Northwestern University Law School Center on Wrongful Convictions found that in the 100 wrongful death penalty convictions of black men in the past quarter century the majority were convicted on the perjured testimony of alleged eyewitnesses. Numerous studies have shown that blacks are far more likely than any other group to distrust the police, and less likely to talk to them about criminal acts.

Then there's the fear factor. Many are scared stiff of retaliation if they blow the whistle on a violent perpetrator, and that the police won't protect them. This is not a totally false fear. City police departments spend far fewer dollars on witness protection programs than the federal government does. Many blacks feel the risk is too great if they unzip their lips. Their fear and the rocky relations with the police are understandable. But it doesn't justify a rapper or anyone else telling blacks to keep silent when they witness a crime and can provide information about it.

Blacks have more to lose than any other group when they turn a blind eye to crime. They are more likely to be the victims of homicide, assaults and other violent crimes. It is less likely the murderer or assailant will be caught when the victim is black. While the homicide clearance rate nationally is about 60 percent, the clearance rate for solving murders, in some big cities is in single digit figures. Police, and prosecutors in some big cities scream that they can't get people to come forth and tell what they know. At a recent forum in Los Angeles, I listened as Los Angeles Police Department homicide detectives implored the mostly black audience to provide information on crimes. Their silence they said insures that more violent criminals will roam the streets freely. In short the cold case files will continue to balloon, and the victims in almost all cases will be black, especially young black males.



Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The anti-snitch message he pumps puts them squarely in harms way. That includes some of his fellow rap icons. Tupac Shakur, Notorious B.I.G and Run DMC's Jam Master Jay were gunned down. Years later their murders still nestle in the cold case files. One of those files belongs to the bodyguard of Gangster rapper Busta Rhymes. His bodyguard was shot dead, and there's strong suspicion that Rhymes and his entourage could provide information to help solve the murder. But Rhymes has squawked loudly about not talking to the police.

Cam'ron and Rhymes aren't lone voices telling blacks not to snitch. There's a brisk growth industry in peddling T-shirts with the words printed in bold letter STOP SNITCHING that urge blacks to keep quiet when they witness crimes. This has enraged victims of violence and gang violence prevention groups. In Los Angeles and a handful of other cities, anti-violence prevention activists have tramped into

shops and demanded that the storeowners yank the shirts from the shelves. This begs the issue. The merchants have the right to sell anything they choose, including a T-shirt that carries this deadly message. But those concerned about the mounting carnage in some black neighborhoods should protest against the damaging message on the shirts and the messengers that deliver it.

Cam'ron, Rhymes, and other rappers that demand that blacks keep their mouths closed want to sell records, and in the process tout a phony street ethic that brands it a horror to talk to the police. By doing this, they endanger others, those that buy their records, and themselves. The unsolved murders of their rap pals prove that. The rap lyric they should sing is "Open your mouth if you see a crime, the life you save could be your own."

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Answers From Page 38

B	E	S	T	O	W	E	D		L	A	C	K
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Bible Wordsearch

Solution to Puzzle No.137

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

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

PRAISE THE LORD

Psalm 16:7 niv

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- SUN(14,10,W)
- TELL(2,10,E)
- TENDON(3,15,E)
- TILL(11,2,E)
- TOUCHED(11,5,S)
- TWO(7,9,NW)
- UNLESS(13,10,N)
- WRENCHED(1,5,SE)
- WRESTLED(10,1,S)
- ABOVE(4,11,S)
- ACROSS(6,9,SE)
- ALL(6,12,NW)
- ALONE(3,14,N)
- ANSWERED(3,8,E)
- ASKED(10,14,E)
- ATTACHED(9,9,W)
- BECAUSE(9,6,SE)
- BLESSED(15,3,W)
- CALLED(7,13,NW)
- CROSSED(8,1,SW)
- DAYBREAK(9,3,S)
- ELEVEN(9,8,SE)
- FACE(10,12,E)
- FORD(6,4,N)
- GOD(10,11,SW)
- GOT(8,5,SW)
- HIP(11,9,SW)
- ISRAEL(14,7,NW)
- JABBOK(7,12,W)
- JACOB(15,7,N)
- LEFT(2,4,NE)
- LET(14,2,SW)
- LIFE(1,7,S)
- LIMPING(14,3,S)
- LONGER(15,8,S)
- MAN(12,8,S)
- NAME(1,13,N)
- NEAR(12,10,SE)
- NIGHT(8,15,E)
- OVERCOME(1,3,E)
- PASSED(13,13,W)
- PENIEL(4,7,NE)
- PLACE(15,1,W)
- PLEASE(3,1,S)
- REPLIED(8,8,NW)
- ROSE(1,4,N)
- SAW(6,13,N)
- SAYING(11,14,W)
- SENT(15,15,W)
- SOCKET(2,15,N)
- SPARED(1,6,NE)
- STREAM(12,3,S)
- STRUGGLED(8,10,N)

Underground Railroad Celebrates Anniversary

Chatham, ON - The 83rd annual Homecoming Celebrations at North Buxton in south-western Ontario promises to inspire special memories. The variety of events - which takes place over Labour Day weekend, August 31 to September 3 - all have a historical flavour as befits Canada's largest National Historic Site that is dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of slavery, the Underground Railroad and a new world of possibilities. All of this will take place on the grounds of the Buxton National Historical Site which was Canada's largest and most successful planned settlement as a haven for fugitive slaves.

Whether it is the tenth annual Canadian/U.S. Black History and Genealogy Conference featuring experts from across the continent, the "Family Feud" co-ed baseball tournament, gospel and jazz choirs, parade, basketball tournament, vintage car show, bar-be-ques, magician or children's rides, there promises to be something to please every member of the family. Of course, other things to experience include attending worship services in one of the churches and visiting the school and log cabin, all of which date back to the days before emancipation. This will be complimented by special historical displays in the museum, all in a small-town atmosphere with the feel of attending an extended family reunion.

A special ceremony that is destined to rank among the most special moments in Homecoming history will be the official dedication of the replica of the Buxton "Liberty Bell." The original was donated to what was officially called the Elgin Settlement and Buxton Mission in 1850 by the Black inhabitants of Pittsburgh. Beautifully designed and rich in tone, it was a gift that served to remind everyone within range of its sound to remember those who had been left behind in slavery. The people of Buxton promised the donors that they would not forget them. On Monday afternoon, September 3rd, 2007 another generation will ring that bell and honour that pledge that their ancestors made one hundred and fifty-seven years earlier.

Sponsored by The Buxton Historical Society, North Buxton Community Club, North Buxton Youth Committee and North Buxton Community Church with the generous support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. For further details please call 519-352-4799 or visit www.buxtonmuseum.com

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What's your flavor? What makes you unique? That's what Ishababies® and Aisha & Co. are all about! Ishababies® reflect the many special things that define us: our hair and eye color, attitudes and favorite things—our love of a sports team, playing outside, swinging as high as the top bar, a special hobby, our joys and inspirations, maybe where we come from.

Isha (short for Aisha) means life. Ishababies® represent the uniqueness of each of us within the global village. Each of the Ishababies® has his and her own special eye, hair and complexion color, without representing any specific background or ethnicity. The soft sculptured babies come with fun mix-and-match clothes that reflect different walks of life, like the doctor's coat/medical scrubs/patient gown for the medical profession. More outfits, like police, military and firefighter uniforms, are currently in the works.

"Ishababies® are a metaphor for each of us, individual and beautiful in our own way," says Aisha & Co. creator and CEO Aisha Bailey. "Aisha & Co focuses on creating products that celebrate life and give our customers a feeling of well-being."

For Bailey, this is a special calling. Her acclaimed Ishababies® are among the first such line with a global range of characters to be designed by an African-american woman. To her, it is most important that the Ishababies® family "creates a strong sense of appreciation of oneself and others for all people everywhere". The Ishababies® theme is "One World...All Flavors"®.

Turbinado, Coco, Marigold, Peach, Caramel, Mocha, Poppy, new flavored pairs are added to the bunch periodically (The most recent addition is ChocoChip). Aisha & Co. also features their signature line of Birthday, Christmas, Birth Announcements and other special occasion greeting and note cards plus children's signature backpacks and t-shirts. All genuine Ishababies® have Aisha's "kiss of approval" signature and trademarked diaper.

When futurist Buckminster Fuller (inventor of the Geodesic Dome) visited her first grade class, six year old Aisha asked him, "How do you invent things?" That was an initial signal of the prolific creativity and inventiveness which would later deliver dozens of characters and creations including the Ishababies® family.

Growing up, Aisha Bailey's family vacations were walking, climbing, riding adventures to unusual places that showed her how people from other backgrounds lived and adapted to their environments. How many 12-year olds have seen polar and grizzly bears, caribou, arctic fox and bearded seal in Barrow, Alaska, 340 miles north of the Arctic Circle and hiked Denali National Park & Preserve's mountains and glaciers? How many 9-year olds have walked across Hawaii's volcanoes and varied landscapes?

As a Brown undergraduate, staying with families in Zimbabwe and assisting at AIDS clinics, Aisha worked with a very special physician, who nursed villagers back to health using the few tools that he had available to him, along with love and respect for his patients. Later, Aisha lived in the Amazon rain forests of Venezuela with the Yekuana



**Designer Aisha Bailey
with 12 of her 16 Ishababies®**

Indians, studying their traditional medicine and traditions. After 9/11, she assisted the Deputy Director of the WTC investigations and was a family liaison for victims of the World Trade Center disaster. "I came to realize," she says, "how important and healing it is to connect with those who have been devastated by serious loss or illness." In 1998 and 99, Aisha worked with pediatric patients at the Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence. As Co-Coordinator of Playroom Activities, she helped the children express their internalized emotions through play, reading and art.

Determined to make a meaningful contribution in medicine, Aisha Bailey is now in her 2nd year at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine. Just as her family showed her, earlier in her life, how other people live, they continue to be a sustaining force as Aisha shapes Aisha & Co. "With the involvement of Mom, Dad and my brother, its very much a family business," she says.

For a peek into the huggable world of Aisha & Co., please visit www.aishaco.com. For further information on where and how to purchase Ishababies® and Aisha Co. stuff, please call: 203-227-9792. Aisha & Co. will be an exhibitor at the 2007 National Stationery Show (Booth 1659) this May in New York.



**The Christian Reader Newspaper
Established 1993**

THE TRUTH ABOUT “ACTING WHITE”

For twenty years, black students have been chastised based on flawed research. Black leaders and black public intellectuals routinely claim that black students see academic achievement as “acting white.” The actual evidence for the “acting white” hypothesis, however, is meager and not at all convincing when examined carefully.

Among the flaws in the study that popularized the “acting white” hypothesis is the presumption that no white student has ever called another white student a nerd, geek or brainiac. This presumption is clearly false.

A study by the Girl Scout Research Institute shows that black and white girls experience equivalent levels of academically-oriented teasing. Forty-one percent of white girls reported that they worried about being teased for speaking or participating in class. Thirty-five percent of black girls felt the same. These results are statistically equal because the margin of error is plus or minus 7 percentage points.

The proponents of the “acting white” hypothesis claim that black students experience much more academic teasing than white students, but they have never presented any direct evidence to support this assertion.

education received by black children we will significantly reduce the testing gap.

2. Improving teacher quality in black schools. A recent study by the Illinois Education Research Council found that 45 percent of black high school students in Illinois attended schools with the lowest teacher-quality ratings. Only 8 percent of white students attended such low teacher-quality schools. Until we eliminate the teacher-quality gap, we will have a test-score gap.

3. Providing small classes and creating small schools. Black students, who are often behind, benefit from the extra attention available in very small classes. Reductions in class size have been shown to boost black student achievement. Smaller schools have been shown to increase black students’ graduation rates.

4. Increasing school integration. While black leaders have been condemning black students based on flawed “acting white” research, America’s schools have been becoming increasingly segregated. Few black leaders have said a word about this issue. Yet historically, integration has been one means by which blacks have gained access to

Do you worry that you might be teased while you are . . .	Black Girls	White Girls
speaking or participating in class?	35%	41%
participating in school groups	33%	35%
traveling to and from school	20%	20%

Source: Adapted from Girl Scout Research Institute, *Feeling Safe: What Girls Say*, 2003, 41.

The educational researcher Ronald F. Ferguson has found that the key to popularity for black and for white students lies in having cool clothes and being funny. For both groups, scholastic achievement is not important to being popular. Black leaders and black public intellectuals have therefore been condemning black children for behaving like average American students.

Much of the concern with “acting white” has been based on a desire to address the very real achievement gap between black and white students. But while leaders have been fixated on the “acting white” hypothesis, they have neglected the real reasons for the gap.

Five Steps to Reducing the Black-White Achievement Gap

While misguided leaders have been calling for a cultural transformation to address the supposed “acting white” crisis, they have ignored far more important educational reforms:

1. Improving and expanding early childhood education. A large body of research shows that black students begin kindergarten behind white students. If we expand and improve the quality of the pre-kindergarten

higher quality schools. Effective school integration can also help break down the racial stereotypes of whites and blacks.

5. Making college more affordable. Research suggests that if college were more affordable there would be higher black college enrollment and graduation rates.

It is time to address the real issues holding black students back. For a detailed discussion of the flaws in the “acting white” research of Signithia Fordham and John Ogbu - the originators of the hypothesis - send a check or money order for \$9 made out to “Thora Institute LLC” to “Truth about ‘Acting White’,” Thora Institute LLC, P.O. Box 367, New Haven, CT 06513-0367.

To keep abreast of the latest high-quality social science research on black America, subscribe to the Black Directions newsletter. Send a check or money order for \$36 (33% off) made out to “Thora Institute LLC” for a year’s Black Directions subscription (six issues) to Thora Institute LLC, P.O. Box 367, New Haven, CT 06513-0367. Only Black Directions separates the myths from the facts about black America.

Financial considerations for the single parent

It's tough enough bringing up children as a single parent. As both mother and father, single parents have so much to do that they can often forget about taking care of their finances. If you are a single parent, here are some ways to ensure that financial considerations don't slip through the cracks.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 27% of children – more than 19 million – live in households with only one parent. (U.S. Census 2000 Special Report, *Children and the Households They Live In*, issued February 2004.) Some children were formerly in two-parent households in which a divorce or death occurred, while the rest have always lived in a single parent household.

On your own

If you are a newly single parent after going through a divorce, there are a few items you will want to consider taking care of immediately. First, make sure that you have a checking and savings account and credit cards that are in your name. Don't assume your credit is clean; check it out through one of the three major credit rating agencies. Next, make sure any assets, such as a home, are titled in your name. You'll also want to check your beneficiary designations to update your new situation.

Basic estate planning

It is extremely important to establish a will and power of attorney whether you are newly single or always have been. If you don't have a will, consult an attorney and make one out as soon as possible. One of the major issues you will need to address in the will is

guardianship of your minor children. Don't assume that a person you name guardian will want the responsibility. Talk it over with that person first.

Protect your family

Life insurance and disability income insurance are important in two-parent

households, but they are vital in a single-parent household. Adequate life insurance can help ensure that your plans for your children, including a future college education, are financially possible should you die prematurely. Just as important is the need to protect your earning power with disability income insurance. You may be able to buy low-cost group disability income insurance through your employer, or you can check out buying an individual disability income insurance policy through your licensed financial professional.

Protect yourself

Saving for retirement in the face of more immediate financial challenges can seem like an impossible task, but you owe it to yourself to try. Consider saving as much as possible through a 401(k) plan or other qualified retirement plan that your employer might have. You also may consider putting money aside for retirement on your own by contributing to an IRA.



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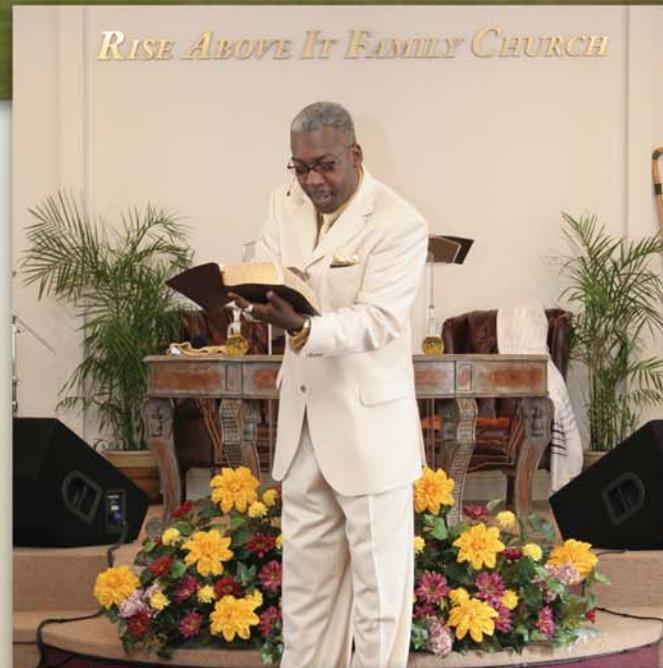
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Publisher's Editorial



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



The Simple Substance

The beginning of this month, I received an email that was circulated to my class members regarding our 25th reunion that will be held this summer. Within this transmission, Marian Yvette Turner-McHardy presented me in the most flattering way to our class, saying wonderful things.

That same day, one of our advertiser call me and thank me for the positive outlook The Christian Reader provides to the community and expressed the amount of business he has received from the newspaper. Then, later that very same day, a lady who was profiled in an article, call me to say thanks and show appreciation.

Of course, my concern was, is this the last day of my life? Am I about to die? Then I realized quite the contrary. My world is not coming to an end; I'm just suffering like so many of us, from the lack of positive reinforcement and recognizable appreciation in light of the many negative things that burdens our lives.

The war in Iraq is not good. The unemployment rate is too high. Our schools are under-funded. Our businesses are failing. The Gay Marriage Issues are being mishandled. The Sexual Misconduct in our Churches is growing. Government Mistrust is at an all-time high. World Peace exists only in our prayers. These are a few of our negative things.

We must be careful today, however, with all the negative things that are going on around the world, that we not negate all that is positive. There are a lot of things that are positive going on in our homes, on our job, at church, and in the community, despite that which is evidentially negative. It seem that the roar of all that is negative reduces the cry of the positive to a whisper.

When we only focus and take to heart the negative, it frown our faces, burdens our heart, bitters our coffee, dims our view, shorten our lunch, limited our friends, and causes us click our heals together and wish for anyplace but home.

The pain and sorrow of negativity is the same pain and sorrow the body experiences from a hurt toe or finger. Your whole life seems inhibited, as does your body from the pain of one of these feeble members. Yet, there is so much more that is not hurting, that is good, that is worthy of celebration and capable of producing comfort and cheer.

There is a woman at work who is never late and never causes you to raise your voice at her, yet she is overlooked because too much

of your attention is paid to those always late, too loud, and in constant need of nudging. There is a man who always has a kind word, yet his words never brighten your day because your mind is preoccupied with the things that didn't go your way. There is a waitress at your favorite restaurant who have never gotten your order wrong, makes sure your guest is treated properly and that your time allocation is met. Yet, she's never attributed a word that makes her know you realize her person and not just her service.

There is a Deacon who makes sure you are visited even when you're not sick, yet his visits are unappreciated because of the disappointment over the Pastor not coming. There is a child at home who may not think to do everything you think he/she should, yet your child is honest, decent, respectable, and makes you proud in areas you never take time to mention.

Words of encouragement and appreciation add years to our lives. They are the seeds planted that yields a continuance harvest. The simple substance that fuels stellar mechanisms. Let's not ever assume that which is functional needs no exactitude or diligence. I know this personally from realizing how starved I was when feed only a few morsels of praise.

When you are praised, it makes you seek others to praise. When others are praised, they seek others to praise. When you see that thing in others that is worthy of praise; and they see that thing in others that is worthy of praise, before long, we all come to realize that big picture of all that is good and positive around us everyday and then we will see ourselves not only praising God – but also praising people.

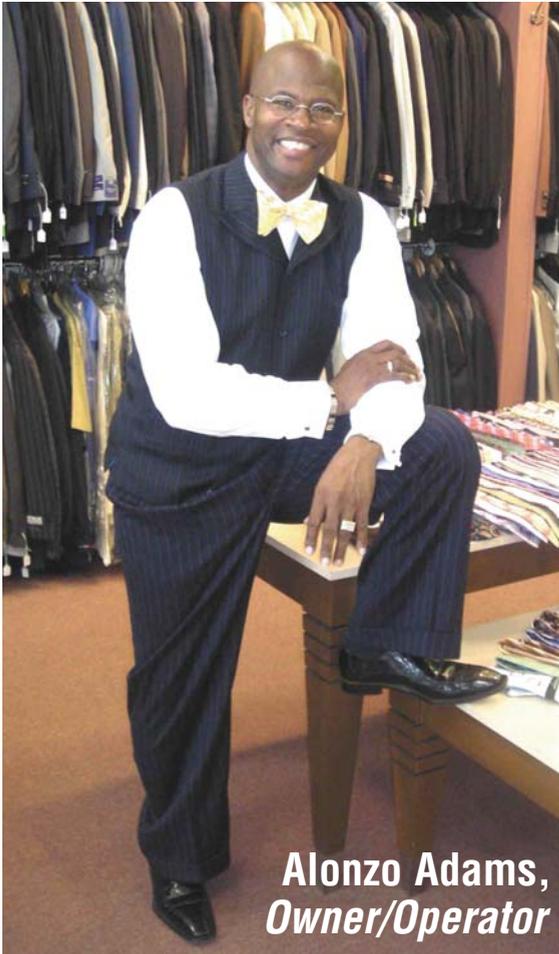
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