

Christian Reader

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FREE MONTHLY

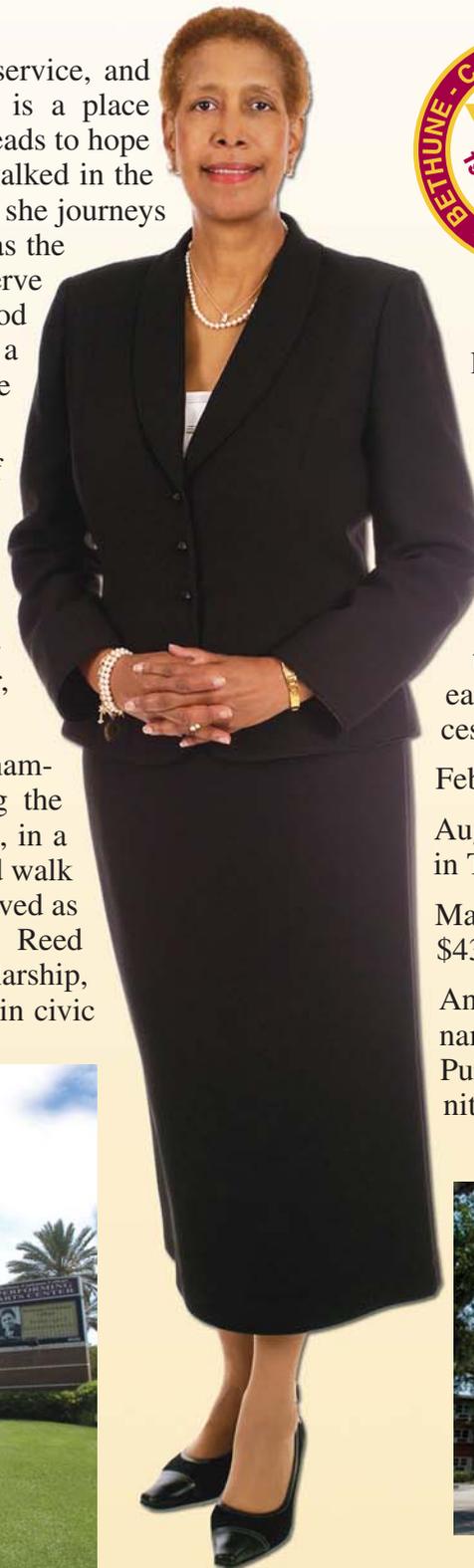
Steps in a Legacy down a Path that Continues to Grow

Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed President of the Great Bethune-Cookman University

Rich in heritage and a prominent legacy of faith, service, and scholarship, the Great Bethune-Cookman College is a place where dreams become reality and where education leads to hope for a better tomorrow. Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed has walked in the footprints of history enlarging the path of success as she journeys step by step. In a tradition of academic excellence, as the university's fifth president and the first woman to serve in this capacity since its founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. Reed has perpetuated the uniqueness of a top tier university that both inspires and enriches the lives of all who work, matriculate or visits.

Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed assumed the presidency of Bethune-Cookman College on August 16, 2004 after a successful career in higher education as both a former college president and a high ranking administrator within The United Methodist Church. She is a student-centered leader, educator, task-master, administrator, visionary/transformational leader, public speaker, motivator, and fund raiser.

As an elementary school student, Dr. Reed became enamored with Bethune-Cookman College after playing the role of College founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, in a school play. Dr. Reed states: "I never thought I would walk in the footprints of such a remarkable leader who served as my role model during my formative years." Dr. Reed reminds students to sustain the legacy of faith, scholarship, and service by giving back to society and engaging in civic



leadership opportunities.

As President, Dr. Reed is well on her way to preserving Dr. Bethune's legacy and enhancing the tradition of academic excellence. To the credit of her early tenure, the university boost of the following successes:

February 2007 – attained University status

August 2006 - Launched a new master's degree program in Transformative Leadership

May 2007 - An increased endowment from \$25 million to \$43 million

Anticipate opening a new School of Nursing Facility named for B-CU Trustee Emeritus Dr. L. Gale Lemerand. Purchased for \$1.7M, the facility will provide a community based health-care outreach program.

see DR. REED on page 20



All photos this page by John Reeves



EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE TO GET THINGS DONE!

Praised by community leaders for her “**unique combination of professional skills and community awareness,**” Commissioner Reynolds has taken the leadership in many successful efforts to “get things done in our community.”

ACCOMPLISHMENTS and INITIATIVES

- Bringing Jobs to the Midtown Area
- Securing Improvement Funds for Midtown
- Increasing Neighborhood Police Presence
- Initiating Affordable/Workforce Housing Trust Fund
- Paving Un-Surfaced Roads
- Repairing Roads and Sidewalks
- Building Storm Water and Drainage Projects
- Initiating Senior Citizens' Program
- Donating Computers to Youth
- Upgrading Parks' Safety and Maintenance
- Building Neighborhood Playgrounds

PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Good Paying Jobs
- Affordable/Workforce Housing
- Safe Homes and Neighborhoods



Re-elect

CASSANDRA REYNOLDS

Daytona Beach City Commissioner, Zone 6

Vote Against the Republican Motion to Recommit

Dear Colleague:

You have recently been receiving misinformation about a provision in the CHAMP Act that would allow states flexibility in how they verify the citizenship of the American children applying for or renewing coverage under Medicaid.

The Republican motion to recommit would remove a provision in the CHAMP Act that would adversely affect thousands of U.S. citizen children, children who are among the most medically vulnerable in the state. **The so-called illegal immigration argument is a red herring that will only undermine the CHAMP Act.**



United States Congresswoman

Undocumented immigrants have NEVER been eligible for Medicaid and there was NEVER proof that undocumented immigrants have been illegally receiving Medicaid.

In fact, **all evidence points to the fact that American citizens have been locked out** of qualifying for Medicaid. Enrollment has significantly declined in more than 11 states. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, newly available data from three states show that **African American children are much more likely than Hispanic children to have their Medicaid coverage delayed, denied, or terminated as a result of a citizenship documentation requirement** that took effect last year. Considering that 78 percent of undocumented immigrants are from Mexico, Central America, or South America it would make no sense to attribute a decline in enrollment to undocumented immigrants being denied coverage.

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we want to call your attention to this provision that is important to the health care coverage of African American children who are being **unfairly targeted** by this senseless provision. The state of Kansas has reported a 9.1 percent decrease in enrollment in African American children and the state of Virginia has reported a 5 percent decrease in enrollment. In Alabama although African American children make up fewer than half of the Medicaid beneficiaries they are accounting for 60% of the decline.

Access to Medicaid is an issue of critical importance to African Americans because they are disproportionately more likely than whites to be uninsured. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured reported in 2003 that **28% of African Americans depend on Medicaid.** Without the protection of Medicaid-the nations' health care safety net-uninsured African Americans will have no where to turn.

We urge you to stop listening to the campaign of fear and vote against the Republican motion to recommit.

Sincerely,

Corrine Brown

Member of Congress

Serving North & Central Florida

Christian Reader

The "Good-News" Newspaper

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

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

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

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THE CHRISTIAN READER

The Good-News Newspaper

Serving North Florida and Central Florida

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May I Help You?

People today are afflicted with various conditions that prohibit them for experiencing a life that is fulfilling and productive. Drug Addition, Homosexuality, Deviate Behavior, Peer Pressure, Uneducated, Underemployment, Hopelessness, Low Self-esteem, and Misguided, just to name a few. Individuals that are fractured makes an ill society – exactly what we are now experiencing.



Romalous D. Jones
Senior Pastor

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.

Conquerors For Christ International Ministries, Inc. is standing tall in the community to combat social and economic ills. Romalous D. Jones, the church’s Senior Pastor, has equipped his church with ministries, programs and services to handle the unique needs of the people in his area. Among the church’s ministries are:

Christian Education Department, Church School, Mass Choir, Full Gospel Choir, Bible Study Ministry, Exciting Expository Preaching & Teaching, Strong Youth Development, Great Fun and Fellowship.

Conquerors For Christ International Ministries, Inc. doors are open and its officers and members equipped and ready to be of service. Only you can provide the answer to their question – *May I Help You?*

Conquerors For Christ International Ministries, Inc.

Romalous D. Jones, Senior Pastor

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Bible Study - Wed. Night – 6:45p.m - 8:15p.m.

“GOD’S TWINS”

By Aundra Bryant
Tallahassee, Florida

Every Christian believer knows that God has a Son and his name is Emmanuel which means God with us. However, when you think about it, only a few people realize that God has a set of twins. Perhaps the most repeated scripture in the bible is the Twenty-Third Psalms. In the sixth verse it says, “surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever”. When David wrote this psalm, he had many encounters with death and this was his testimony to the world of what God can do if you put him first. There are three things I would like to mention about God’s twins.

Firstly, like human twins, when goodness feels a pain, mercy feels a pain also. I remember watching 60 Minutes one night and this particular man had marveled the sports world by his miraculous comeback from cancer. The news commentator asked him “who do you give credit to?” the man responded, “my doctor.” We must remember that whenever God works a wonder in our life, we should give him all the honor and glory because the song says, “your grace and mercy brought me through.”

Secondly, sometimes twins are not identical in physical features but the genes and characteristics are there. David said that



Aundra Bryant

“yea though I walk through the valley and the shadow of death I will fear no evil for I know that thou are with me”. If there is a shadow, there must be some light around. Jesus is the light because he radiates God’s love in every situation that we go through. It is through Christ that we are able to be directed into the presence of God.

Finally, this psalm says that “he annointeth my head with oil and my cup runneth over.” This is an indication that when we stray and wander off as sheep will

often do, the Holy Ghost reminds us brings those things back to our remembrance that the Lord has taught us. We are never so low that God cannot reach down and pick us up. We are never too far that God’s arms cannot reach out and bring us back in.

In conclusion, Rev. Walter Richardson, pastor of the Sweet Home Baptist Church in Miami, Florida tells a very beautiful story about a young woman who was walking through a dark alley one night on her way from work. She saw a man standing in front of her but courageously she kept walking ahead and the man stepped aside and she went by.

Later that night on the news she saw the picture of a man that was a suspect in several rape cases. The police authorities wanted to interview anyone who might have seen this man in the alley at night recently. The young lady built up enough courage to go down to the police station and looked at the police lineup. After the woman had identified the man as the one that she had seen in the alley on her way from work, the deputies began to lead him back to the jail cell.

The young lady walked over to the man and said “Can I ask you just one question? When you saw me in the alley, why did you step aside? The man replied with a sorrowful voice “When you came walking down the alley, my intentions was to attack you but I saw a man walking on each side of you and I changed my mind about harming you”. The young woman answered and said “those two men were goodness and mercy”.

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- Business-like approach to City government
- Voted to reduce taxes, will continue to reduce tax burden for residents
- Supports Police Chief's tough crime fighting initiatives
- Possesses business skills necessary to attract new businesses and create more jobs
- Dedicated to increasing home ownership (affordable housing)
- Advocate of planned, environmentally friendly, green growth for our city

EFFECTIVE, DEDICATED COMMUNITY LEADER

- Appointed by the late Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden to serve on the Daytona Beach Visioning Committee
- Appointed by the late Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden to serve on the City Economic Development Board and was elected Chairman
- Chairman, Board of Adjustments, City of Daytona Beach
- Chairman, Charter Review Committee, City of Daytona Beach
- Crime Stoppers, Past President and Founding Board Member
- Halifax Hospital Medical Center Board of Commissioners, Past Chairman and President and Board Member of Halifax Medical Center Foundation
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Board Member
- Futures, Inc. Education Foundation for Volusia County Schools, Board Member
- Boys & Girls Club of Volusia and Flagler, Board Member

COMMUNITY SERVICE HONORS AND AWARDS

- Selected to accompany Olympic Torch from Athens, Greece, torch bearer on Main Street, Daytona Beach
- Herbert M. Davidson Award for Outstanding Community Service
- Council on Aging Citizens Award
 - Man of the Year, Boys & Girls Club
 - Daytona Beach/Halifax Area Chamber of Commerce Enterprise Award
 - Lou Fuchs Community Service Award
- Man of the Year, Center for Visually Impaired



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LOVE JONES

By Reverend Dr. Carlton Jones
Jacksonville, Florida

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing."

"Love suffers long and is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not parade itself; it is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things."

"Love never fails. Whether there are prophecies, they will fail. Whether there are tongues, they will cease. Whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. When that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away."



Rev. Dr. Carlton D. Jones

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child. I understood as a child. I thought as a child; but when I became a (adult) man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love."

I do not know about you, but I am struggling with church love.

We say we should love our brothers and sisters, but some of our biggest hurt comes out of the church. We say we love each other as Christ loves us. We say we know what the Bible and dictionary says about love, but do we know what our heart feels?

The word of God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We are struggling in a world much like the world Paul was dealing with in the Greek city of Corinth. Paul was dealing with hypocrites (people acting or playing church), moral decadents, and division in the family of God, pride and spiritual arrogance. He dealt with the goddess of love whose temple employed 1,000 prostitute priestesses, lawsuits between believers, troubled marriages, abuse of spiritual liberty, confusion of gender roles (men thinking they were women, and women thinking they were men), abuse of the Lord's table, misuse of spiritual gifts and neglect of church doctrine.

We live in a very similar world today, except back then it took weeks, months, and sometimes years to hear about the sins that affect our spiritual life. Today we have cell phones, ipod, computer, television, and radios that give and spread moral decadents and bad news instantly. We live in a world that does not show God's kind of love. We deal with child abuse, child pornography, children killing parents and parents killing children, drive-by shootings sometimes for no apparent reason but as initiation into a gang, we have husbands and wives cheating on each other, we have no love in the work place, we have workers killings their bosses, lovers, or just innocent by-standers. We have Jews hating Muslims, Muslims hating Jews, we have Christians hating Christians, we have so much jealousy, hate and envy...Where is the love? Where is the love that Paul is talking about?

The English meaning of Love means so many things, that it means nothing. We use the word love very loosely. We use it to describe the desires of our heart. We use it to express the pleasures in the things we like. We say things like, I love to play golf, or I love money, or I love my house, or I love my car. All of these kinds of love can lead us down a slippery slope because we do not want to love anything before we put the love of God in our lives first. God is jealous God. He wants us to know the meaning of love and that we must love Him first.

God gave us the greatest gift of love, His son Jesus who came from heaven to save a wretch like me. There is not a better example of

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See LOVE JONES page 10

LOVE JONES continued from page 9

selfless love than that of Jesus who showed us how to live life more abundantly. He sent us the words of Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit which gives us the beauty of love, the hope of love, and benefits of God's kind of love. Unlike the singular spelling and multiple use of the word love, the English language and the Greek language had many spellings and meanings of it. Paul uses the common word for love - Eros, which is suggested physical, sexual desire and not much more. Another word Phileo represented the brotherly love of family or friendship. Neither of these words came close to describing the kind of love Paul wanted to communicate.

Paul chose a relatively rare Greek word for his definition of love. This word Agape, most often used to speak of God's love, that describes love in its most profound and pure form. This kind of love goes against the natural human inclination. It is giving selfless; expect nothing in return kind of love. It is a unconditional love, much like God gave us in John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life; for God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be save."

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul's description of love as short, but powerful; but does love really mean anything anymore? Does Paul's meaning of love fit into our lives today, in a world that is very much like the city of Corinth, in a world that is spinning out of control? Can we grasp what God is telling us through Paul's definition of love? If not, then let's go back to Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said "You shall love the God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law of the prophets."

This word is so powerful and commanding. I have had to struggle with love in marriage, parenting, friendship, the workplace, and in business. Using God's kind of love is hard, but it works. I can tell you I'm living it. I am a Love Jones. I am not perfect. I struggle with love because people will disappoint you; but all I have to do is think about how many times I have disappointed God. God has forgiven me and despite me, He (God) still loves me. He still gives me grace and mercy, and mercy and grace.

I know you wouldn't believe that I use to have a bad temper. I have people who have disappointed me, but I can say Thank You God! I now know God's kind of love. I now see myself as a Love Jones. I now can see hurt and disappointment as God looks at it. I try to love as God loves us with all our imperfections. So, despite the bad news of the world and the disappointments of life, God still loves us and has sent His only begotten Son to save us so that He can have us through the atoned blood of Jesus Christ. God restored a personal relationship though Jesus the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus coming and dying showed us how to love unconditionally. Jesus showed us through His living how to live life more abundantly. Jesus showed us how to heal the sick and raise the dead. Jesus said that we shall do greater things. The world did not fully accept Jesus as the Son of God; despite that, Jesus died for our sins a horrible death.

Jesus had to die as a final sacrifice or blood atonement for the sins of mankind. We gloss over Jesus death on the cross. The unbelievers

took Jesus and humiliated Him. They beat Him and made Jesus carry a heavy wooden cross up a hill called Calvary. They stretched Jesus out on the ground and nailed spikes into His hands and feet. Then put a crown of thorns on His head as the blood streamed down. They stood Jesus hanging on that old wooden cross. They pierced Jesus' side and though He quenched for water, the unbelievers gave Him vinegar. Yes, Jesus bled and yes He did die. They put Him in a borrowed tomb, because Jesus knew that He was not going to be there very long. Jesus went down into the depths of Hell to break up Satan's party, and set the captives free. God rose Jesus up on the third day with all power. I said all power over sin, sickness, and the grave.

Jesus' resurrection put an end to the fear of death, because through Jesus, we will receive everlasting life. Yes, Jesus walked on the earth for 40 days to show the doubting "Thomases" that He is alive. Then Jesus ascended up to heaven to sit on the right hand of God the Father to serve as an intercessor for you and me. Jesus sent us the comforter, the Holy Spirit to walk with us, to talk to us, to protect us and to guide us; and the good news is that Jesus is coming back again, this time every knee shall bend and worship Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. So accept Jesus right now and receive the love of God until we forgive those who have hurt us, and yes even the church. Forgive those who you do not love and show them the love of God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Become a Love Jones. Love starts with forgiveness. Love has to be unconditional. Trust God to protect and guide us.

God is a change agent and Jesus said we can do even greater things than He did. We can love someone who has never known love. There are people hurting because they have low self-esteem, feel defeated, experience disappointment and hurt, and do not know love. So how can we expect them to love someone? God is awesome because Love Jones made me a change agent in the lives of others by loving someone unconditionally. Jesus gave us two great commandments starting in Mark 12:30 - "One is to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is "Love your neighbor as yourself as God loves us." Amen.



J. E. Fralin

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HONORING OUR DAUGHTERS

**By Juanita L. Simmons
Jacksonville, Florida**

“It all started as a Tea Party.” With the negative image that’s happening in the world today and the need to provide inspiration to young girls at an early age, an idea was born to honor daughters in a special way. So on Sunday, July 29, 2007, Juanita L. Simmons and Anntoinette L. Jones presented “Honoring Our Daughters” to the African-American community. This memorable event honored fourteen girls ranging in ages 3 to 10.

Simmons said this event began as a tea party for six of her nieces. However, she was lead to celebrate the love and joy of a daughter instead of the traditional tea party. As the word spread, other family members and friends were invited to participate. However, says Jones “we didn’t want to do it, but the number of girls was increasing so fast we had to say no to other mothers who wanted to include their daughters.”

Each mother wrote a poem expressing the love and joy her daughter brings to the family. The mother also used the Holy Bible to provide her with a scripture for her spiritual growth and development.

The girls dressed in formal white or pastel colored dresses, entered the elaborately decorated room on a red-carpeted walkway, lined with pink rose petals as the song “You are so beautiful” played as background music. Each little girl introduced herself, reciting a statement specifically written for her, with the phrase “I am a precious jewel” included.

Vonda Jordan and her daughter Margaret Ja’Nice presided over the program. William Lavant III, sang a “Song of Dedication” and a “Dance of Love” was performed by mother and daughter; Ruth Taylor and Roshonda Cooper. Each mother escorted her daughter to the

center of the room as Rosalind Lavant and Anita Buie-Walton narrated the poem and scripture written specifically for the girl.

The program also included “A Prayer for My Mommy”, narrated by Tavia Simmons who traveled from Atlanta, Georgia to be with

Simmons, who is her mother. Simmons closed the program with “A Prayer for My Daughter” and the audience sang, “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place”. Each Mother and daughter received a framed copy of both prayers and each daughter presented a long stem red rose to her mother. The girls received a gift basket and a memorable program book. Following the program, the girls were honored with a dinner especially

prepared for them. They were seated at reserved tables decorated with white linen, candles, roses and formal place settings. All enjoyed a colorful cake designed in the form of a teapot.

The Girls and their Parents include:

Girls

Nevieh Danielle Brookins
Nadia Romaniece Brown
Taniya Jashae Bryant
Sydney Lanier Edwards
Tamia Camille Foston
Armani Jewell Gallon
Imani Elizabeth Hudson
QiaNate Alese Jackson
Treasure Toi Jones
Alexia Trinity Kelly
Ayriel Shekinah Kelly
Kaniyia Olecia Mable
Alexandria Jordan Williams
Keonna Janae Wright

Parents

Lorne and Shevonne Brookins
Erik and Curtrina Brown
Tanisha Jenkins and Javon Bryant
Tonya Edwards and Pernell Hutchinson
Tiffani Foston
Keith Gallon, James and Brendisha Gallon
Kenneth and Angela Hudson
Angelic Buie and Sy Jackson
Carlton and Karen Jones
Alexie and Tongela Kelly
Alexie and Tongela Kelly
Konasha Allen and Otis Mable
Sonya Smith and Alvin Williams
Gwendolyn Wright and Keith Wright



front row left to right: Kaniyia Mable, Nevieth Brookins, Alexandria Williams, Treasure Jones, Tamia Foston, Taniya Bryant, Sydney Edwards, Nadia Brown;
back row: Imani Hudson, Armani Gallon, Arielle Kelly, Alexia Kelly, Keonna Wright,
Missing from picture: QiaNate Jackson

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NFL PLAYER ROY WILLIAMS SCORES BIG BY OPTING TO SHED POUNDS WITH ALTERNATIVE WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

By Makeisha Lee, Health and Nutrition Consultant
www.CleanseFormula.com and
www.GuideToCleansing.com

Amidst all the commotion over recent disproportional statistics of obesity in the African American community and worldwide, we should all take the time to recognize and celebrate developing progress that any one of us can achieve. Obesity can take even the best of players out in this game of life that we only get one shot to score in.

Not so for one NFL player, Roy Williams of the Dallas Cowboys. Williams decided that he was going to score a major touchdown off the field by shedding unwanted pounds from his body.

Is this not the goal for a lot of us? We don't have to be NFL players to make a concerted effort to slim down, but we do have to take the game very seriously and be ready to do what it takes to score big and win the victory.

We have to be team players and have open minds to trying other methods that are safer, more natural and ultimately more effective than fad diets. That is what Roy Williams was savvy and witty enough to do for himself.



How did Roy obtain his weight loss victory? While vacationing and relaxing, Roy's weight got up to 246 pounds and his coach asked him to get down to 225 pounds. Roy acknowledged the fact of his weight gain by saying, "I really did get heavy, but I did a program called Isagenix. It's a weight program and it got me down." By doing this, Roy was able to release 26 pounds from his body bringing his weight down to 221 pounds.

Isagenix is the world's leader in nutritional cleansing, which helps cleanse your body of impurities, release stubborn fat and build lean muscle. It helps you to lose weight and become healthier through the use of meal replacement shakes, high grade nutrients and regular exercise.

What did Roy have to say about his results from utilizing this nutritional program? "It's a huge difference for me," he said. "I'm



Makeisha Lee

flying around, I'm full of joy and energy."

Now that is truly winning! Anyone of us can jump on a fad diet and drop a few pounds. Take your pick, as there are hundreds to choose from. However, when you can get yourself on a system that can give you what most of us are really searching for - this is quite phenomenal.

That same feeling of joy and, energy at the same time is what we all can have. While playing in the game of life, we should all be "in it" to "win it. So why cheat yourself when you can have more than just temporary weight loss?

If weight has been a challenge for you, you have tried all kinds of diets, maybe its time to do something different. Albert Einstein, one of the greatest minds of all times stated, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

Unfortunately dieting has been the common approach for solving weight loss issues, but we are now in the 21st century and can begin to move forward with our advancements. Roy Williams' coach only asked him to lose 22 pounds for the start of training camp, he decided to go the extra mile and lose four more. "But I challenged myself to go lower than that," Williams said. "This is for me."

As you can see not only do average Joe's and Jane's struggle with their weight, but so do athletes even if they are not considered to be obese. They just want to do something for themselves to make them feel and look better. Whatever your goal weight is, it is what you want for yourself.

We can all take a lesson from the athlete and go a step further, go for the gold, the big play and stop making small plays that don't even get us onto the field. We want it all joy, energy, clarity, stamina, as well as quick, safe and permanent weight loss.

Through technological advances made in the last five years you have the opportunity to have a level playing field in which to get one up on obesity and become more clean and lean than ever before. The time is now to release the weight and let the true champion in you - shine through.

This is the line of scrimmage and you are in the perfect passing situation, just don't hesitate, and whatever you do, don't drop the ball! We're all rooting for you, victory, victory, victory!

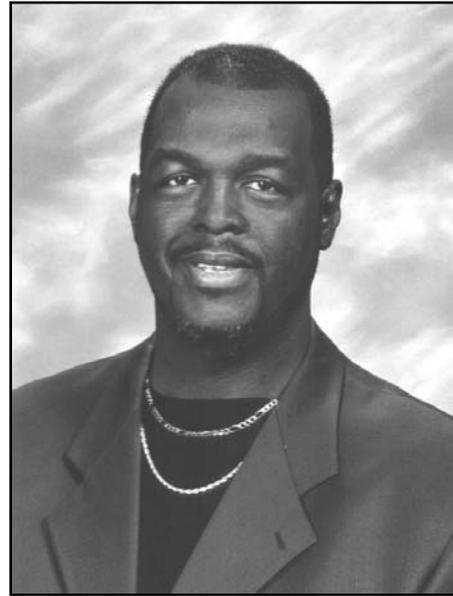
Makeisha Lee is a health and nutrition consultant. For more information about cleansing and detoxifying your body, contact her at 614-595-1425 or znck04@yahoo.com or learn more at www.CleanseFormula.com. To download the African American Guide To Cleansing, visit: www.GuideToCleansing.com

The Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. Announces a New Charter In Daytona Beach

The Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. (GMWA) has issued a Charter to the Volusia/Flagler Counties to form a local Chapter. Roger A. Nutt has been appointed as the Chapter Representative. Roger started with the GMWA in Cincinnati, Ohio with the Cincinnati Chapter under the late Dr. Charles Fold. For five years he worked with the Kentuckyana Chapter in Louisville, Kentucky then the Evansville, Indiana Chapter received six years of his involvement.

The Goals and Objectives of the Chapter are:

1. To enhance and upgrade the creation and presentation of gospel music throughout the world.
2. To provide a platform and forum for the presentation of gospel music as an art style on all performance levels.
3. To open new geographical regions, conventional and non-conventional venues where gospel talent on all levels of development can perform before large audiences.
4. To create learning environment for all phases of gospel, sacred, classical and other types of music traditions that are known, recognized and respected throughout the world.
5. To offer and make available scholarships for educational advancement in gospel and other type music traditions.
6. To unify all components of the gospel music industry in the common goal of achieving a greater level of acceptance for gospel music throughout the world.
7. To develop programs targeted for youth and young adults that teach the principles of Christianity, worship ethics, work ethics, social responsibility and citizenship through the disciplines of gospel music art.



Roger A. Nutt
Volusia / Flagler Counties
Gospel Music Workshops
of America

8. To recognize and honor individual contributions and achievements of pioneers in gospel music.
9. To foster the performance of excellence by commending artistic excellence in the creation and presentation of gospel music.

Starting August 11th thru August 18th, the National Convention will convene in Orlando, Florida on the grounds of Walt Disney World at the Coronado Springs Resort. This week-long event carries a delegation between 12,000 – 15,000 people. The 1st Annual Convention convened in Detroit in 1968. This year marks 40 years of promoting gospel music.

This is the largest artistic organization of its kind with more than 200 active Chapters in the United States, United Kingdom, the Caribbean, Canada, Europe and Asia. With an active membership of approximately 75,000 including professional and amateur gospel vocalists, instrumentalists, composers, arrangers, directors and producers. About 75 percent of the recordings on Billboard Magazine's gospel are written, arranged, produced and/or performed by GMWA members.

Membership in the local Chapter is solicited as we exemplify the teachings of Christ and lift up His name! Anyone wanting to join the Volusia/Flagler Counties Chapter is invited to call Roger Nutt at 386-446-3381 for complete details. Monthly meetings are scheduled to start September 1, 2007. With continued meeting on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month. The meetings' will move between to two counties and currently churches are needed to meet in. As expressed by our beloved founder, the late Rev. James Cleveland, the Gospel Music Workshop of America is the place "Where Everybody Is Somebody!"

Reese Marshall



Attorney At Law

Probate & Wills

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Atty. Reese Marshall

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- What to do when you can't cover the cost of a funeral?

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Have you experienced a stroke and have difficulties speaking?

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Elevate Your Mind, Get Yourself Together

Rev. Dr. Warren Jackson is the Founder & Senior Pastor of the Rise Above It Family Church in Holly Hill, Florida

Email: risefamilychurch@aol.com
Website: risefamilychurch.org

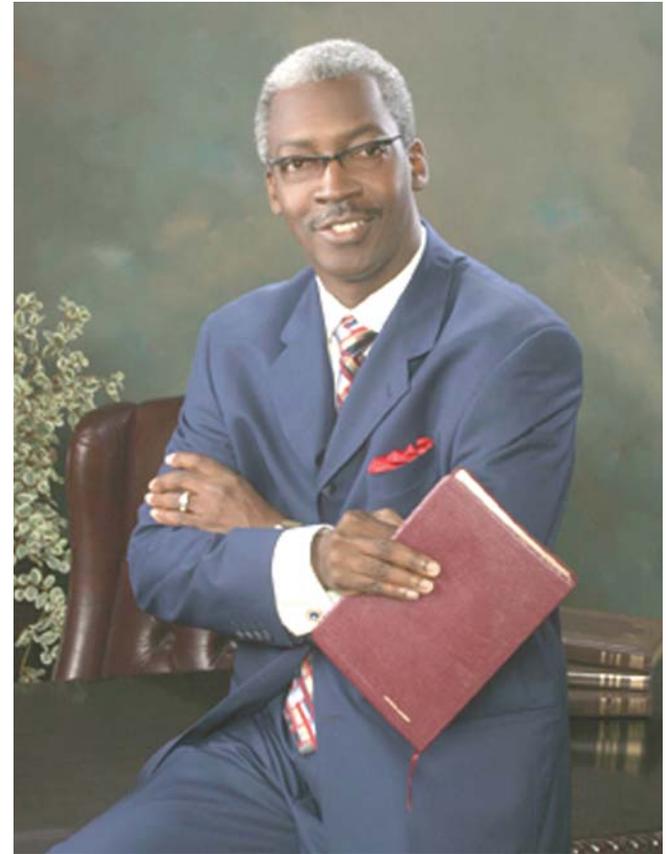
“Elevate your mind, get yourself together”, I remember growing up as a little boy in government housing and hearing this statement all the time. This statement had in it much power to take us to another level in life. However, we who were living in the projects understood the rhythm of the rhyme but we did not understand the statement. If we could have only taken the time to pay attention to the words and not just the rhythm of the rhyme, maybe some of us could have escaped the tyranny of poverty of mind. All lack begins with the thinking process. Poverty of mind arrests futures, destines, and promises. It retards careers, purposes, and appointments. It steals dreams, destroys lives, and kills hope. We in the church must come to the place that we are willing to elevate our thinking in order to elevate our communities, cities, governments and world.

Elevate your mind, get yourself together. It implies that I must do something for myself in order to change things in my life. It means that I have something to do with how life comes at me; it implies that my response to situations and circumstances could be different if my mind was at a higher level, and then my perception of life would work in my favor and not against me. No matter how bad it is. And things can get pretty bad at times. That is why this elevation is something that must be a continuous thing. It is not a one time event.

When your mind is operating in survival mode, it is always “hit and miss”. It’s like playing music by ear; sometimes you might miss the key, as opposed to having sheet music where you can read it. **The Bible, the Word of God is our Sheet Music.** Words can be so important. However, sometimes we can say them without even hearing them. In the case of those of us in the projects, it meant very little to individuals that were still in survival mode; we did not understand the power of the statement. The statement itself carried much possibility and promise, but the “beat” had us, not the lyrics.

Elevation implies an upward motion. It says that I am making the decision to think at a higher level, perceive at a higher level, to see at a higher level. It gives the indication that things that would have bothered me previously, don’t offend me now because my thinking is different; I have allowed the word of God to change my thinking. It means that integrity has become a part of my life. It means that I don’t have to step on people in order to get elevated because I know how REAL ELEVATION comes.

The Bible teaches the same principle of elevating our minds, thoughts, perceptions, etc. In III John we hear him saying, “I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health even as your soul (mind) prospers”. It implies that we are to work on our minds in order to obtain the prosperity and health of a life that is without limits in God. Many have worked on their spirits, which is already born again,



but few have dealt with the savagery of the mind that has left them in the dark ages attempting to do new things; the old pattern of thinking without any promise of getting results. God is calling us higher in a culture that that is termed the Kingdom of God, and governed by the King of Glory.

The Bible gives us to know that an unregenerated mind is against God. It fights against the very nature of God within our spirit. That is why the Apostle Paul said that the things that I need to do, I don’t do them and the things that I don’t want to do, I do them. Because the mind has to be changed, our thinking must be altered in a direction that causes us to serve God even in our minds. I have learned in my 30 years of living for Christ that you can come to church, dance, holler, fall out under the Spirit, and cry, but if that mind has not changed you will be just as defeated as when you came in. The mind must change.

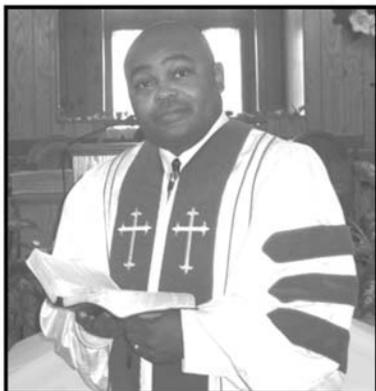
The Apostle Paul says in Romans to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, that you may prove what is good, perfect, and acceptable concerning the will of God. And THAT is the whole of the story. Because discipline is a difficult thing, it separates members from disciples. It separates the “haves” from the “have not’s”, it separates the rich from the poor; it separates the powerful from the weak. It separates those who would change the world for Christ Jesus as oppose to those who come to church for entertainment or other things. When we change our way of thinking we are able to change the way we do things. We are able to see prosperity in health, wealth, in our emotions, in our social lives, we began to draw people of integrity to us, educationally, we began to strive for more, because now we know that knowledge is something that everybody can have, and those who have knowledge can and will change things.

In the book of Joshua, God told Joshua after Moses died, “Thou shalt meditate on the Word day and night to observe all that is written therein, and then thou shalt **make thy own way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success**”, or the amplified says “**deal wisely and have good success**”. This had to do with Joshua’s way of thinking, not his ability to speak in tongues or dance in the spirit. I believe

see REV. DR. WARREN JACKSON page 18

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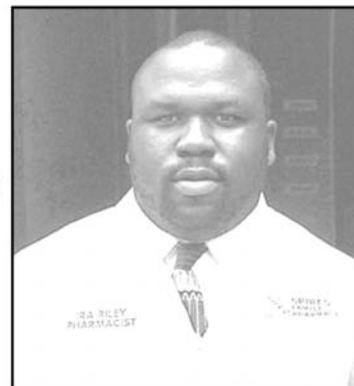
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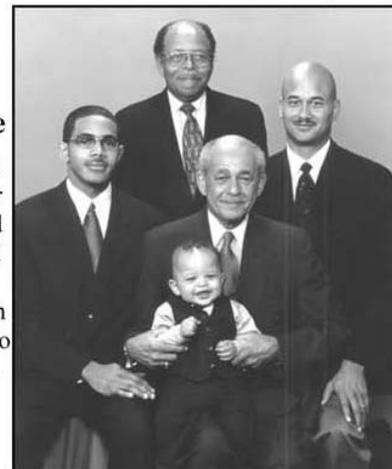
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“Celebrating Our Journey of Educations and Community Service”

EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE HOST NATIONAL ALUMNI CONVENTION

By Marretta Latimer
Guest Columnist
Jacksonville, Florida

The City of Jacksonville became “Tiger Country” this weekend as the graduates of Edward Waters College (EWC) hosted the 2007 Biannual National Alumni Convention. Dressed in the college’s colors, orange and purple, hundreds of alums came from as far as Alaska and Illinois to preserve the institution’s history and plan for its future. The conference’s theme, “Celebrating Our Journey of Education and Community Service,” showcased the goal of the alumni association: continuing EWC’s legacy of providing a quality education for deserving youth.

Convention attendees enjoyed a weekend of “business and pleasure” with a number of exciting activities, including the opening reception at the Cumer Museum and the Hawaiian luau at the Clarion Hotel. They also participated in a series of plenary sessions where the EWC National Alumni Association Endowment was named in honor of Dr. William B. Stewart, the College President who served for

twenty-two years and is credited with leading EWC from a junior college to a four-year institution. Juliet Fields, the newly elected vice president of the National Alumni Association, noted, “I think we have been successful and are on the right track to garnering support for EWC. We can make a significant difference.”

The gathering of EWC graduates was not the only cause for celebration. According to Dr. Roy Mitchell, immediate past president of the National Alumni Association, there is a spirit of excitement

around the college’s campus. He stated, “We have begun a renaissance at Edward Waters College. The alumni and the institution are rejuvenated under the direction of the new College President, Dr. Claudette Williams.”

A highlight of the conference was the 2007 Alumni Banquet, where four outstanding members of the community were honored for their contributions to Edward Waters College and Northeast Florida. The honorees were Patricia Black for the fine arts, the Honorable Corrine Brown for support of the community-at-large, Dr. Ezekiel Bryant for education, and Dr. Roy Mitchell for leadership. Dr. Bryant said, “I was honored to receive this recognition and commend the leadership

of the National Alumni Association. There is a bright future for EWC under the dynamic leadership of the new College President, Dr. Claudette Williams. EWC was, for me, a bridge over troubled waters back in January 1951 when I received my AA degree. It can continue to offer the same opportunities for others.”

The weekend of “Tiger” activities

closed with the National Alumni Association’s election of new leadership for the 2007-2009 biennium. The new officers include: president, Marguerite Warren; vice president, Juliet Fields; treasurer, Charles Moore; executive secretary, Linda Sue Holmes; recording secretary, Jacqueline Nash; financial secretary, Claudette Elps; chaplain, Carrie DeJournett; parliamentarian, Levi Bell. Marguerite Warren added, “We are excited about the future. The possibilities for our alma mater are limitless. Tigers [not lions] are, after all, ‘kings of the jungle.’”



Photo By Jay Baker

Pictured left to right are the newly elected EWC National Alumni Association Officers for the 2007-09 biennium: (front row) president, Marguerite Warren; vice president, Juliet Fields; executive secretary, Linda Sue Holmes; EWC College President, Dr. Claudette Williams; financial secretary, Claudette Elps; chaplain, Carrie DeJournett; parliamentarian, Levi Bell; (back row) recording secretary, Jacqueline Nash; treasurer, Charles Moore.

Wildcat Football

Recognizing the Church & Community Adding the 'Cat Zone' for Local Youth

Bethune-Cookman University is expanding upon its tradition of recognizing the accomplishments and contributions the Church and Community has made toward higher education and the advancement of our people. This week long event lifts up Christ and draws over 10,000 individuals to Municipal Stadium, Saturday September 8th at 4:00 pm. This year a committee of ministers was assembled to develop a reunion of all B-CU affiliated clergy in 2009 for a Pastor's Conference, Week of Prayer on campus, Lecture Series, Revival, Music Workshop, and Gospel Concert.

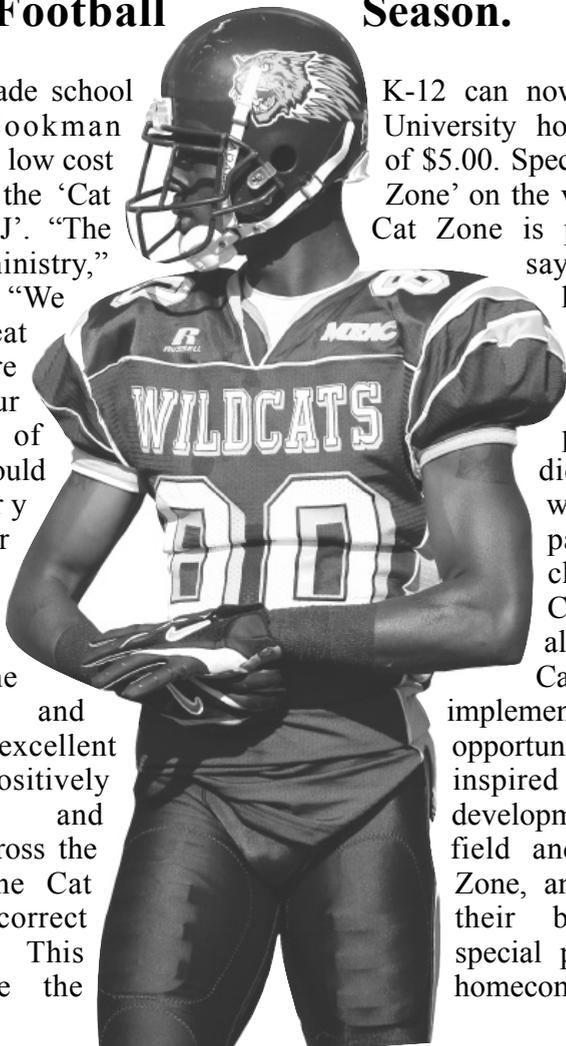


Lynn Thompson

Church and Community Day started in 1994 by Director of Athletics, Lynn W. Thompson and then Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Kevin James, to provide ministry through intercollegiate athletics to the Greater Central Florida Area while fostering an increase in the paid attendance at Bethune-Cookman University football games. Great success has been experienced over the years as churches along with their pastors aligned the football field for a pre-game concert event.

The 'Cat Zone' is something new for the 2007 Football Season.

Youth in grade school Bethune-Cookman game for the low cost reserved as the 'Cat in section 'J'. "The athletic ministry," Thompson. "We that a great youth were attend our because of those that could necessary with their the brain-Audley C U Miami, the designed and an excellent to be positively growth and can look across the youth in the Cat phones, correct needed. This not include the



K-12 can now attend all University home football of \$5.00. Special sitting is Zone' on the visitor's side Cat Zone is part of our says Lynn have found number of unable to g a m e s price, and did not want to sit parents. As child of Coakley, a B-alumnus from Cat Zone was implemented. This is opportunity for youth inspired for future development. Parents field and see their Zone, and with cell their behavior if special pricing does homecoming game.

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** Teen Talk show on existing Channel 99 devoted to Youth discussions.*

** Street Mentoring Programs to address Unsupervised youth on the streets.*

SUPPORTING SENIORS:

** Virtual Museum to acknowledge Community Leaders and Historic Landmarks of Zone 6.*

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**Youth Tech to ensure a laptop is put in every child's home.*

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**Implement Zone 6 Newsletter for greater feedback on neighborhood issues and more streamlined approach to link existing services to people.*



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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Pierre Louis, nonpartisan, for City Commissioner, Zone 6



Pierre Louis

REV. DR. WARREN JACKSON continued from page 15

God desires that of the church. Mediate on the Word of God, so as to clear out the clutter of our minds so that we can operate in the use our Minds in a proper way that will bring glory to God. Many of us want the things that God has to offer, however, we don't want to change our minds about the way we are acting, speaking, living, or even learning things; Sadly, even when the mindset we have isn't working for us.

The phenomenal consequences of meditating on the Word of God puts us in a totally different class. Even in the church, because many of us don't spend time with God on a regular basis, most of us spend time doing things FOR God but we don't spend time WITH God. However, when we do spend that time, we think differently, we treat people differently, we don't hold on to offenses, we forgive speedily, we give, we serve, we love, we turn the other cheek, we're blessed and moreso; than that, we obtain and have ACCESS to the KING of Glory. These are just a few things that happen when our minds have been elevated. We find out what it really means to be like Jesus, and not like us.

I believe that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most powerful entity on the planet. We have the ability and authority through and in Christ Jesus our Lord to make the necessary changes that is so needed in our communities, cities, governments, and world. However, we cannot do it without thinking on a higher level. We can't believe average or carnal and do supernatural exploits. This requires change! And then more change, and then more change. And even more change.

God is a moving God and He desires the best for His children. How about we get on the "band wagon" and start working on our minds. It's a 24 hour a day job, and you will be working on it until Jesus comes back, but you will be better off because now you'll be able to hear from the God without all the clutter that usually would have held you back. Determine not to allow past failures, offenses, hurts, and traumas, to rob you of the destiny that God has for you. **Elevate your mind, Get yourself together!**

DR. REED from page 1



Received NCATE Re-accreditation for Education Degree Granting Programs.

A new accelerated Business Administration Degree Program

August 2006 - Opened a new student Wildcat Center with exercise/fitness room

August 2006 - Opened a new Center for Civic Engagement

August 2006 - Opened a new Presidents' banquet hall/conference center

Expanded online distance learning

Internal controls have been strengthened and have led to improvement in the overall cash flow of the University, thus resulting in a more stable financial position.

An increased operating budget to over \$50 million.

Record breaking enrollment from 2,800 in 2004 to 3,111 students in 2006, the largest in the University's history)

Eliminated 2004 deficit of \$200K in the Performing Arts Center

Created new University Print Shop

Alumni giving increased by 63%;

exceeds the goal of \$525K for fiscal year 2006.

Two new student residential Scholarship Houses opened August 2006.

At half way point of raising \$7M needed to begin construction of a state of the art Football Training Center (over \$3.51M raised to date).

Significantly increased the number of unfunded scholarships for Concert Chorale students and athletes. Established the Dr. Rebecca Walker Steele Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The National Alumni Association and the University have signed a memorandum of Agreement which allows the Alumni Association the use of a University-owned house for Association Business (Opened Homecoming, 2006).

New University website unveiled, July 2006; Upgraded network infrastructure; expanded wireless network; strengthened campus technology security

The Florida Classic is being taken to a new level of accountability with newly established consortium chaired by the presidents of Bethune-Cookman University and Florida A&M University.

ON THE HORIZON

Launch a \$50M Capital Campaign to include funding for Residential House and a new student dining hall.

Planning and Implementation of several new Masters Degree programs to include Environmental Sciences

New library/technology center

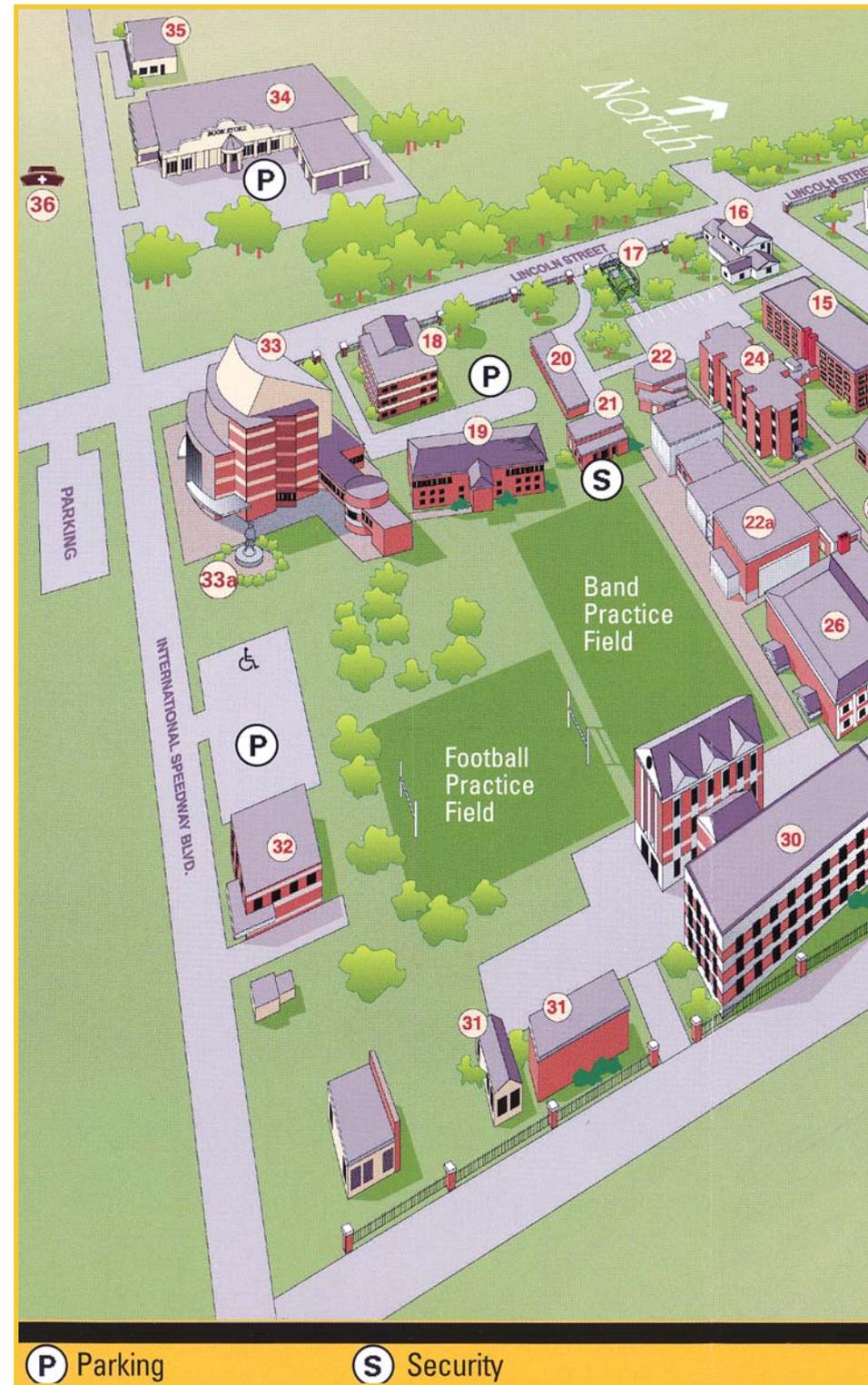
New Science building with updated labs

Student Union

Phase in of faculty and staff computer upgrades

Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed steps has enlarged the path of the Great Bethune-Cookman University to engulf 78.5 acres and earn the Most Creative College Award. She is a President most notable with anticipated prominence for the university and generations of young scholar to follow.

All photos this page by John Reeves



You can make it on Broken Pieces!

By Pastor Leon R. Bing
North Jacksonville Family Worship Center
Jacksonville, Florida

43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

KJV

This is a very good passage of scripture to read and there are several messages to glean from it. So I want to share in one of the many revelations that come from this passage of scripture, you must understand what has led up to this point in verses 43 and 44. It starts at verse one, but I was gracious and started at verse 13. Paul had finished his stating case with King Agrippa and now was on his way to see Caesar in Rome to state his case before Caesar. After the Centurion in charge obtained a ship for he and the prisoners in his care, which included Paul, they began their journey. Paul had given a warning to the Centurion not to sail, but the Centurion would not listen to Paul. The rest of Chapter 27 gives us the events that took place on that journey, and gives us something to build our faith on!

Acts 27:13-44

13 And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.

14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, under girding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksand, strake sail, and so were driven.

18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

With these verses, I want to focus on **Euroclydon**, pronounced “yoo-roc-clydon”. There are two examples that we need look at; first, the south wind. As the south wind began to blow, the ship was still navigable. Then there is euroclydon, which is a northeastern wind system. It was this system that eventually destroyed the ship. Let us see how these two wind systems can be used to help us understand life’s issues as it pertains to us. The south wind represents the issues in our lives that we are able to get by with. Such as those who smoke; they will always say, “I know I don’t need to do this, and one day I’ll quit.” Or “it’s okay to drink a little, what’s wrong with that?” How about this, “What’s wrong with Shacking up?” these are just a few of the issues of life that we are able to deal with.



But when it comes to Euroclydon, things are well out of our control! Let’s first take a look at the effects of Euroclydon in the Bible. Euroclydon was the wind system that caused Jonah to eventually be thrown off of the ship he was on while running from the Lord’s command to go to Nineveh. Then

there was the storm that Jesus walked on water to get to the ship. Again Euroclydon showed up while Jesus was asleep on the boat while his disciples were in fear. Even in our day and time we see the effects of Euroclydon. When ever there is a northeastern wind system, those of you who have small boats know that you can not take your boats out into the ocean! We are fortunate to have Doppler Radars and other technology to warn us, unlike the early Bible times! Also in the winter, it is Euroclydon that blows and brings the arctic freeze across the country. Now with all of these examples it shows that there are some things that are not in our control.

So then, when it comes to the issues of life, there are some things that are out of our control, these are the things that require much prayer! Parents who are dealing with the fact that their child is gay, or maybe you received a bad report from the doctor such as cancer. Maybe you are in so much debt that you’re facing bankruptcy. Or maybe you have a love one that’s bi-polar. These are just a few examples and there are many other out there! The bottom line is Euroclydon has blown your way and things are falling apart! Let’s read on.

21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but of the ship.

23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

27 But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.

29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the fore ship,

Now in verse 21 Paul makes a statement, **“Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.”** How many people have heard the preachers

see **LEON BING** page 32



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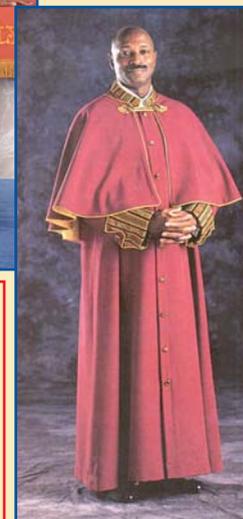
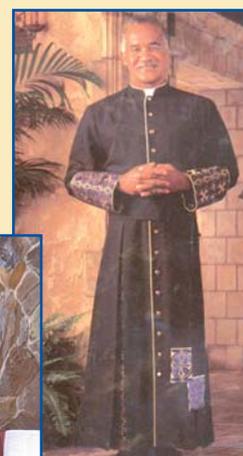
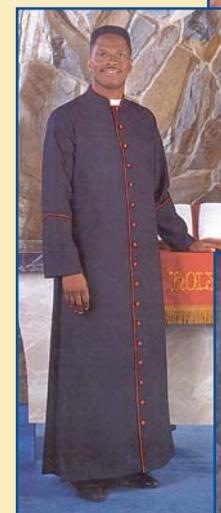
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New Program in Duval County Encourages Drop-Outs to “Drop Back In”

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

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

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

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

A unique and successful concept is that the DBIA’s are in partnership with local churches because most sites are located in spaces leased from churches. This has proven to be beneficial to the students, the

parents, the church, and the community. Volunteers within the church community help in the schools and provide positive role models for the students.

Duval County DBIA is opening two more sites for the fall and anticipates over 1000 students. In addition to Duval and Broward Counties, more Drop Back In Academies are opening in Polk and Palm Beach Counties for the 2007-2008 school year, thanks to the hard work

of Dr. Gerald Luongo, VP of Florida DBIA. All counties are now accepting applications for the new school year.

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

For more information on the Drop-Back-In program through Alternatives Unlimited, visit www.alternativesunlimited.com or call 904-448-6180.



Duval County Drop Back In Sites:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editorial

Black Women and Their Hair

A Response to the Article Get Real: Enough with the Weave and Wigs

By Phyllis Allen
Orlando, Florida

I am a licensed cosmetology who specializes in natural hair care. I don't have a problem with weaves or wigs because I make wigs and do advanced weaving techniques. What I have a problem with is someone telling African-American women that they are not real because they change their appearance by wearing weaves or wigs.

Most women like the fact that they can be flexible with their hair. Weaves and wigs give women the opportunity to do that. It also allows them to change their hair color without damaging the hair with chemicals. I have had several weave styles and each made me look like a different person. I didn't wear the weaves or wigs because I had a lack of self-esteem, I wore it because I could and it was convenient.

Change is a part of life, not a lack of discipline. There are people who have looked the same all their life and never allowed themselves to explore change because it appears they may lack self-esteem. Most of the time they are concerned about what others think about them. There



Phyllis Allen
PhilRich International Natural
Hair Studio

are also women who have to wear weaves and wigs because they have damaged their hair by wearing weaves, wigs, and chemically treated hair.

On the other hand I can see how those who have become dependent on weaves and wigs may appear like they may have low self-esteem or some type of self-hatred. There are people who are wearing hair extension that you know there is no way that could be their

hair. If you are going to wear fake hair make sure it doesn't look fake. When you wear hair extensions it is a cosmetic enhancement not a hot GHETTO mess.

I have helped many women to break the cycle of depending on artificial hair. They have stop wearing weaves, wigs, and chemically treated hair. I help them transition to their natural hair (with no chemicals). By transitioning to their natural hair they have told me they feel free. Some people have told me that they are no longer enslaved to their hair.

There is an issue that we as African-American women need to address. The issue is why so many of our young African American sisters are appearing to become addicted to fake hair. It is like a drug they can't do without. Think about how many young African-American women you see with their own hair. We as their elders need to teach them that their own hair is their glory. But how can we teach them when we wear just as much fake hair as they do.

Parents relax their children's hair and add hair extensions sometimes before they are three years old. When we do that we are telling them that their hair is not good enough. If there is a low self-esteem or self-hatred issue going on among African-American women or our youth, it is our fault because we are not leading by example. We much start to teach the youth that they are beautiful just the way they are. We need to help them break the cycle so if they do wear fake hair it is by choice and not because they hate their real hair. We as the adults most realize that our REAL hair is our glory.

If you would like to break the cycle and become natural please call Phyllis Allen of PhilRich International Natural Hair Studio at 407-522-9954 for a free consultation. For a copy of the article Get Real: Enough of the Weave and Wigs, send request to TheChristianReader@cfl.rr.com.

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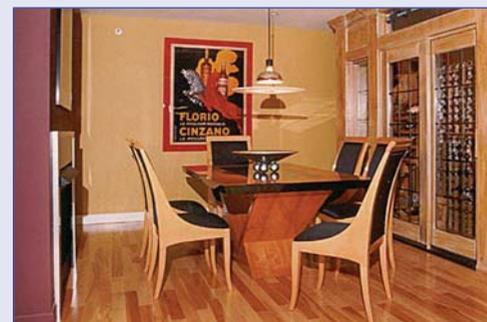
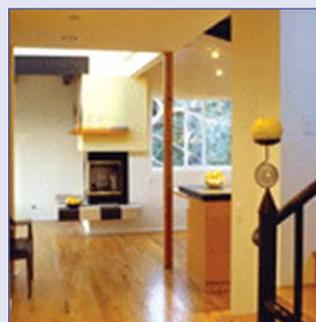
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Gladys Knight Crusades Against Diabetes

By Dr. Ira Riley
Dental Rx
Jacksonville, Florida

Gladys Knight's mother, Elizabeth, passed away in 1997 at the age of 80. That's when Ms. Knight decided to do something to celebrate her mother's long and eventful life. So in 1999, in cooperation with the American Diabetes Association, Gladys started the Elizabeth Knight Fund. This fund is dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges of diabetes and to showing people how they can live gratifying and successful lives with this disease – just as Elizabeth Knight did.

“When we first started this fund, my brothers Bubba and David and I used to go on tour, and we would set up lectures for us to talk to people. And people came out and they heard our story.”

MEET ELIZABETH KNIGHT

“My mother Elizabeth Knight was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes at about 50 years old,” recalls Gladys. “And back then, she told us, ‘I’m going to live to be 80,’ and she did! Mom always wanted to make life with diabetes better. So many people are down about getting diabetes, and it doesn’t need to be that way. If you are willing to do what you need to do to control this disease, it’s like anything else. That’s what my mom taught us, and that’s what my we want to pass along to other people.

Gladys is taking her mother's lessons and spreading the word. She wants to make it better for others with diabetes - and that includes some of her siblings. “The year Mom was first diagnosed with it, of course none of us had it. But my



younger brother David – who has since passed due to complications of diabetes – had it, and now my older sister Brenda has it. She’s just like my mom, doing the things that you

need to do, watching what she eats and moving all the time. That’s the way we should be about this disease. Now, I don’t have it, and my brother Bubba doesn’t have it, either. But weight was

always an issue for my mother’s side of the family, so we all need to keep an eye on that.”

Taking care. That’s what the Elizabeth Knight Fund is all about: “Mom was always after us to get on a diet, get out and exercise, and just plain get out and do thing, and so forth and so on. She was very particular. Even after she got older.

“She played such a big part in our lives – she handled our finances for years and came on trips with us all the time.

See DIABETES page 28

DIABETES continued from page 27



Elizabeth Knight

After a while, she did have some serious medical problems. But, you know, age alone causes things to happen. She did start to lose her sight and eventually started to lose her kidneys.”

And when Elizabeth went on dialysis, she faced that challenge the same way that she'd faced her diabetes for most of her life: head-on. “She didn't want to go to the center all the time, getting her blood filtered,” Says Gladys. “She opted to do peritoneal dialysis, where they put a catheter in the abdomen and you dialyze three or four times a day. My mom made us go to school to learn how to do this, but after we lived through all that, she wouldn't let us do it. She had to make sure that everything was sanitary, and she did it perfectly. When she passed, her doctors told us they'd never had a person on home dialysis that never had an infection, until my mom. That was Mom”

Attitude Adjustment

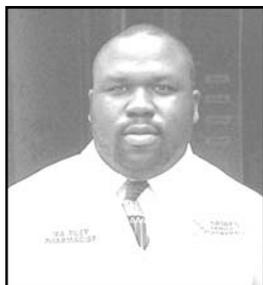
“when they get the diagnosis, so many people think, Well that's it, my life is over, and that's not true,” stresses Gladys. “It's like anything else- you have to be determined not to let it get you down.

“I believe we're helping people understand that being diagnosed with type 2 doesn't have to be an end all situations. If you get an education about it and know how to take care of yourself-well, you can live a good life. Mom showed us that every day.

“But we knew that outside of telling folks about type 2 diabetes, we needed to do some research about this. So the Elizabeth Knight Fund is dedicated to education and research.”

Contributions are managed by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). If you would like to support the Elizabeth Knight Fund, you can write the ADA at the National Call Center, 1701 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311. You can also call 800-DIABETES or visit www.diabetes.org.

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Mr. Speaker Speaks When Time Seem To Just Fly Away

By Vincent T. Edwards
Blessed Enterprise, Inc.
Tallahassee, Florida

Tick Tock, Tick Tock goes the clock. Away, away, away go the seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years - never to return again. If time is so important, why do we waste so much time by being nonproductive and counterproductive. I often hear people say "If I only had more time!" The question is what are you doing with the time you have? Do you use your time wisely? Successful people understand the importance of efficient use of time and value their time. Have you ever put a value to your time? What's your time worth? \$10, \$20, \$75 or \$100 per hour? When you place a value (dollar amount) on your time you may begin to view it differently and it has the tendency to become more meaningful.

In my opinion everyone should take an economics course, the old supply and demand course. It was there that I learned TANSTASFL (There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch) and the concept of opportunity costs (the cost (benefit forgone) of selecting one option over another). The opportunity costs should be strongly considered when it comes to your choosing what you do with your time. Every second costs something.



Vincent T. Edwards

Are you spending your time and energy on things that will yield the greatest return? For instance, should you be working or reading and forwarding all of the chain emails? Which provides the greatest return and what benefits do you give up by selecting one over the other? When it comes to time learn to make time for the important things in your life whatever they may be... God, Family, Friends, Personal/Professional Development.

Learn to stop wasting time, make every second count. Focus on your priorities, learn to say no, track/monitor your time, learn to get to the point when communicating, and best of all get organized. So much time is lost looking for and trying to find things. Remember start using your time wisely. The choices for the use of your time are many and the consequences of those choices may impact you for a lifetime. Value your time - Do It Now!

Vincent T. Edwards "Mr. Speaker" is an inspirational and motivational speaker/radio talk show host. If you would like for Vincent T. Edwards "Mr. Speaker" to speak at your next event (conference, convention, special event etc.), contact him on the web at www.blessedenterprise.com, by phone at 850.309.2999 or by email at mrspeakerspeaks@blessedenterprise.com



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

- Romans 8:18

Bible Wordsearch

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

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for special service*

Puzzle #143

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

- | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| AARON | EZEKIEL | MARK |
| ABRAHAM | EZRA | MATTHEW |
| AMOS | GIDEON | MATTHIAS |
| ANDREW | HOSEA | NATHANAEAL |
| APOLLOS | ISAAC | NEHEMIAH |
| BARAK | ISAIAH | OTHNIEL |
| BARNABAS | JACOB | PETER |
| DANIEL | JEHU | PHILIP |
| DAVID | JEPHTHAH | PHINEHAS |
| DEBORAH | JEREMIAH | SAMSON |
| EHUD | JEROBOAM | SAMUEL |
| ELEAZAR | JOHN | SAUL |
| ELIJAH | JONAH | SOLOMON |
| ELISHA | JOSEPH | STEPHEN |
| ESTHER | JOSHUA | TIMOTHY |

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

Psalm 62

I'm A Christian Reader

Bible Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10			11		12	
13			14			15	
16				17			
			18				
19	20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	
			33				
34	35			36		37	38
39			40			41	
42				43			
44			45				46

ACROSS

- 1 "___" ! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? (Luke 4:34)
- 4 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on ___ and wine (Luke 10:34)
- 7 You brood of vipers! Who warned you ___ flee from the coming wrath? (Matt 3:7-8)
- 9 Do to ___ as you would have them do to you (Luke 6:31)
- 11 they ran both together; and the other disciple did ___ Peter (John 20:4) KJV
- 13 He sacrificed for their sins once for all ___ he offered himself (Heb 7:27)
- 14 Saul tried to ___ him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him (1 Sam 19:10)
- 15 the devil threw him down, and ___ him (Luke 9:42) KJV
- 16 the borrower is servant to the ___ (Prov 22:7)
- 17 There were ___ in the earth in those days (Gen 6:4) KJV
- 18 what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the ___? (Matt 24:3)
- 19 All this I have told you so that you will not go ___ (John 16:1)
- 22 the pot is to be scoured and ___ with water (Lev 6:28-29)
- 26 For there is a ___ time and procedure for every matter (Eccl 8:6)
- 30 Tell the Israelites to turn back and ___ near Pi Hahiroth (Ex 14:1-2)
- 33 Peter replied, "Even if ___ fall away on account of you, I never will." (Matt 26:33)
- 34 as one wipes a dish, ___ it and turning it upside down (2 Kings 21:13)
- 36 my words that I have put in your mouth will not ___ from your mouth (Isa 59:21)
- 39 ___ for that day! For the day of the LORD is near (Joel 1:15)
- 40 The breath of God produces ___, and the broad waters become frozen (Job 37:10)
- 41 Jesus was led by the Spirit ___ the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matt 4:1-2)
- 42 But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your ___ endures (Ps 102:12)
- 43 Set on the great pot, and ___ pottage for the sons (2 Kings 4:38) KJV
- 44 an enormous r___ dragon with seven heads and ten horns (partial word) (Rev 12:3)
- 45 They do it to ___ a crown that will not last (1 Cor 9:25)
- 46 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven ___ they were eating (Mark 16:14)

DOWN

- 1 Hyenas will ___ in her strongholds (Isa 13:22)
- 2 Men of ___ ! I see that in every way you are very religious (Acts 17:22)
- 3 Speak the truth to each other, and ___ true and sound judgment (Zech 8:16)
- 4 the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ___ (Lev 11:13) KJV
- 5 No ___ will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham (Gen 17:5)
- 6 None who go to her return or ___ the paths of life (Prov 2:19)
- 7 the ___ and the crane and the swallow (Jer 8:7) KJV
- 8 lofty trees will be felled, the tall ___ will be brought low (Isa 10:33)
- 10 as a ___ gathers her chicks under her wings (Matt 23:37)
- 12 Peter, however, got up and ___ to the tomb (Luke 24:12)
- 19 the sucking child shall play on the hole of the ___ (Isa 11:8) KJV
- 20 where ___ or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Matt 18:20)
- 21 Blessed ___ the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God (Matt 5:9)
- 23 placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the ___ (Luke 2:7)
- 24 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the ___ (Gen 41:49)
- 25 send Lazarus to ___ the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue (Luke 16:24)
- 27 they that passed by ___ on him, wagging their heads (Mark 15:29) KJV
- 28 a place of confinement (Judg 16:25)
- 29 He got up and rebuked the wind and the ___ waters; the storm subsided (Luke 8:24)
- 30 David was the youngest; and the three ___ followed Saul (1 Sam 17:14) KJV
- 31 Joshua ___ on stones the law of Moses which he had written (Josh 8:32)
- 32 He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister ___ (John 11:1)
- 34 which brought fish, and all manner of ___, and sold on the Sabbath (Neh 13:16) KJV
- 35 He would plunge it into the ___ or kettle or caldron or pot (1 Sam 2:14)
- 37 Go to the ___, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! (Prov 6:6)
- 38 part of the foot (plural) (Dan 2:41)

see ANSWERS page 32

Do Illegal Immigrants Really Take Jobs From Poor American Workers?

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson
Guest Columnist

The young black man hesitated as he stood outside the small furniture manufacturing shop in South Los Angeles. He was dressed neatly, and he was well groomed. He eyed the building warily. The sign on the narrow glass door in English and Spanish, read "help wanted" and *trabajo aqui*. The opening was for a shop helper, mostly to sweep up and do routine clean up and maintenance. It did not require any education or special skill. It paid minimum wage, as did the thousands of shops that dotted the area. The company had no employee health care plan, or other benefits.

After a moment he went in and politely asked for an application. The petite receptionist, a young Latina, handed him an application form, with an airy nonchalance. She curtly suggested that he fill it out and bring it back. When he asked if there would be an interview, she haltingly said only if there was a position open. The young man looked perplexed, glanced at the help wanted sign, politely thanked her and left. A couple of hours later two other young Latinos came in to apply. One was immediately hired. The other was told that another helper job might open up within the next few days. However, the workers in the shop, as they were in nearly all the other shops in the area were Latinos, a large percentage of who were illegal immigrants.

There were no other blacks, whites, or even English speaking native-born Latino workers in the plant or at few of the other shops in the area. This is not a fictional story. I personally witnessed the scene at the company involving the black job seeker. Anti-illegal immigration activists say that the experience of the young black job seeker has played out thousands of times at restaurants, hotels, on farms, and at manufacturing plants nationally, and that this is a major reason so many young black males are unemployed join gangs, deal drugs and pack America's jails.

Congress will hammer out a comprehensive immigration reform law. But it won't answer this question: Do the estimated 10 to 12 million illegal immigrants in the country take jobs from American citizens, especially the bottom rung American workers, the young, the poor and more often than not African-American workers?

What if the young black job seeker, or any other American looking for work in a low end manufacturing plant or a restaurant in Los Angeles, were offered that job which probably pays minimum wage and doesn't offer any benefits or job security? Would he take it? Maybe yes, maybe no. It's certainly hard to imagine that a young black from South Los Angeles, South Chicago, or Harlem, not to mention a native born young white or Latino going out to the fields to pick strawberries for 10 to 12 hours a day in the hot sun at minimum or even sub-minimum wages. Or, that they'd take a job at a car wash or bus dishes in a restaurant. But what if the farm contractors, car wash owners, and



Earl Ofari Hutchinson

manufacturers paid a living wage and provided benefits. It might be a different story, at least for some young people in Los Angeles.

Then there's the regional factor. There is some evidence that young workers will work jobs in the South and the Midwest. Jobs that have long been designated as jobs that only illegal immigrants will work, that is if those jobs were offered to them. But when employers give the quick brush-off to young blacks and other young American workers that are willing to take lower end jobs, they send the not-so-subtle message that they are not wanted or welcome.

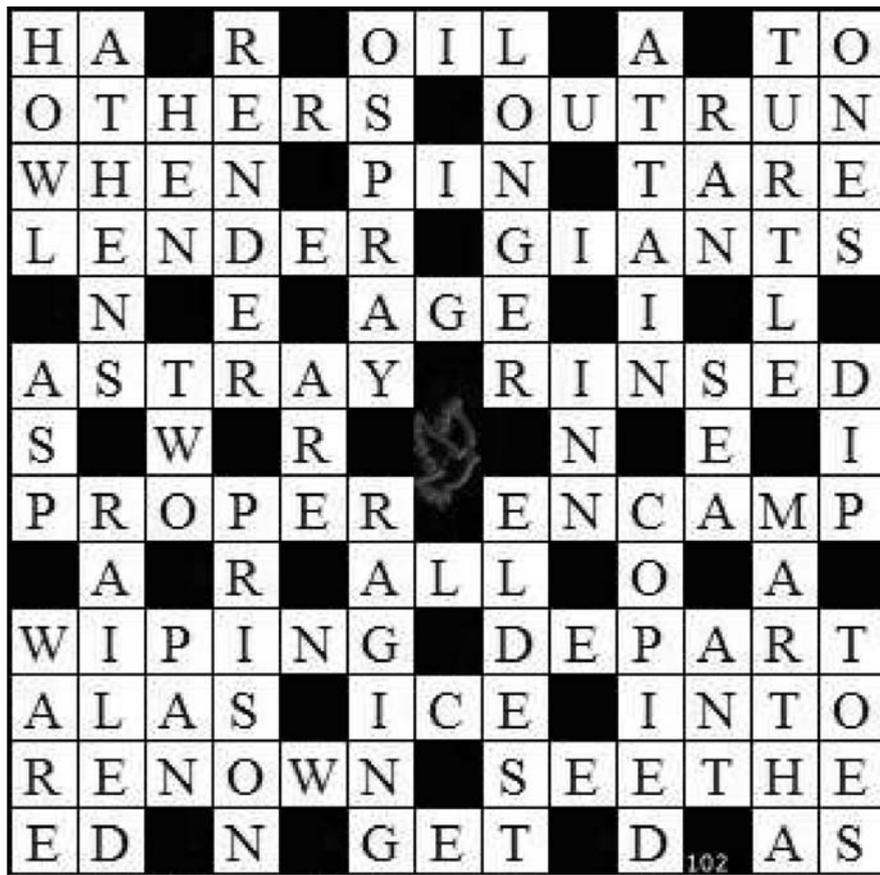
This is a powerful disincentive for them to pursue work in these taboo areas of the job market. The end result is that an entire category of jobs at the ground rung of American industry is clearly marked as "Latino only." The fight over jobs and illegal immigration came at the worst possible time for the urban poor. Shrinking federal and state budgets for job training and creation programs, industry downsizing, and escalating crime and violence in inner city neighborhoods made banks and corporations even more reluctant to invest in these communities, and that made the job situation even worse.

The young black in Los Angeles and other cities that anti-illegal immigration opponents cite as proof that illegal immigration is ruinous for the economy and the urban poor may or may not have lost out in his job hunt to an illegal immigrant. But he also might have lost out in his job search because of discrimination, poor education, government budget slashes and the flight of manufacturers to other countries. That is no excuse not to ensure that American workers have the right to work in any and all industries. That would do much to calm the fury of many Americans who worry that illegal immigration sledgehammers at least some American workers. Congress and the Bush Administration must not ignore that worry.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is columnist for BlackNews.com, a political analyst and social issues commentator, and the author of The Crisis in Black and Black (Middle Passage Press). For media interviews, contact: Mr. Hutchinson at 323-296-6331 or hutchinsonreport@aol.com

Never give up on yourself when faced with obstacles. God has more in store for you. Hold on tight to your faith... it is your strength and your solution.

Answers From Page 30



Bible Wordsearch

Solution to Puzzle No.143

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

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

He is my mighty rock

Psalm 62:7 niv

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(Over, Down, Direction)

AARON(6,2,W)
ABRAHAM(7,4,SW)
AMOS(5,2,SW)
ANDREW(2,10,S)
APOLLOS(8,15,NE)
BARAK(15,15,N)
BARNABAS(7,9,E)
DANIEL(6,14,W)
DAVID(14,14,NW)
DEBORAH(14,1,S)
EHUD(13,2,SW)
ELEAZAR(13,15,W)
ELIJAH(11,13,N)
ELISHA(12,6,W)
ESTHER(13,2,W)
EZEKIEL(11,15,NW)
EZRA(5,13,NW)
GIDEON(7,2,SW)
HOSEA(5,10,S)
ISAAC(1,5,N)
ISAIAH(14,8,S)
JACOB(13,1,W)
JEHU(12,14,NW)
JEPHTHAH(8,3,S)
JEREMIAH(15,1,SW)
JEROBOAM(13,1,S)
JOHN(4,6,W)
JONAH(8,3,E)
JOSEPH(15,1,S)
JOSHUA(11,10,SW)
MARK(3,3,SE)
MATTHEW(1,10,E)
MATTHIAS(10,7,W)
NATHANAEL(5,3,SE)
NEHEMIAH(10,8,W)
OTHNIEL(13,6,SW)
PETER(6,13,W)
PHILIP(15,5,S)
PHINEHAS(12,8,NW)
SAMSON(8,1,W)
SAMUEL(1,12,N)
SAUL(13,14,N)
SOLOMON(3,7,N)
STEPHEN(9,6,SW)
TIMOTHY(8,14,NW)

LEON BING continued from page 22

and teachers of God's Word give warnings, direction, instruction, or counsel in so many areas of their lives just to have those same people ignore the word and do their own thing and get in more trouble. This is an on going problem in just about every church family in America. And yet like Paul, we continue to stand in the gap for all of God's children, because of the fact that God says in His Word that He doesn't wish that any of us should perish! But don't forget, you shall reap what you sow! But back to Paul, he gave them warning in verse 10; And said unto them, Sirs; I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. However, there was good news because Paul had a visit from a "Night Angel" he tells us in verse 23, even though the ship will be lost, no lives will be lost!

31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

32 Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoisted up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmovable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

Now in these verses we see that these men were so terrified that they had gone on an unplanned fast. It had been 14 days before Paul had to force them to eat something. Then like many of us today, they began to do whatever they could to get from out of their situation. They began to lighten the ship and ended up grounding the ship. We get ourselves into situations and try any and everything to get out, and for the most part we dig deeper holes for ourselves. For example, we get into a financial bind so we try one of those get rich quick schemes or one of those credit repair schemes and get deeper into financial debt. And the soldiers' final plan was to throw all of the prisoners over board, you talk about some serious panicking going on, they were really losing it. Guess what, some of us also panic! We divorce before we allow God to work it out in us. Or we quit our jobs with nowhere to go! Or we give up on a love one before help can arrive. You see where I'm going right? But the final two verses let's us know, "We can make it on broken pieces!"

See LEON BING page34

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LEON BING continued from page 32

43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

There are some who can swim, some of you are mature enough in the things of God that you know how to fast and pray, and seek God's face, seek Godly counsel and obey God's word. You are the ones that when the issues of life begin to get too much for you, you know how to get resolve because you allow the Holy Spirit that is within you to lead you into all truth.

There are some on boards, some of you who have enough God in you that you realize that if you can hook up with a pray partner, or a mature Christian, you can get pointed in the right direction. Also those who are mature Christians realize that you are boards that others can use to make it out of their situations. You may be Christian Counselors, Deacons, and Ministers just to name a few.

And some on broken pieces, you may not be as mature in the things of God as others, but be assured of this one thing, if you put your faith and confidence in God, you can make it out of you troubles, even if it is on broken pieces! If all you know is that one Bible verse or passage, hold fast to it! Whatever that broken piece is, don't let go! You can make it on broken pieces! I love you all and may God bless each of you!

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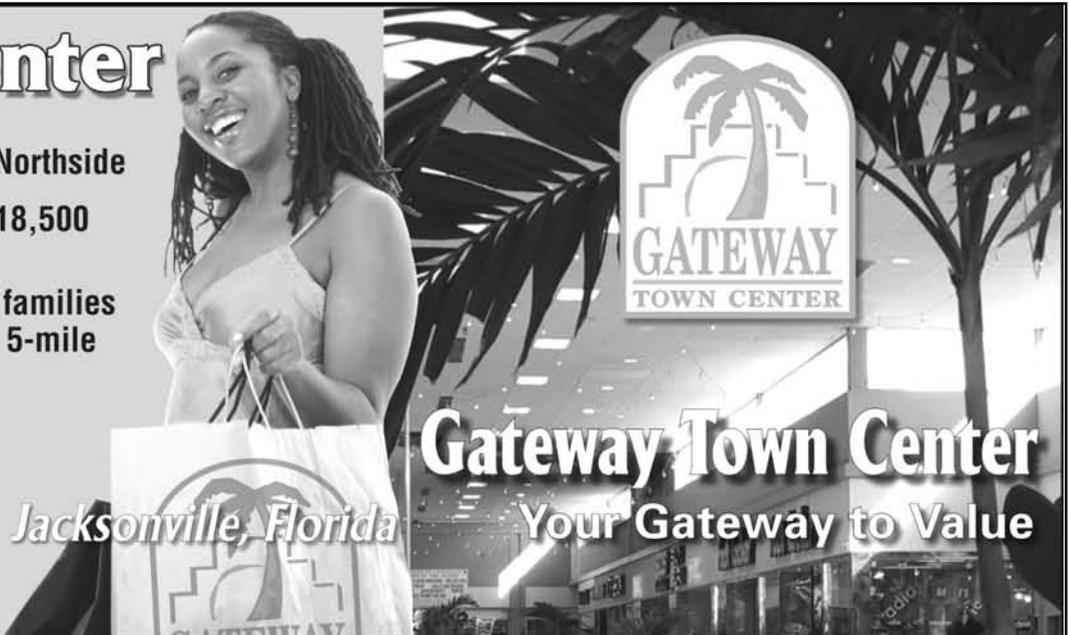
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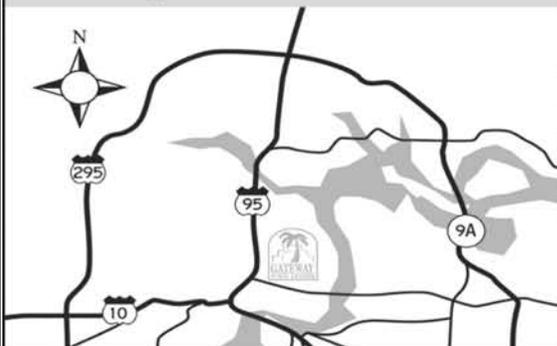
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Florida A&M University Announces New Executive Director of Alumni Affairs

By LaNedra Carroll
Tallahassee, Florida

Carmen Cummings Martin, former aide to Congressman Allen Boyd, has been named the new executive director of Alumni Affairs at Florida A&M University. Cummings is a 1984 FAMU graduate who is one of the most recognizable faces in the Tallahassee area, as well as among other FAMU alumni.

“Already, I have received so many calls from alumni who wanted to offer congratulations on this appointment,” said Dr. Alvin Bryant, president of the National Alumni Association. “I have been really impressed with their comments about Carmen. I look forward to working with her. “We have wanted a director who is going to help us improve our membership, help us with our fundraising activities and provide professional support as we work together to achieve the objectives that have been set by Dr. Ammons,” Bryant said.



Carmen Cummings Martin

Cummings joins the FAMU staff after serving, since 2002, as the community-relations director for Boyd, who represents the Second Congressional District of 16 North Florida counties. Prior to her work with Boyd, she was news anchor and reporter for WCTV-Channel 6

(Tallahassee). “Deep in my heart, I have always wanted to go back to the Hill,” Cummings said. “The timing was just never quite right until now.”

Cummings earned her bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism at FAMU. She is an award-winning journalist who has also earned numerous awards for her community service work, including: the 2006 recipient of the Sickle Cell Foundation Humanitarian Award; the Veterans Military Order of Purple Heart Award; and, the Refuge House Domestic Violence Awareness Advocacy Award, to name a few.

“I have spent more than half of my life dealing with people,” she said. “What I’ve learned is that you can’t make 100-percent of the people happy 100-percent of the time, but you can certainly try . . . because one of the strongest elements of my character is having a genuine concern for what people care about. I really believe in listening to other people.”

Cummings said she plans for one of her first “heart to hearts” to be with Dr. Bryant. “I have so much respect for him and really believe in the team approach. I don’t believe in conducting my professional life as a committee of one. We all need each other.”

FAMU President James H. Ammons telephoned Cummings himself, to ask her to join his team. “I just knew, after talking with her, that I had found the right person to harness the energy of the alumni,” Ammons said. “Anyone who knows Carmen and talks with her about our alma mater, can feel the love that she has for this institution. I feel confident that she is going to be a great fit and that, with her energy, experience and creativity, she will help to build a model program for alumni relations.”

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Loving In The Red Zone



By Shewanda Riley

GOOD BUT WEAK!

“People will be... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

Would you rather have someone who is weak but good or someone who is good but weak? When this question dropped into my spirit during prayer time a few weeks ago, I thought to myself: neither one because they sound the same to me. The question was repeated and I prayed to God and asked him what exactly did that mean.

I tried to focus real hard on understanding the question but was stumped. I'd been praying to God about some relationship concerns and was looking for divine direction and insight. But what kept coming in response to my prayer was this question: Would you rather have someone who is weak and acts good or someone who is good but has weaknesses?

Someone who is weak but looks good is not interested in really making a change. They are more interested in giving the appearance that they are led by their desire to be “good” when in actuality they are more led by their desire to indulge in their weaknesses.

When someone is good but weak, they have a sincere heart to submit to God's will but might find themselves struggling to do so. They are honest about their ability to fail sometimes...they don't wallow in their failures, however. They try to use those as stepping stones to spiritual growth.

I'd hoped that God was not giving me that as my answer to the prayer that I'd prayed earlier...it just didn't seem like an answer to me. I started to think about his question and was quite frankly puzzled. What is the difference between having someone who is weak but good or good with weaknesses?

Couldn't I just have “good” period? Did I have to choose one or the other? What I thought by wanting someone all good meant that I wanted someone like me...but God showed me that I wasn't all good. In fact, despite my best efforts, I still fell short. After I stopped crying and repenting for my faults, I realized that instead of crying for God to change someone else, I really needed to start with crying and praying for God to change ME!

I'd been so consumed about other's weaknesses hindering their ability to grow spiritually that I'd been hindering my own. In fact, I was missing out on a chance to show grace to others. All I could say to this was “Ouch!” I'd always thought I showed grace and compassion to others but God was showing me that the difficulty I had in resolving the situation had everything to do with my inability to sincerely show grace.

Being able to show grace meant that I could no longer be satisfied by superficial “Christian” behavior but had to exercise grace by looking deeper for the “Christian” heart and continue to make my own heart more Christlike.

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Publisher's Editorial



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



Storms on the Horizon

The Hurricanes of 2004 brought unprecedented damage to the state of Florida. The nation watched roofs being blown off and buildings literally destroyed as the "Sunshine State" experienced a barrage of beatings from its all-time enemy. What wasn't seen on the national screen was the massive support that immediately came from cities across the country. Power companies and telephone companies sent in crews. Law enforcement agencies sent officers. Businesses and Churches sent water, food, ice, batteries and generators. The aid was greater than the devastation. People came and helped.

The help came at the first sign of trouble. The help came to restore life as it was known. Those in need had no names, just individuals who were down and was given a lift by those who were up. No one knows when trouble will come his or her way. The same hurricanes that hit Florida continued north and devastated other states as Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Ironically, these cities are among those who rendered help to Florida. Help later came to them because they came to help.

We need to be more this way in our individual lives and relationships. Trouble comes and will come to each and every one of us. It comes in different forms and fashions. Sometimes seen and unseen, deserving and undeserving, however, trouble disrupts and devastates. Good-times, advancements, rewards and happiness in one's life very seldom make it to the big screen. But the news of your troubles travels fast and is widely known by all. This is not all bad, for to know gives opportunity to help. "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48).

Neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend, we can be like the hurricane aid workers... run to each other at the first sign of trouble.

Your problems become my problems; my substance becomes your comfort. This only happens when we love a community, father a community, mother a community. Every man becomes your brother, every woman your sister, and every child becomes your child.

I learned of this type of behavior first hand from my father, the late Amos Barrs, a teacher/preacher. I knew him at home as Daddy, but it wasn't until I returned back home to Daytona Beach after his death, that I discovered just how much he meant to others. From time-to-time I would be approached by individuals that would express how my father gave to them, shared of himself, sacrificed, counseled, and walked an extra mile for them. I could hear and see their heartfelt compassion as they told of their personal experiences with him. I came to know that my father was a provider to our community just as he was at home.

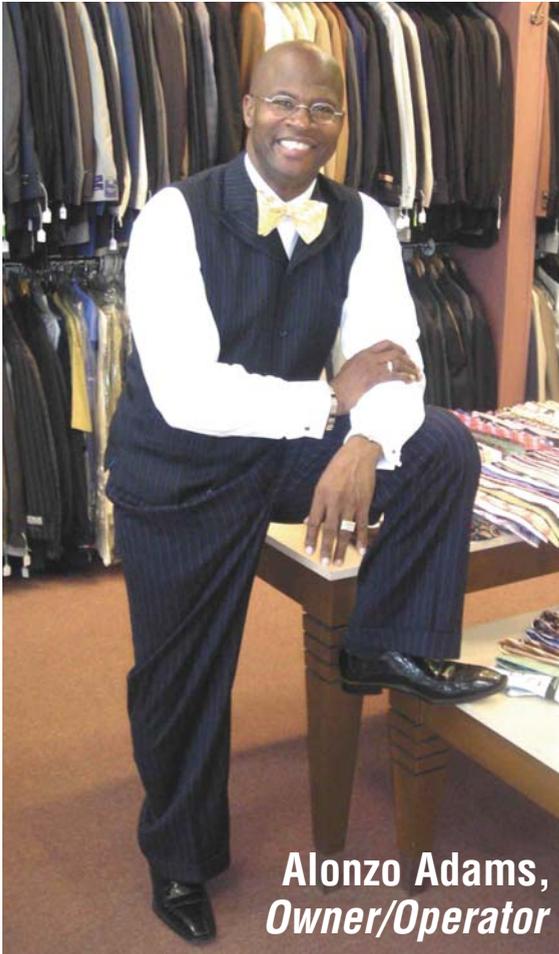
The Bible tells us "if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1). There lies in this passage the Christian message that inspires people to be good-people and workers to be aid-workers. You blessing others becomes your blessings. The Bible tells us further that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37: 25).

May this new year create for you more acts of kindness and love, and uncover for you greater opportunities of service to others that our community may grow stronger and this world becomes a better place to live.

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