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*Ms. Pelosi walked to the Capitol flanked on the right by Representative John Lewis of Georgia. Mr. Lewis, a prominent activist who confronted violence during civil rights marches before coming to Congress, said, “Today we are walking again, and we will be walking into history.” Ms. Pelosi and Mr. Lewis were joined by Representatives Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland on the left and John B. Larson of Connecticut on the right.*

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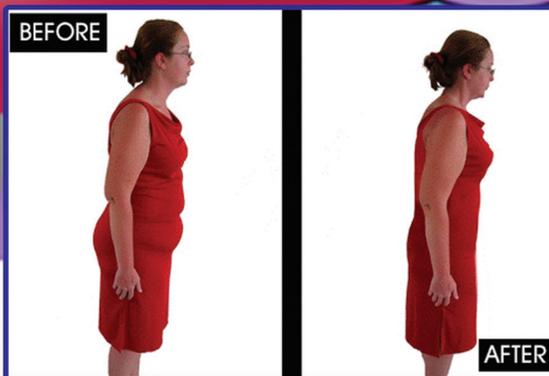
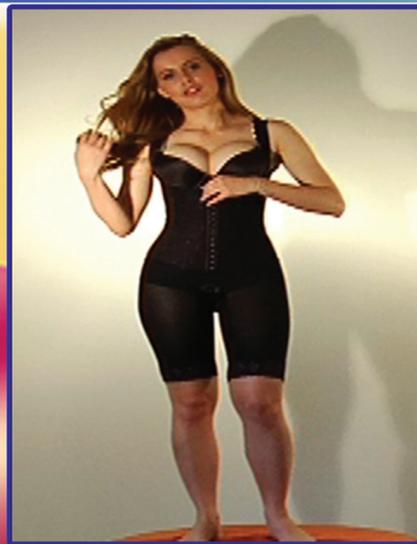


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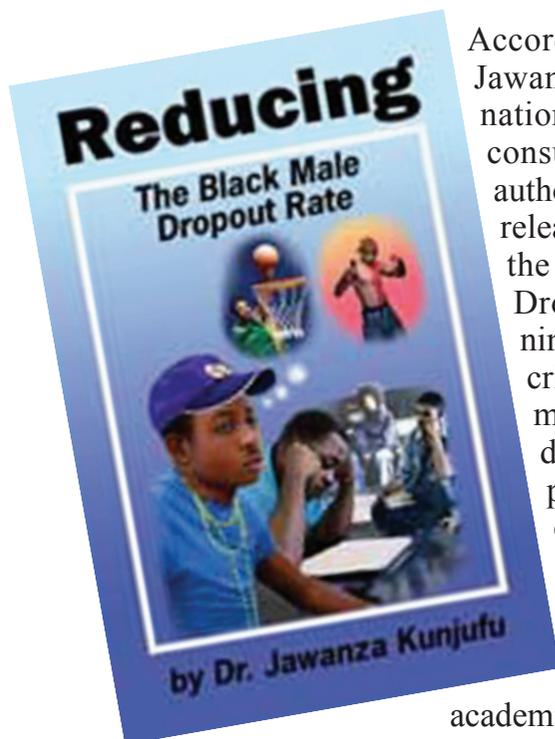
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## BLUEPRINT FOR TRANSFORMING DROPOUT FACTORIES INTO HIGH ACHIEVING SCHOOLS

Chicago, IL - The social net for high school dropouts is gone forever. When the manufacturing base in the U.S. was strong, a young man could drop out of high school and safely land at a factory with an \$18 an hour job. Today, young African American males are dropping out of high school at the highest rate of any group with only a net of barbed wire to catch them.



According to Jawanza Kunjufu, national education consultant and author of the newly released *Reducing the Black Male Dropout Rate*, ninth grade is the critical year for making the decision to physically drop out, but the seeds were planted much earlier and nurtured by academic failure.

The dropout rate for African American females is 41 percent, but for African American males it's 52 percent. According to Education Week 26 ("Diplomas Count 2008"), each year, more than half of the 1.2 million students who fail to graduate from high school are Black and Latino. The Schott Foundation reports that 2,000 high schools in 20 cities are contributing to almost 80 percent of the dropout rate.

"The causes are many, but academic failure, social promotions, grade padding, poor teacher quality, low parental involvement, and post traumatic slavery disorder lead the way," says Dr. Kunjufu.

Eighty-nine percent of African American eighth graders compute below grade level. Many of these students are socially promoted to ninth grade, despite the fact that they are not ready. In low-income high schools, half of

African American students read below the sixth grade level. When these students find themselves in high school, unequipped to meet the rigors of algebra, biology, literature, and other first year subjects, they begin to seriously consider dropping out. It is at this critical moment that Dr. Kunjufu seeks to save them.

### Who's To Blame?

There is no shortage of finger pointing in the media regarding the Black male dropout crisis. Dr. Kunjufu relates one study where school staff blamed parents and students - and parents and students blamed school staff. Dr. Kunjufu takes all stakeholders to task - schools, the community, parents, and students. "There is plenty of blame to go around, plenty of responsibility that must be shared if we are to reduce the dropout rate," says Dr. Kunjufu. "It's all too easy to blame schools, but schools only have children nine percent of the time. It's also easy to blame the victims in this crisis, Black males. But they desperately need our help."

### What We Can Do

Dr. Kunjufu lays out a comprehensive blueprint, and challenge, to schools, communities, parents, and students. The following highlights the major changes that must take place to get Black male students up to speed academically and to prevent them from dropping out:

#### Schools:

- \* Reduce principal and teacher turnover
- \* Improve teacher quality
- \* Implement a right brain Africentric curriculum
- \* Implement a school improvement plan with higher graduation and GPA targets
- \* Make schools safe

#### Communities:

- \* Implement Saturday Academies
- \* Churches adopt schools
- \* Make communities safe
- \* Increase the number of Black male mentors

#### Parents:

- \* Read to children, and have them read aloud (daily)
- \* Single mothers, keep the boyfriend out of the house
- \* Fathers, be a consistent, strong presence in your son's life
- \* Adopt an authoritative style of parenting

#### Students:

- \* Choose friends wisely

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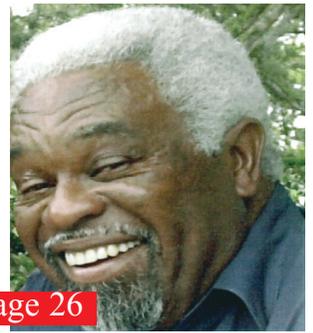
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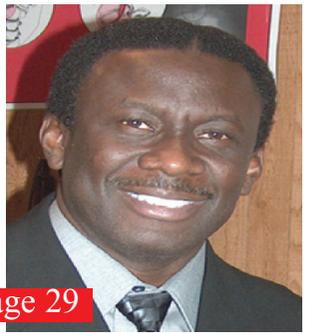
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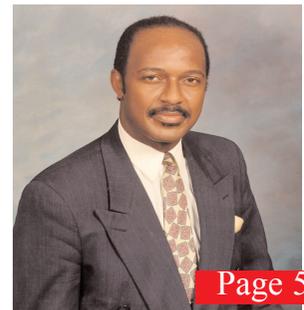
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## FROM GOD'S CORNER



# “EVERY CHURCH NEEDS AN USHER”

By Aundra Bryant  
Tallahassee, Florida

A few years ago, millionaire John H. Johnson died in Chicago, Illinois. Johnson was known for

his exceptional business skills because he started Jet and Ebony Magazines. When Johnson passed, Black Television Talk Show Host Tavis Smiley said that “All of us need someone like John Johnson to help to usher us in when society has seemingly closed the door on our future”. John H. Johnson borrowed some money from his mother and with hard work, determination and the grace of God he was able to rise to national prominence in the United States.

As my mind pondered over the life of John H. Johnson, Paul’s letter to the Romans Chapter 10: 14-15 which says “But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, how welcome are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things”. Brothers and sisters, I love good praying and good singing but they are just preparing us to receive the Word of God. This may be shocking to you but there have been some cases where the choir believes that the only reason the members are coming is to hear them sing. The prayer invites God’s presence in, the songs prepares our minds to receive the Word of God, the offering is our way of giving back to God what he has given to us and the sermon is when we hear from heaven. All of these are a part of total worship.

There are three ways in which an usher can be compared to the Word of God. Firstly, the usher stands at the door of the church to tell people when to come in and go out. The Psalmist David said “I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of

wickedness”. The preacher, through the Word of God gives us direction as to what to do? where to go? when to go? how to go? and who to go with? David said that “The Word of God is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway”. Paul urged his student Timothy to “Study to show thyself approved a workman that need not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth”.

Secondly, the usher directs people to their seat and gives them assistance if they need it. As the Word of God goes forth, it addresses different problems and situations that we may be going through. If we are down the Word picks us up, if we are sick the Word is a healer and strength to our physical body, if we are afraid the Word gives us courage to go on, if we are about to give up, the Word gives us hope through faith in Jesus Christ. The usher responsible for keeping order in the Church and the Word of God tells us that we must do things decent and in order. When we are about to do or say something that is against the will of God or his people, the Word of God through the Holy Spirit brings those things back to us that we have been taught.

Finally, you may have notice that when everyone else is sitting down, the usher remains standing. The standing by the usher represents the everlasting power of the Word of God. The prophet Isaiah said “The grass withers and the flower fades but the Word of God shall stand forever”. In our society we see fads and trends come and go, styles are in and then out, politicians are elected and then voted out, but the Word of God shall stand forever. We have a God that cares about us and his love flowed through forty two generations to bring salvation to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. The doors of the Church are open! Come on in!

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# Analysis: Is the Tea Party Brewing a **Revolution**?

By Ron Fournier  
Associated Press Guest Columnist

WASHINGTON — They heeded a pamphleteer's call for "manly opposition to the machinations of tyranny" — the 60 American colonists who stormed Griffin's Wharf and emptied 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. And with that, a revolution brewed.

Now, more than two centuries later, come the angry throngs of the modern-day tea party. They've gotten the nation's attention. Can they foment their own revolution? Not yet.

The Associated Press reviewed tea party operations in almost every state, interviewing dozens of local organizers as well as Democratic and Republican strategists to produce a portrait of the movement to date — and its prospects for tilting this November's elections.

The bottom line: Though amplifying widespread voter anger at the political establishment, the tea party movement is unlikely to dramatically affect the congressional elections — unless their local affiliates forge alliances with Republican candidates. And how likely is that? Republican operatives look at the possibility of GOP-tea party collaborations with some anxiety, and many tea party activists frankly don't want to see them.

Born of protest and populism, the United States is a nation of movements — people galvanized by causes, summoned with the latest technologies. But none of those causes — not abolition, women's votes, civil rights or anti-war — was certain to succeed in its first fateful steps, or even to leave a lasting mark.



It's much too early for any long-term verdict on the tea party. Even defining what short-term success would be for its members can be a challenge. Let's begin with what they're not. They're sure not Democrats. But many aren't thrilled with the Republicans either.



The tea party itself is not a political party — and there are no signs it ever will be. It has no single issue around which people rally. It has no clear leader who drives the organization's message, motivates followers and raises money. Indeed, the hundreds of tea party chapters and tens of thousands of its activists cannot agree on the most basic strategic goal: whether to influence the current political system or dismantle it.

The embryonic movement is not as much a force that drives public opinion as a reflection of it. "Lot of noise," says one senior Republican consultant, "no muscle." But plenty of ability to make a scene: The consultant, who is directly involved in plotting the party's Senate elections strategy, insisted his name not be attached to that quote, concerned about alienating activists.



Many of those activists want nothing to do with political parties at all. "The day there's an organized Tea Party in Wisconsin," says Mark Block, who runs tea party rallies in the state, "is the day the tea party movement dies."

America's tea party is a hodgepodge of barely affiliated groups, a home to the politically homeless, the fast-growing swath of citizens

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## Tea Party - **REVOLUTION** continued from page 7

who are frustrated with Washington, their own state capitals and the two major political parties. Most describe themselves as conservatives or libertarians.

They don't like the change wrought by President Barack Obama and his fellow Democrats in Congress.

Last year's rise of the tea party closely tracked polls showing steep declines in the public's faith in government, confidence in the nation's future and approval of Obama and Congress. Government bailouts and Obama's trillion-dollar push to overhaul the U.S. health care system proved too much for people like Ralph Sprovier, a regional coordinator for Illinois Tea.

"We're regular people who are p—ed off at our government — period, end of story," says Sprovier. "Defend us, don't spend more than we have, get the budget balanced and listen to what we say."

But listening doesn't guarantee understanding. Tea party regulars back candidates who support debt reduction. Or free markets. Or states' rights. Or civil liberties. Or



Or tort reform. Or term limits. Or abolishing federal agencies. They champion some of these issues — but not always all of them — and sometimes many more.

Generalizing the movement is a fool's errand. This we know: Tea parties know how to produce crowds. In the footsteps of the pamphleteers of the 1770s, organizers use e-mail, social networking and other electronic tools to draw enormous numbers of disaffected Americans together. Some wear revolutionary-era garb and carry signs bearing the language of 18th century patriots — "Don't tread on me!" is a popular one.

But rally building is no big trick in the era of Twitter and Facebook, when people with cell phones can summon crowds from thin air for events as frivolous as snowball fights and bursts of song.

Beyond rallies, the movement thins out. Too broke to buy a copy machine, a tea party group in Alaska plucked a copier

from a landfill. A chapter in Kansas lost its only laptop, and with it the group's membership list.

Unversed in media management, two local leaders suggested in a nationally broadcast interview that they favored abolishing Social Security. Democrats quickly assigned that view to the entire movement.



The organization seems strongest in places where lobbyists and GOP party operatives like former House Majority Leader Dick Armey pull levers. Their involvement hardly squares with the anti-political sentiment that drives grassroots activists like Bill Hennessy.

"I'm not into politics," the Missouri rally organizer says. That is one of many differences between tea partiers and past movements. In the 1990s, a period of voter disenchantment not unlike today, Ross Perot's supporters formed a third party. Perot lost, but he carried enough votes to influence two presidential races, and his positions on trade and deficit reduction remained in the political bloodstream.

Perot's former running mate, Pat Choate, says the tea party is far from establishing itself as a lasting movement. "The real test, seems to me, is whether or not they decide to field candidates," he says. For many, that's a tough sell. "I've already been involved in party politics," says Gia Gallegos of Reno, Nevada, "I don't want another party."

Tea party groups lack the galvanizing issue that made the anti-tax movement a success in California decades ago. "I understand what they're angry about because they're angry about some of the same things that I'm angry about," says Ken Khachigian, an aide to Republican presidents who is now a GOP consultant in California. "But it's a disparate force right now, and movements don't have an effect until they have some cohesion behind them."



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# YOUR ADOPTION JOURNEY: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT!



**By: Marilsa Medina, FRP  
Program Development Director,  
A Chosen Child, Inc.**

Over the years I have been approached more times than I can count by good people who somehow think that they don't have what it takes to adopt a child. So what if you sing off-key in the shower, you don't know what BFF or TTFN means, and you overcooked the Thanksgiving turkey. If you love to give hugs, think that a child's laugh is the coolest thing in the world, can change a diaper in two minutes flat, playing a mean game of Space Invaders makes you feel technologically advanced, and believe that cookies are their own food group, you most probably possess those attributes that make you a "perfect" candidate to adopt a child.

In Florida, prospective adoptive families are "qualified" by successfully completing the home study process ... and it doesn't matter if you are a blue-collar or white-collar worker, financially comfortable or of modest means, own a home with acreage or a simple condo, as long as you can pass a criminal and child abuse clearance, and fulfill all the other requirements established under Florida law, you can be an adoptive parents. A home study will also include a home visit by your home study provider and education in the area of adoption. A Chosen Child, Inc. has professionals on staff that can help you complete your home study and will provide you with guidance and support every step of the way.

There are two main routes to adopt: publicly and privately. Public adoptions are handled by the Department of Children and Families and involve children that have been in foster care for a period of time and are now legally free for adoption. These children vary in age, so if you feel called to adopt a child other than a newborn, you should contact the Florida Department of Children and Families to obtain information on adopting these special children in need of forever families.

Adopting privately is totally different. Private adoption entities are authorized under Florida law to place children for adoption because they are: a) attorneys duly licensed to practice law in Florida; b) they are adoption agencies that have been properly licensed by the State to place children for adoption in qualified homes or c) they are a child-caring agency (maternity home). A



great number of private adoption agencies are also non-profit. Private adoption agencies, such as A Chosen Child, Inc. generally work with pregnant mothers who want to make an adoption plan for their unborn child, and, therefore, the majority of these are adoptions of newborns.

If you believe that you are called to adopt a child through a private adoption agency there are several things you should do to get started:

- Evaluate your commitment to the adoption process in terms of your emotional commitment, family support and finances;
- Educate yourself about adoption – most adoption agencies conduct orientation meetings designed to provide you with information on the nuts and bolts of the process, and many of them offer these orientations for free;
- Delineate your boundaries regarding the placements you will consider, such as degree of openness, health factors, gender and ethnicity;
- Associate yourself with a reputable and caring adoption entity that has demonstrated their commitment to knowledgeable and ethical adoption practices.

A Chosen Child, Inc. conducts a monthly orientation seminar, free of charge, for prospective adoptive parents that are gathering information on adoption and for families that may have already begun the home study process and wish to move on to the next step. If you are interested in attending one of these informative sessions, please contact us at 407-894-1599 to schedule your attendance at the next scheduled orientation.

So, if you think that you don't have what takes to adopt a child — think again. Children don't need perfect parents, but they do need loving, committed and caring parents that will be there for a lifetime!

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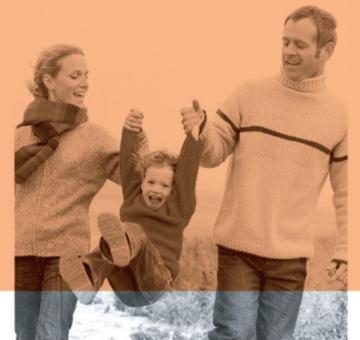
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## discovery

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## planning

Based on what we discuss in the Discovery phase, we will assess your personal situation, gauge where you are now relative to your life goals and priorities, and consider what gaps exist. We will weigh the financial implications of each goal we discuss and construct the framework for a plan that supports them.

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If you are already living the life of your dreams, we can help you plan ahead so that it may continue. If you are still on your journey, we can

design a step-by-step roadmap to help you get to where you want to be.

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## BLUEPRINT

continued from page 3

- \* Allocate necessary time each day for reading, study, homework
- \* Develop a winner's psychology
- \* Learn to manage thoughts, emotions, and actions

Reducing the Black Male Dropout Rate is a book of hope. Dr. Kunjufu challenges Black males to take responsibility for their own lives. Schools, communities, and parents can do a lot, but ultimately change will occur only when African American male students begin to feel empowered and self-confident that they can master the school environment.

### About the Author - Jawanza Kunjufu

National best selling author of over 30 books and consultant to most urban school districts. He has been a guest twice on Oprah and a frequent guest on the Baisden and Sharpton radio show.

For additional information on Reducing the Black Male Dropout Rate, contact 1-800-552-1991, Fax (708) 672-0466, P.O. Box 1799, Chicago Heights, IL 60412, Website: [www.africanamericanimages.com](http://www.africanamericanimages.com), Email: [customer@africanamericanimages.com](mailto:customer@africanamericanimages.com).

All are invited to attend the upcoming "Educating the African American and Hispanic Male Child National Conference" conducted by Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu on May 4-5, 2010. The event is being held at the Hilton Hotel, 9333 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

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## Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

### Faron L. Gallon Joins Morgan Stanley Smith Barney as a Financial Advisor

Ormond Beach, Fl. – Morgan Stanley Smith Barney announced today that Faron L. Gallon has joined the firm as a Financial Advisor. Mr. Gallon will be located in the Ormond Beach Office (ph: 386-671-2316) reporting to Jeffrey B. Brok, Branch Office Manager.

“We welcome Faron L. Gallon to the branch and feel he will make a great addition to our office,” said Mr. Brok.

Prior to joining Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Mr. Gallon served as a Licensed Financial Sales Consultant at PNC Bank. Mr. Gallon has been licensed in the financial services industry for 11



**Faron L. Gallon, Financial Advisor**  
**Morgan Stanley Smith Barney**  
**(386) 671-2316 Direct - faron.gallon@mssb.com**

years. As a Financial Advisor with the firm, he will provide a full suite of financial planning and investment services to high net worth clients, small business owners, professional athletes and individual investors with a primary focus on retirement and estate planning, asset protection, managed money, wealth management, private investments and portfolio management.

As a graduate of The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina with a BA, in Mathematics, Mr. Gallon has also achieved the Chartered Financial Consultants (ChFC) designation through The American College, the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC) designation through the College of Financial Planning in Denver, CO. and is a life time member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He also served in the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant in “Operation Desert Shield”.

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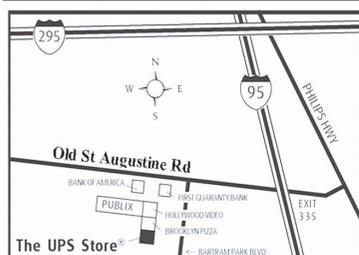
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By Isaac E. Williams,  
President, Inspired By Love  
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## MEET OUR VICE PRESIDENT Reverend Lenny C. Marshall



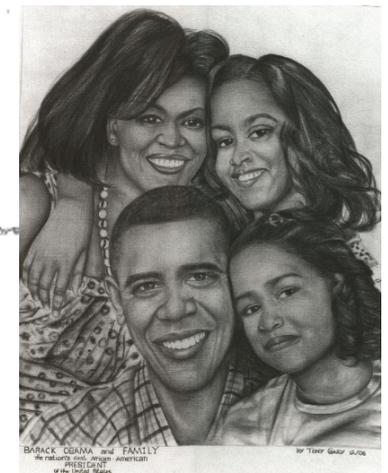
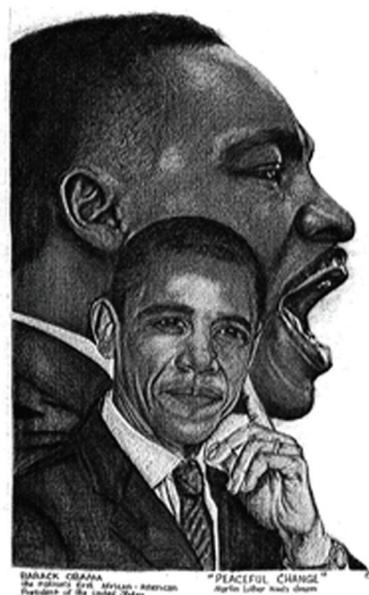
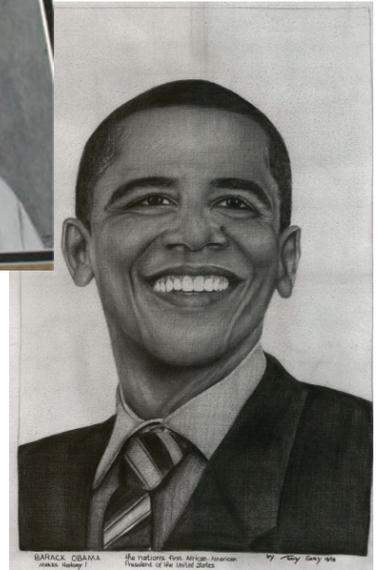
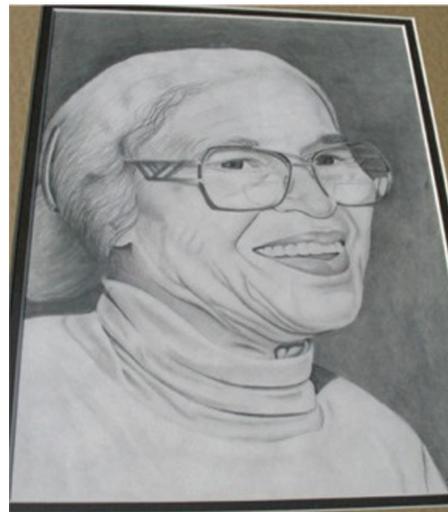
Greetings! I have been involved with the organization since its inception. I serve as the Vice President of which I involve myself with the administrative operations.

I firmly believe in what the ministry serves to do. This ministry has the sole purpose of providing a much needed service to the incarcerated to give them hope, an opportunity, and another chance to become effective members of society. We use

the basic vehicle of God's word that being the bible to open the door to those who are in prison to a world of new blessings.

Once they commit within themselves to receive the word and what God has for them we avail them to a host of resources that help them through the process. There is no limit that one can stay a client in "Inspired by Love", but we do track their progress so to speak to encourage their new way of life. The majority of our operations are headed up by the President Isaac Williams and we stand with him with great loyalty in what his vision for the organization is. We are constantly researching and seeking ways to gain financial and operational support and we encourage and are open to networking with those who can assist us.

Blessings,  
Rev. Lenny C. Marshall – BSW MDiV FMC



# PHEN KICKS-OFF FATHER'S DAY RALLY TO RAISE PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS

— *Black Churches set to take part in this year's event "Joining Hands in Prayer to Save Lives" —*

Boston, MA (BlackNews.com) — The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) has announced that it will lead a nationwide "Father's Day Rally Against Prostate Cancer," in partnership with churches across the country, on Sunday, June 20th, 2010. The Rally, whose theme is "Joining Hands in Prayer to Save Lives," is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness about the African American prostate cancer crisis.

This event will take place within each church during their regular services. Congregations will recognize prostate cancer survivors, their families, as well as the loved ones of those men who have died from the disease. The churches will offer a special prayer of love and healing to all whose lives have been impacted by prostate cancer. PHEN, and local organizations, will additionally provide each church with materials for distribution that all men and women can use to help increase family education about prostate cancer.

This national Rally is modeled after the highly successful partnership with churches in Massachusetts on Father's Day of last year. "Our Rally was a great success and we are looking forward to participating again this year," said Rev. Dr. John Borders, Pastor, Morningstar Baptist Church in Boston, MA, whose church was a Rally participant.

Ebenezer Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina has already registered to participate in 2010. "The rally meets a need within our community and it is a perfect addition to our men's program, which will be held on Father's Day," said the Church's Pastor, Rev. Dr. Thomas Walker.

Thomas A. Farrington, PHEN president and a prostate cancer survivor, said "There is a critical lack of knowledge about prostate cancer in Black America that is needlessly causing deaths and

suffering that we must change. The Father's Day Rally will help increase knowledge that is vital to change at the grass roots level where it is most needed."

PHEN invites all churches, local organizations and survivors to join hands across the country and make this Rally a highly visible and effective joint effort within Black communities, which are most impacted by prostate cancer. Churches can register to participate online at [www.RAPCancer.org](http://www.RAPCancer.org) and they will receive details about participating.

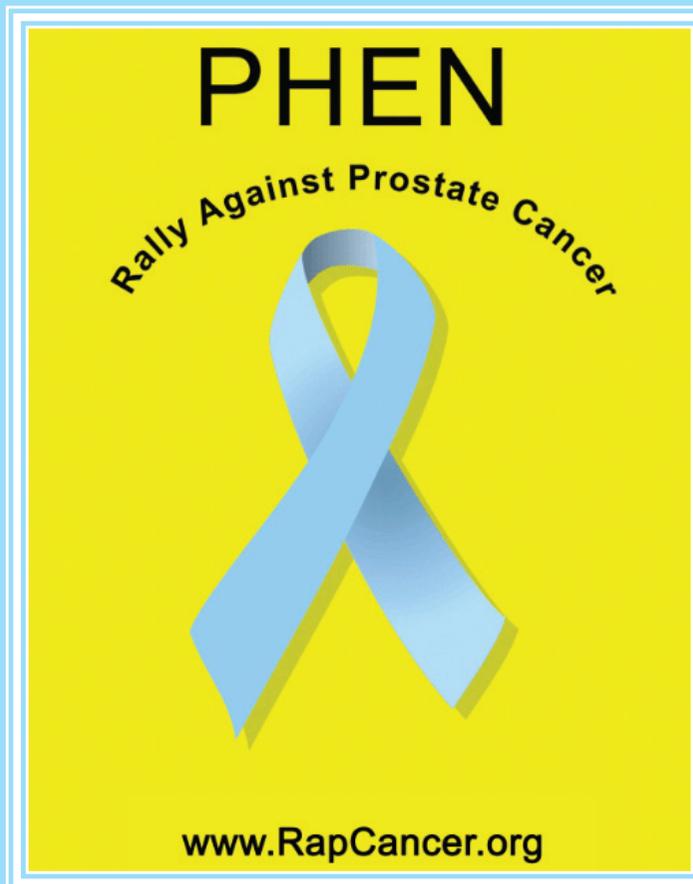
## About the Rally Against Prostate Cancer

African American men are diagnosed with prostate cancer at a rate 60% higher and have a death rate 150% higher than all other men. This is the largest racial disparity for any type of cancer. The Father's Day Rally is a part of PHEN's RAP Cancer initiative, which was launched in 2008. RAP Cancer mobilizes prostate cancer survivors with the resources to help others, and outreaches through PHEN online television programming, community television stations, radio and internet broadcasts. This broad

"grassroots" effort reaches men and their families with education and awareness information and support with the understanding that knowledge is the best defense against prostate cancer. PHEN is a 501c3 organization founded in 2003 by Thomas A. Farrington a prostate cancer survivor and author of the books "Battling the Killer Within" and "Battling the Killer Within and Winning."

For more information contact:

[jpgarrington@prostatehealth.org](mailto:jpgarrington@prostatehealth.org), or call Amy Skinner at (781) 487-2239.



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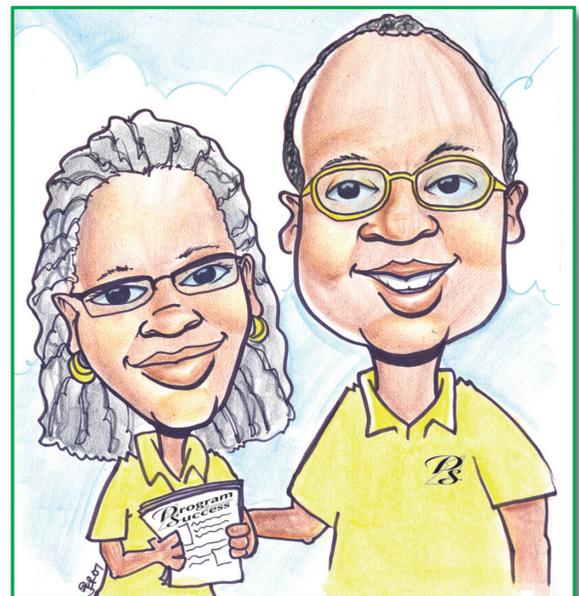
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# The First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce

## Chamber follows up on promise to promote “Community of Practice”



**Dr. Carlton Lamar Robinson**  
President - FCAACC

entrepreneurship to impact social issues. For example, at the breakfast Dr. Robinson spoke about a community resource center. This vision was shared by a small business owner, Gideon Charles/Owner of LINKDAT. Over the past two years the two gentlemen have shared and exchanged visions on how they could give back to the Northwest Jacksonville community. Those visions



The First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce has moved one step closer to a community of practice as a follow up to the 12th Annual Heritage Breakfast. Dr. Carlton Lamar Robinson has used mentoring and employment development programs over the past three years to demonstrate how the community can work together through

became a reality in the month of March when Mr. Gideon Charles celebrated by partnering with the First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce to provide an up-to-date computer resource center for the local community.



**Dr. Carlton Lamar Robinson & Mr. Gideon Charles**  
Owner of LINKDAT

This partnership demonstrates that community development programs can have a positive impact. When Mr. Gideon Charles started his business over seven years ago, resources advised that he did not have a viable business plan and he was often discouraged in his early days. Dr. Robinson, through a mentoring program funded by WorkSource, continued to work with Mr. Gideon Charles on expanding his business through adding people and community contribution. Three years later his business is expanding and he is well known in the community. There are several neighborhoods in the area that have no internet and many in the area do not own a home computer. Mr Gideon Charles employs himself and both of his sons. Dr. Robinson noted that he has more success stories from the First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce mentoring program that demonstrate success in the community.

The partnership hopes to achieve the following goals:

1. Serve as a business resource for the local community equipped with internet and business training.
2. Work with the Northeast Florida Community Acton Agency to help train up to 40 participants (unemployed/underemployed) in quickbooks and excel to make them more employable.

Location:

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# Obama Hails Vote on Health Care as Answering 'the Call of History'



*Democrats were jubilant; they saw the bill as the culmination of a four-decade fight to expand health coverage, coming as many Americans find themselves with rising insurance costs and declining access to care. Ms. Pelosi and Representative James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, the Democratic whip, had been responsible for wrangling Democratic skeptics of the bill from both the right and left. They received applause as they returned to the Speaker's office.*



*Abortion rights were also on the minds of some of the protesters who gathered on Capitol Hill. Demonstrators opposing and supporting the measure clashed on Sunday.*

**By ROBERT PEAR and  
DAVID M. HERSZENHORN**  
Guest Columnists

**WASHINGTON** — House Democrats approved a far-reaching overhaul of the nation's health system on Sunday, voting over unanimous Republican opposition to provide medical coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans after an epic political battle that could define the differences between the parties for years.

With the 219-to-212 vote, the House gave final approval to legislation passed by the Senate on Christmas Eve. Thirty-four Democrats joined Republicans in voting against the bill. The vote sent the measure to President Obama, whose yearlong push for the legislation has been the centerpiece of his agenda and a test of his political power.

After approving the bill, the House adopted a package of changes to it by a vote of 220 to 211. That package — agreed to in negotiations among House and Senate Democrats and the White House — now goes to the Senate for action as soon as this week. It would be the final step in a



*Minority Leader John A. Boehner, left, and Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, the minority whip, walked to the House floor on Sunday. Mr. Boehner, of Ohio, said lawmakers were defying the wishes of their constituents. "The American people are angry," Mr. Boehner said. "This body moves forward against their will. Shame on us."*

bitter legislative fight that has highlighted the nation's deep partisan and ideological divisions.

On a sun-splashed day outside the Capitol, protesters, urged on by House Republicans, chanted "Kill the bill" and waved yellow flags declaring "Don't Tread on Me." They carried signs saying "Doctors, Not Dictators."

Inside, Democrats hailed the votes as a historic advance in social justice, comparable to the establishment of Medicare and Social Security. They said the bill would also put pressure on rising health care costs and rein in federal budget deficits. "This is the Civil Rights Act of the 21st century," said Representative James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, the No. 3 Democrat in the House.

Mr. Obama celebrated the House action in remarks at the White House. "We pushed back on the undue influence of special interests," Mr. Obama said. "We didn't give in to mistrust or to cynicism or to fear. Instead, we proved that we are still a people capable of doing big things."

"This isn't radical reform," he added, "but it is major reform."

After a year of combat and weeks of legislative brinksmanship, House Democrats and the White House clinched their victory only hours before the voting started on Sunday. They agreed to a deal with opponents of abortion rights within their party to reiterate in an executive order that federal money provided by the bill could not be used for abortions, securing for Democrats the final handful of votes they needed to assure passage.

Winding up the debate, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said: "After a year of debate and hearing the calls of millions of Americans, we have come to this historic moment. Today we have the opportunity to complete the great unfinished business of our society and pass health insurance reform for all Americans that is a right and not a privilege."

The House Republican leader, Representative John A. Boehner of Ohio, said lawmakers were defying the wishes of their constituents. "The American people are angry," Mr. Boehner said. "This body moves forward against their will. Shame on us."



*President Barack Obama's signature on the Health Care Reform bill.*



*House Democrats approved a far-reaching overhaul of the nation's health system on Sunday. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Democratic leaders held a news conference after Sunday's vote, which was marked by unanimous Republican opposition.*



*While Democratic leaders and the White House ultimately persuaded 219 members to support the bill — three more than needed for passage — they clinched their victory only hours before the voting started on Sunday. They agreed to a deal with opponents of abortion rights within their party to reiterate in an executive order that federal money provided by the bill could not be used for abortions, securing for Democrats the final handful of votes they needed to assure passage.*

**see HEALTH CARE VOTE – Page 22**

## Obama Hails Vote on Health Care as Answering 'the Call of History' from Page 21



*President Barack Obama signs the health insurance reform bill in the East Room at the White House, saying, "The bill I am signing will set in motion reforms that generations of Americans have fought for and marched for and hungered to see.... We are not a nation that scales back its aspirations. We are not a nation that falls prey to doubt or mistrust. We don't fall prey to fear. We are not a nation that does what's easy...."*



*Representative John D. Dingell's father was also a congressman who had introduced universal health care legislation. The Michigan Democrat, left, lent Ms. Pelosi a gavel for Sunday's vote.*

Republicans said the plan would saddle the nation with unaffordable levels of debt, leave states with expensive new obligations, weaken Medicare and give the government a huge new role in the health care system.

The debate on the legislation set up a bitter midterm campaign season, with Republicans promising an effort to repeal the legislation, challenge its constitutionality or block its provisions in the states.

Representative Paul D. Ryan, Republican of Wisconsin, denounced the bill as "a fiscal Frankenstein." Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Republican of Florida, called it "a decisive step in the weakening of the United States." Representative Virginia Foxx, Republican of North Carolina, said it was "one of the most offensive pieces of social engineering legislation in the history of the United States."

But Representative Marcy Kaptur, Democrat of Ohio, said the bill heralded "a new day in America." Representative Doris Matsui, Democrat of California, said it would "improve the quality of life for millions of American families."

The health care bill would require most Americans to have health insurance, would add 16 million people to the Medicaid rolls and would subsidize private coverage for low- and middle-income people, at a cost to the government of \$938 billion over 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office said.

The bill would require many employers to offer coverage to employees or pay a penalty. Each state would set up a mar-



*Democrats were not unified over the measure. Representative Bart Stupak and other Democratic opponents of abortion remained unsure of whether they would support the bill until almost the last minute, when they agreed on Sunday afternoon to back it after the president promised the order banning federal money for abortions. Still, 34 Democrats voted against the bill.*

**see HEALTH CARE VOTE – Page 23**

## Obama Hails Vote on Health Care as Answering 'the Call of History' from Page 22

ketplace, or exchange, where consumers without such coverage could shop for insurance meeting federal standards.

The budget office estimates that the bill would provide coverage to 32 million uninsured people, but still leave 23 million uninsured in 2019. One-third of those remaining uninsured would be illegal immigrants.

The new costs, according to the budget office, would be more than offset by savings in Medicare and by new taxes and fees, including a tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans and a tax on the investment income of the most affluent Americans.

Cost estimates by the budget office, showing that the bill would reduce federal budget deficits by \$143 billion in the next 10 years, persuaded some fiscally conservative Democrats to vote for the bill.

Democrats said Americans would embrace the bill when they saw its benefits, including some provisions that take effect later this year.



*After the House approved the bill, President Obama, joined by Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., hailed the action in remarks at the White House. "In the end what this day represents is another stone firmly laid in the foundation of the American dream," the president said. "Tonight, we answered the call of history as so many generations of Americans have before us. When faced with crisis, we did not shrink from our challenges. We overcame them. We did not avoid our responsibilities, we embraced it. We did not fear our future, we shaped it."*

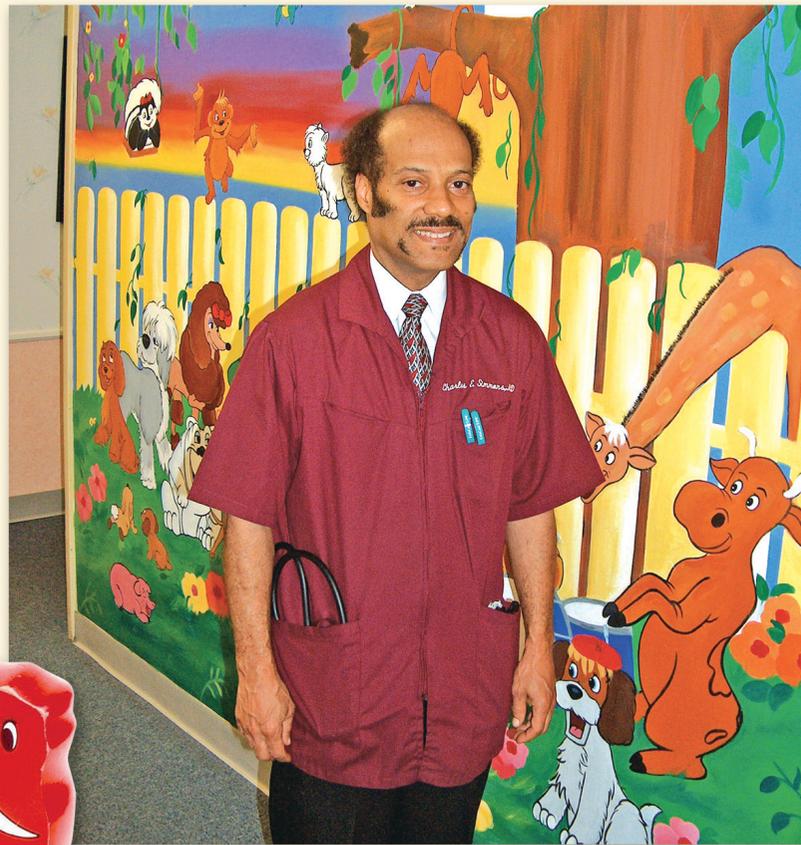


*House Republicans expressed their opinion of the bill before the vote on Sunday, echoing a chant by protesters outside. The party was uniform in its opposition to the measure, saying the plan would saddle the nation with unaffordable levels of debt, leave states with expensive new obligations, weaken Medicare and give the government a huge new role in the health care system.*



*Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, a Rhode Island Democrat, embraced Ron Pollack, an executive with the advocacy group Families USA, after the measure passed. Mr. Kennedy's father, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, had devoted much of his long Senate career to pursuing the expansion of health care coverage before his death in 2009. "Health care is not only a civil right, it's a moral issue," said the younger Kennedy, echoing the elder.*

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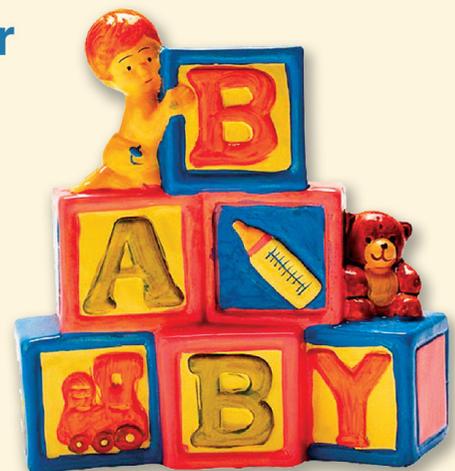
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# Five Steps to Being A Top Notch Business

**By Reverend Dr. Robert M. Spooney**  
**Executive Director of the African-American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida**

There are many variables that separate an average company from a Top Notch company. I have found that a Top Notch company has the ability to qualify a customer, to focus total attention on the customer and to instantly identify what the client really wants to accomplish. It's as if the Top Notch Company has joined their client's team with both companies working to come up with the best possible solution.

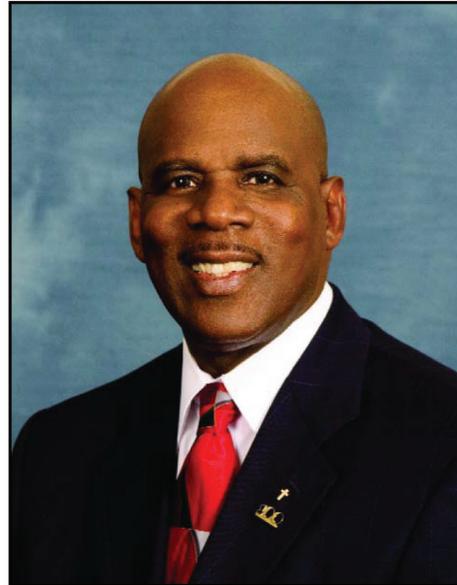
## THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF BEING A TOPNOTCH COMPANY

**1. Top Notch Companies Demonstrate Their Expertise.** While thorough knowledge of a product is expected, customers are most comfortable with firms that possess product knowledge, business knowledge and competence in the customer's industry. In effect, the Top Notch Company sends this message, "I know your business and your competitive environment and what we recommend fits your current environment.

**2. Top Notch Companies Don't Rush Their Customers.** There is a difference between being perceived as concerned and thorough and trying to rush the customer into buying your product. Rushing a company to do business with your company can lead to making an enemy rather than making a sale. The Top Notch Company's goal is usually to make the customer come to a buying decision that is natural and comfortable.

**3. Top Notch Companies Involve The Customers.** Top Notch companies only prepare proposals after having had two or three meetings with their customer. They want as many people involved as possible. Besides obtaining accurate information, involving the customer makes the customer part of the team. The message: We're going to make this work together.

**4. Top Notch Companies Cultivate Their Prospects Continually.** Most companies try to control the buying process by deciding when a prospect stops being a



**Dr. Robert M. Spooney**

prospect and goes into the "dead file." If the prospect hasn't bought in a certain length of time, the average company instructs the salesperson to tear up the lead and move on. This may be a big mistake. The Topnotch Company knows that while every prospect will not buy, all prospects can be cultivated over time. Topnotch companies believe in the principle, "You Reap What You Sow."

**5. Top Notch Companies Get The Customer To want To Do Business With You.** Top Notch companies are out to make the client want to do business with them. They realize that customers value vendors who are a business resource they can count on. Top Notch companies recognize the role they can play for their customers by becoming part of their team.



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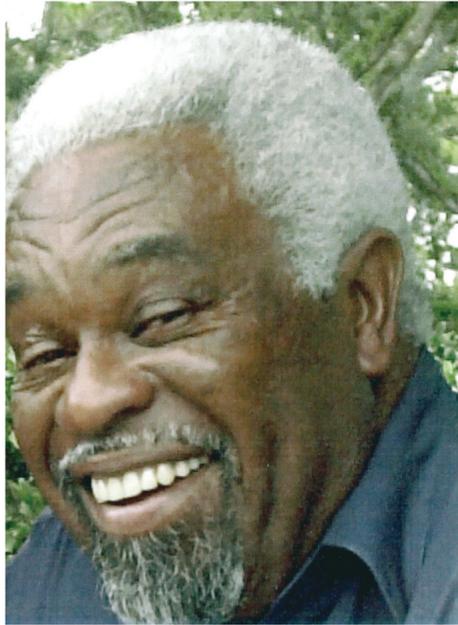
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# THAT'S NOT FUNNY!

*Vince Sanders - Orlando Native and Jones High Graduate Documents The Tale of Our Nation's First Controversial Black-and-White Comedy Act.*

Long before WKRP in Cincinnati, actor Tim Reid and his friend, Tom Dreesen, were told they were funny enough to be in show business. They took that advice literally, and formed the nation's first black-and-white standup comedy act. Their marketing tools appeared naturally in place: A black youngster named Tim and the white one named Tom; even the names alliterated perfectly — leaving them the luxury of calling their act TIM & TOM.



As advisor to TIM & TOM, the author had a ringside seat, watching them make the unpredictable trek from their hometown of Harvey, Illinois to Hollywood, California. Their young wives and children were affected as each “Daddy” faced myriad challenges in his courageous and innovative foray into show business — including audiences that didn't think much of the racial makeup of the act. But, Tim Reid and Tom Dreesen pulled their shoulders closer together when needed and persevered.

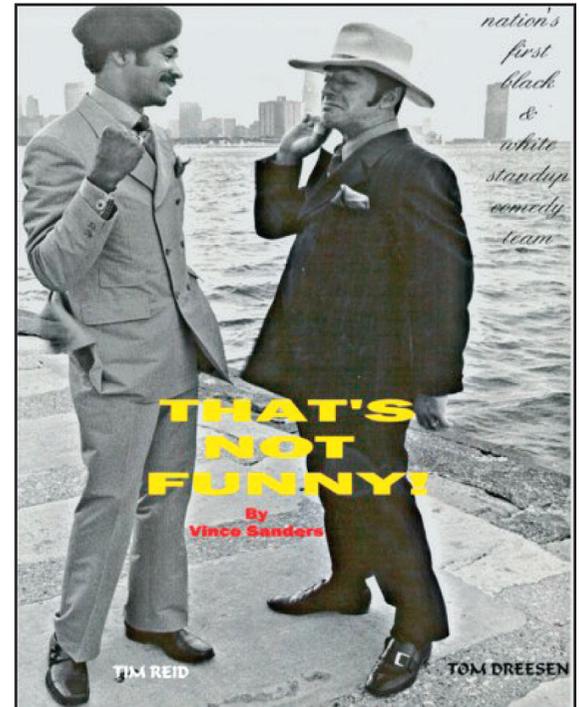
Then one day there came along a Diva, a most famed and fortunated Diva. Tim and Tom were sure this was their big break. Instead, the meeting led to more of a break-up when singing sensation Della Reese and Tim Reid went riding off in one direction, leaving Tom Dreesen to scramble off into another — as a solo act. This was also where the wives of Tim and Tom came face-to-face with



*Dick Gregory and Vince Sanders*



*Vince in his early broadcasting days*



the proposition of raising children for men who were headed for the big-time, but were no longer their men.

*THAT'S NOT FUNNY!* is author Vince Sanders' chronicle of his work with TIM & TOM. He kept in close touch with both performers over the years to see their eventual success: Tim Reid as a noted actor, writer and film producer, and Tom Dreesen as the long-time comedy star and opening act for Sammy Davis, Jr. and Frank Sinatra.

*In That's Not Funny!, Vince Sanders has written an enjoyable account about the intersection of social and political changes with the entertainment industry in the United States in the 1960's and 70's. While telling the story of Tim Reid and Tom Dreesen, Vince injects his own insights into a racially divided society and the part the entertainment industry played in the changes following the civil rights movement. Imbedded are also his observations and philosophies about success in the industry — observations from a man who progressed to the top of his own segment of the entertainment world during the time that Tim and Tom were performing as the “nation's first black and white standup comedy team.”*

**Terry Olson, Director**  
Orange County (Florida) Arts & Cultural Affairs

*What adds the most credibility to That's Not Funny! is the real-life postscript. The portrait of Reid as ambitious has been borne out by his remarkable third act as an independent producer and director, helming a studio that makes African-American-themed films. Sander's rendering of Dreesen as a comic whose material was questionable, but whose work ethic was unparalleled also fits. He never became a superstar, but was so respected by peers that he thrived under the patronage of Davis, Sinatra, Johnny Carson and David Letterman.*

**Jake Austen**  
(*Time Out Chicago Review*)

## About Vince

Vince (AKA Vinson) Sanders is a retired broadcaster with more than 35 years on the job. He started his career as an on-air talent in 1958 at WBEE in Chicago and retired in 1995 as Vice President and General Manager of WWRL in New York City.

Before his move to WWRL, Sanders was Vice President of Broadcast Operations at the National Black Network (NBN) from 1973 through 1983. Sanders joined NBN after leaving NBC News where he worked as an anchor/reporter from February '71 through June '73. He was awarded for his production and narration of "The House That Jack Built," a critically successful piece of journalism examining the racial patterns and conditions of housing in America. This NBC special broadcast won, among others, the Gabriel Award.

In addition to his employment at NBC, Vince did on-air stints at WMAQ-AM, WBEE-AM, WMPP-AM and WCIU-TV in the Chicago area, as well as special correspondence for KPOI radio in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Some of his special projects as a broadcaster included executive producer of gavel-to-gavel network coverage of the Democratic and Republican nominating conventions from 1976 through 1988; full network coverage of

the Olympic Games (1976 in Montreal and the Los Angeles Games in 1984); and coverage of heavyweight championship boxing matches: Ali/Foreman, Zaire '74; Tyson/Holmes, Tyson/Spinks and Tyson/Williams—Atlantic City.

As an actor, Sanders traveled with the American Negro Opera Guild and The Richard B. Harrison players in the early 1960s. In 1963, he served as theatre consultant and producer for the Chicago Emancipation Centennial Authority.

Sanders is a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and a past board member of the Central Florida Theatre Alliance. He was inducted into the NABJ (Region IV) Hall of Fame in 2005.

Sanders grew up in Orlando, Florida, where he obtained the earlier parts of his education at historical Jones High School. He studied three years of speech and drama under the acclaimed Ethel Minns Lucas of the Chicago Conservatory. He now makes his home in the Orlando area with his wife, the former Joyce Anderson of Chicago.



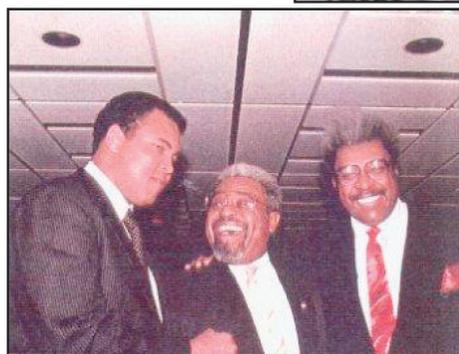
*Vince with the Reverend Jesse Jackson and comedian Tom Dreesen*



*Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis with Vince*



*Vince with comedian Flip Wilson*



*Muhammad Ali Vince Sanders and Don King*

**Book-buying info:** Vince's books are available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and all major Booksellers.

You may contact Vince Sanders by email: [Vincnet@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Vincnet@cfl.rr.com) or by mail at Box 917358, Longwood, FL 3279

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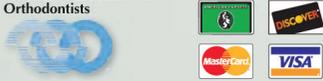
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## *Another Calling... Another Source of Healing*

### **Dr. Ronald L. Fulmore Has Been Called to Pastor a Church**

This past Easter Sunday, Dr. Ronald L. Fulmore walked in to a new place of healing, not one of his chiropractic or wellness centers, but his new church that hails him as Pastor. A new congregation of Christian believers along with their new pastor known for his big smile, walked through the doors of Keep Your Eyes on Jesus Ministries for the first time with the goal of resurrecting lives. The church was worshipping in the home of Dr. Fulmore for months before locating to 827 West Lyman Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32792. The church's phone number is (407) 637-7279.

Dr. Fulmore was ordained nine months as a Pastor, and he feels his new position is right in line with what he has been doing all his professional life – healing folks. “I have been healing people with my hands from all types of sickness. From my times I have spent with people, they have shared with me their inward concerns, fears, sorrows and troubles. God has now blessed me with a ministry that gives me yet another tool to heal.”

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Dr. Fulmore has been providing chiropractic services for 21 years at Fulmore's Chiropractic Centers, located in Altamonte Springs, Orlando, and Deland, Florida. He is also a trained expert in Laser Therapy, Acupuncture, Organ Analysis, and Nutrition Consulting. Ronald Fulmore is a Vietnam era veteran who served time in the U.S. Army for his country.

“I know this is my season to give back. I have been blessed with a loving heart and a desire to help other. God has given me a message and the desire to teach others.” Ronald's comes from a family of healers. His wife is an occupational therapist, his son will be joining him as a chiropractor, and his daughter is finishing up her degree in physics and science to pursue a medicine career.

Our doors are open to everyone... every age, every color, every economic level, all are welcome. I love all people and have been successful in serving all people over the years. I know God will bless our efforts to help other just as He has done over the years..

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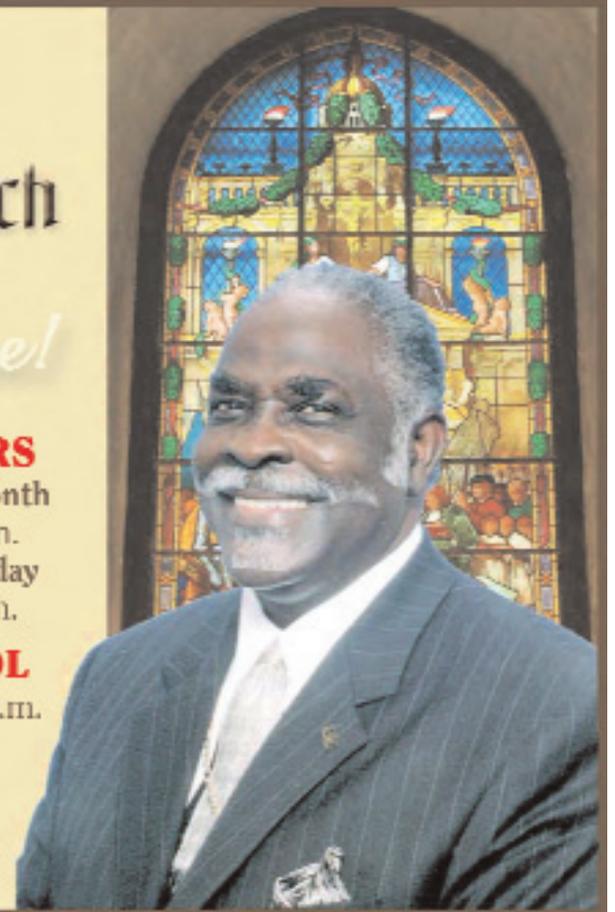
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# Savor the Moment.... Ignite the Spirit

**W**hether it is a small gathering or a large event, make your next event the star event of the season. The holiday season is here. With it comes promises of great times and good memories.

Your ability to manage your many holiday responsibilities in effortless fashion will depend on your time, budget and creativity. What is the one thing that is on your list when you are planning that special event? Imagine...a grand ballroom decorated with elegant accents...soft music floating through the air...an event to remember...an event of elegance!!!

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

The following tips will help you have an event to be remembered:

## ◆ **Planning That Special Event**

Whether the event is for family or friends, at home, restaurant or elegant ballroom, you want to add special touches that will help your guests get into the holiday season.

## ◆ **Shop Wisely**

You can shop for artificial or real decorations. Pine cones, holiday ribbons and bows, candles, and miniature lights add a festive touch.

## ◆ **Select a Color Scheme and Stick To It**

Red and green with gold or silver are great colors for the holiday. You can be different and create your own unique color scheme.

## ◆ **Pay Attention to Details**

You may want to assign family, or friends to attend to people as they come and go. Give them that personal attention.

## ◆ **Make Restrooms Special**

Place scented candles and along with hand towels that reflect the theme. Be sure to place extra toilet tissue in view.

## ◆ **Have Fun**

When you are the host or the guest at a holiday function, bring your best self to the event. Be cheerful, friendly, and open to those you meet and greet.

## ◆ **Hire an Event Planner**

When your time is limited, select an event planner to organize the whole thing! They can make your event one that your guest will enjoy and remember.

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## New DNA Law Gateway to Racial Profiling

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – The Florida Civil Rights Association (FCRA) issued the following statement in response to a new Florida law that requires police officials to collect DNA samples of any person arrested on a felony.

The new DNA law signed by Governor Charlie Crist is a direct threat to our civil rights, says J Willie David, III, President of the Florida Civil Rights Association. It simply undermines a fundamental concept of people being innocent until proven guilty and it disregards the protections of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

This law gives law enforcement officials incentive to abuse their police powers if they are interested in a particular person to simply arrest the person on a pre-textual felony charge in order to collect DNA sample.

David states that the new DNA law should be known as the “GATEWAY ACT”— an excuse used historically by police officials to approach African Americans targeted for possible criminal activities. This law is nothing more than a gateway to racial profiling, another means of identifying and tracking African Americans.

The Florida Civil Rights Association is concerned that

the State is creating a giant DNA database where material and information collected on the person arrested can be misused by the government. State lawmakers are sacrificing the constitutional rights of its citizens in hopes of fighting crime, but looks pass the negative ramifications of their decisions.

State Lawmakers need to seriously reconsider their decision and vote to repeal the DNA Law. The Florida Civil Rights Association believes that the new Florida DNA Law will be found to be unconstitutional as the Appellate Court found in Minnesota’s DNA Law.

### A Minnesota Appellate Court found the State DNA Law to be unconstitutional

See Minnesota Appellate Court Case at:

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=mn&vol=appub\0610\opa060874-1010&invol=1>

### About the FCRA

The Florida Civil Rights Association (FCRA) is a statewide civil and human rights organization based in Orlando, that advocate to advance diversity, equal opportunity, fairness for all people by eliminating discrimination in the public and private sectors. For more information about FCRA, visit our Website at: [www.fcranews.com](http://www.fcranews.com)

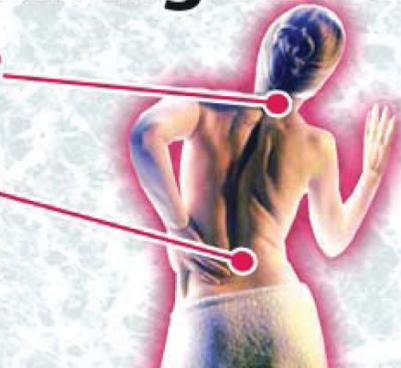
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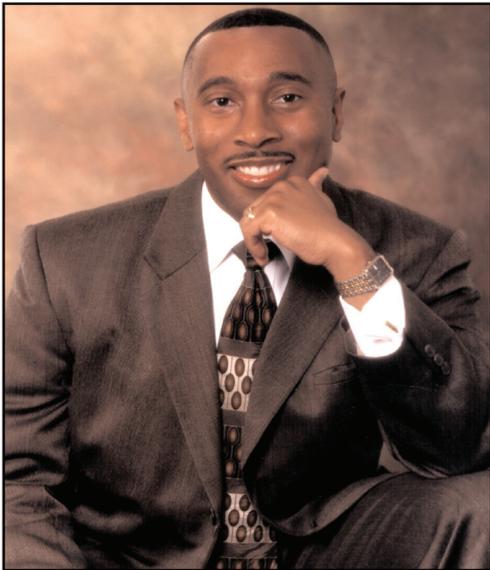
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if thou shall hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." (Deuteronomy 28:2 KJV)**

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### **About Vincent T. Edwards "Mr. Speaker":**

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Vincent T. Edwards is an expert on what it takes to be "Out In Front." As a leading motivator and owner of Blessed Enterprise, Vincent uses his God given ability to deliver presentations that use personal experiences and audience participation to motivate people to action. He is an Ordained Elder within the Church of God In Christ and his professional experience includes Human Resources, Financial Services, Management/Supervision, Sales, Training, and Logistics. He actively served in the U.S. Army, is a Veteran of Desert Storm and he has over sixteen years of experience in state and federal government as well as private industry.

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*– Claude McDonald –*

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*"Vincent, your presentation entitled "Out In Front" was thought provoking, humorous and insightful. Any organization that desires to motivate their team to action and move Out In Front would benefit greatly from this presentation. Thank you and keep up the excellent work."*

*– Wayarne Tolliver, President of American Business Women of America (ABWA), Silver Dome Chapter*

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Wal-Mart	Watson Temple COGIC
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**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33 KJV)**



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## Brushing your skin detoxifies the body and improves your health

Better health is just finger tips away by using the ancient art of skin brushing. Skin brushing is a therapeutic technique used by natural health practitioners, day spas and can easily be added to your daily routine to improve your overall health.

The skin, also known as the third kidney is the largest most important eliminative organ in the body and is responsible for one quarter of the body's detoxification each day. It is estimated that one third of all body impurities are excreted through the skin (1 to 2lbs). If the skin becomes inactive and its pores choked with millions of dead cells, uric acid and other impurities will remain in the body. The other eliminative organs, mainly the liver and kidneys, will have to increase their labor of detoxification because of the inactive skin, with the result that they will be overworked and eventually weakened or diseased. Toxins and wastes will then be deposited in the tissues. Thus, you must realize the great importance of always keeping your skin in perfect clean working condition.

Dry skin brushing is a swift and powerful way to enhance the detoxification process. It's easy, pleasant and yields tremendous benefits! In addition, the massaging effect of the bristles is known to be highly beneficial for eliminating cellulite.

Brushing the skin gently stimulates the lymphatic system and is considered to be one of the best natural lymphatic cleansers available.

The lymphatic system is composed of lymph vessels, lymph nodes, and organs. Part of the body's defense system, the lymph nodes remove microorganisms and other foreign substances. They act as a filtration system that keeps particulate matter, such as bacteria, from entering the bloodstream.

Stimulating the lymphatic system through skin brushing will activate all of the above functions as well as encourage blood circulation and cell regeneration. Both actions promote detoxification, weight loss and cellulite reduction, as well as improve body tone and skin radiance. Body brushing is also said to boost and support the immune system, even for those people who have cancer, or other conditions that weaken the immune system. Body brushing is also credited with reducing infection, and allowing the body to heal faster. Other benefits are stimulating the nervous system, stimulating circulation and

blood flow, and stimulating the hormones, all while creating an optimal distribution of fat deposits.

To brush the skin, use a natural bristle or plant fiber brush (loofa). Using long firm strokes, brush gently starting from the soles of your feet moving upwards toward the heart. Hands, arms, head and neck are brushed towards the heart as well. Vary the brushing pressure to accommodate varying sensitivity of the skin of different parts of the body - face, medial thighs, abdomen and breasts are more sensitive. Never brush irritated, damaged or infected skin. If you have poison ivy, skin rashes, infections or inflammatory problems such as phlebitis, do not brush. Skin brushing should be performed once a day, preferably first thing in the morning. A thorough skin brushing takes about 15 minutes, but any time spent brushing prior to bathing will benefit the body. If you are feeling ill, increasing the treatments to twice a day is good. You can also dry brush areas of cellulite five to 10 minutes twice a day to achieve cellulite dissolving but the technique needs to be done consistently for a minimum of five months. For sanitation purpose, it is important not to share brush and clean thoroughly after each use.



Finish up with your regular shower and ending with three hot and cold cycles. That means turning on the water as hot as you can handle for several seconds, then as cold as you can handle it, then hot, then cold for three cycles. End with either hot or cold. The contrast between hot and cold water increases circulation, promotes detoxification and strengthens the immune system. This helps bring nutrients, oxygen and immune cells to damaged and stressed tissues and carries away metabolic waste, inflammatory by-products and other toxic substances. It will also invigorate the skin and stimulate blood circulation, bringing more blood to the outer layers of the skin.

Dry skin-brushing itself - dry meaning not in the bath - will change the health of your whole body. Once circulation improves, you can look forward to softer skin, prevention of skin infections and irritations, and prevention of colds.

### *Tip of the month*

*Start and end each day dedicating time for your mind body and spirit.*

## PRESIDENT OBAMA OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES HAFA SHORT SALE PROGRAM ON APRIL 5TH

— New federal government program helps homeowners sell their homes via short sale or deed-in-lieu of foreclosure. —

Washington, DC - On April 5, 2010, the Obama Administration and the U.S. Treasury Department officially activated the HAFA (Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives) program, which gives struggling homeowners incentives to take advantage of two alternative options to foreclosure. A helpful web site, [www.WhatIsHAFA.org](http://www.WhatIsHAFA.org), has already been launched to explain the program.

Through the program, homeowners are encouraged to do a short sale - in which the borrower and the mortgage servicer agree to sell the home for less than the value of the loan. They can also do a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, in which the homeowner voluntarily gives the deed of the property to the servicer.

Incentives include being fully released from future



liability for the first mortgage debt, and \$1,500 for borrower relocation assistance. There also incentives for investors and the lenders.

As the United States continues to experience one of the worst economic downturns ever, foreclosure filings continue to rise - especially amongst minority families. In 2009, a record 2.8 million homes went into foreclosure, and the filings in 2010 are estimated to reach up to 3.5 million. Experts say that foreclosure activity will likely remain high until at least the end of 2012.

Although controversial amongst many industry leaders, some are optimistic that the HAFA program can drastically reduce the amount of foreclosure filings and rebuild the housing marketing one mortgage at a time. Homeowners find the program attractive because it does not affect their credit report as adversely as a foreclosure does.

For more details about the program and to learn how to apply, homeowners should visit:

HAFA Resources  
[info@whatishafa.org](mailto:info@whatishafa.org)  
[www.WhatIsHAFA.org](http://www.WhatIsHAFA.org)



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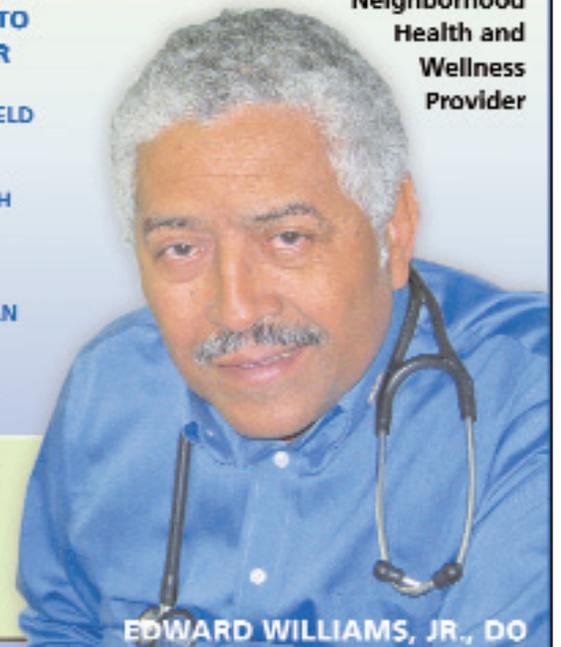
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# “TWO PEAS IN A POD”

By Pastor Leon R. Bing

How many of you still remember this old saying, “Two peas in a pod.” It was used to identify two individuals who were tight, always together, looked out for one another! For the younger readers, you might say, two who were down together, Blood, or even “dawgs.” Like many of you I hate the word dawg myself, but I need to say to bring home my point!

Two peas in a pod represent two who really were in agreement, or in covenant with each other. Let me give you a quick example. I have a sister whom I love very much. In her first marriage it was said by everyone who knows her and who knew her first husband that when you saw one, you always saw the other! They did everything together! They were truly, “Two peas in a pod”! That is a true testimony!

If only we as children of the Most High God could have such a testimony about our relationship with one another, and with Christ! I want to show you four areas where we need to check ourselves to make sure we may be considered to having the right relationship both with man and God! (Remember, how can you say you love God and not love your brother).

This first area is where we don’t want to be!

## Like idol, like follower

Psalm 135: 15-18

- 15 Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands.
- 16 They cannot talk, though they have mouths, or see, though they have eyes!
- 17 They cannot hear with their ears or smell with their noses.
- 18 And those who make them are just like them, as are all who trust in them.**

*New Living Translation*

Some people are so into their possessions that they become like their possessions. What are you known for? Your gold, cars, your cash flow? These things cause you to miss out on a beautiful relationship with your family, friends, and even Christ. Two people can have the most wonderful relationship with each other and may not have many possessions at all. But when you see them you just have to say, they are two peas in a pod! And when you have a good prayer life, a life in the Word of God, you are definitely two peas in a pod with Christ! You look like Him, act like Him, and think like Him!

There are many of you who have made idols in your daily lives. Your jobs, things, people and money have become idols. These idols cause you not to be like-minded with Christ. Instead, you have become what you idol(s) are.

## Then there are two in agreement.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed??

*KJV*

Amos 3:3 Can two people walk together without **agreeing on the direction?**

*NLT*

The New Living Translation gives us a little better insight by saying “agreeing on the direction”. This is a key piece of information because it lets us know that we don’t just agree, but we agree on the direction we choose to go in. You see, my wife and I can agree on a thing, but she can choose not to go in that direction! We agree with the Word of God, but some still choose not to walk in it! Two peas in a pod covenant with each other and choose to walk in the same direction.

## Listen to this one, like teacher – like student

Luke 6:39, 40

- 39 Then Jesus gave the following illustration: **“What good is it for one blind person to lead another? The first one will fall into a ditch and pull the other down also.**
- 40 **A student is not greater than the teacher. But the student who works hard will become like the teacher.**

One problem people have is that they don’t want anyone to tell them anything! That causes rebellion to rise up between two and you no longer are two peas in a pod, but you become “split peas”. If you can gain knowledge from someone then Filler up! Get as much knowledge as you can! At the First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce they weekly offer valuable information to startup business owners, Free of Charge, but only a very few get the information that could help them immensely. When we can learn to work with one another, learn from one another, learn to staff our weaknesses, we can never be two peas in a pod. Instead, we remain enemies keeping both of us down! As Jesus says, the blind leading the blind!

## Lastly, thinking as Jesus Thought.

Philippians 2:5-8

- 5 **Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.**
- 6 **Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.**
- 7 **He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.**
- 8 **And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal’s death on a cross.**





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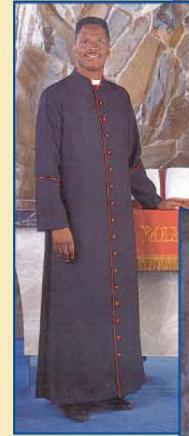
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# Publisher's Editorial



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



## It Came To Pass

Throughout the world today, there is suffering and pain, poverty and neglect, chaos and unrest, headache and heartbreak. In America, we are finding it hard to trust any form of security, whether it be job, country, family or friend. Today we find ourselves alive, tomorrow we know not our condition nor state. It seems the one only thing that is constant is Trouble.

There is an old Negro spiritual that tells us that trouble will come. No matter who you are, where you come from, what you have... trouble will come. If you are able to string along a few good days, it won't be long before trouble sticks up its ugly head. Tranquility's longevity is defined by trouble. Success' level is determined by trouble. Family's solidity is measured by trouble. Company's solvency equated by its tolerance of trouble. Trouble will come and come to all.

Life is a fight. A battle that does not have to be won but must be waged until the end. It's foolish to think that in this fight of life you won't be hit – hit hard, and even knocked down. Some battles you will win, others you will lose. What matters is that you get up when knocked down, try again to win when you lose, and endure to the end. You Got to be In It to Win It!

Along with trouble comes life lessons. There is always something to learn today from the troubles of yesterday. That which does not kill us only makes us stronger... that is if we learn from it. He who fails to learn from the mistakes of the past is destined to repeat them. It has been said that if you keep on doing what you have always done, you will keep on getting what you have always gotten. May I add... in order to get what you have never had, you got to do what you have never done. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting to get different results.

Florida's FCAT Test has been a source of trouble to many. Children have been held back from promotion and some seniors have been denied their diplomas at graduation. The FCAT did not spring up yesterday. We just didn't see the trouble coming. Regardless, it's here and how we respond is what matters most.

There was a time in our history when our parents were constantly looking ahead for the trouble that would adversely

affect their children. It was the goal of each of these parents that their child fared better in life than they themselves. If they only got a third grade education, they wanted their child to graduate from high school. If they graduated from high school, they wanted their child to graduate from college. Parents today need this same spirit.

The FCAT is a hurdle that must be jumped, a pitfall our children must avoid. It maybe that the teachers aren't doing enough for our children to pass the test, that only means we as parents must do more. Its time to roll up our sleeves with the determination that our children will succeed in spite of and because of. Trouble is on the home front. Its time for us to take ownership of our children. We put gas in our cars. We furnish our homes. We dry-clean our clothes. Let's do whatever it takes to care for our children by ensuring their education.

Throughout the Bible we find the phrase "It came to pass." Trouble will come and it will come to pass through your life. Trouble is unavoidable yet very manageable. This biblical phrase supply hope along with its prophecy "It came to pass." Another Negro spiritual tell us "Trouble Don't Last Always," thus, our phrase means... it came to pass.

Trouble at work with job security... It came to pass! Trouble at home, family members not getting along... It came to pass! Trouble paying the bills; never seem to be enough money... It came to pass! Trouble with sickness and stress... It came to pass! Trouble with the war and world peace... It came to pass!

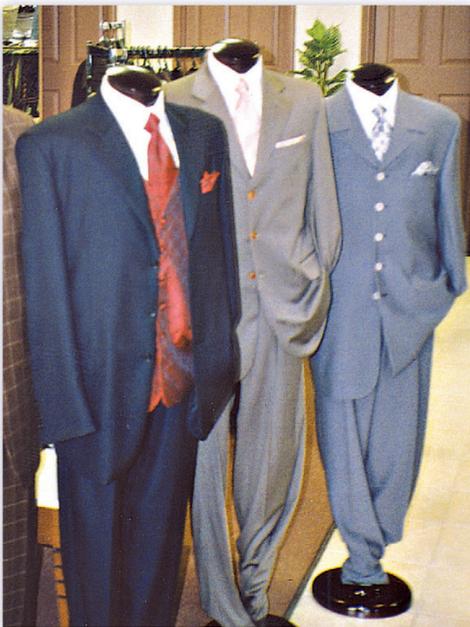
Regardless of the method, measure or magnitude of your trouble, it came into your life only to pass through your life. Trouble has its end and there lies a new beginning. Better days and better ways begin with change. The power of change you possess is the power to change yourself. When you become better, all around you will become better. When your thinking and outlook is enhanced, others around you are elevated. By you changing you, one day you will look at your world and see all the dreams and goals you have accomplished, remembering your troubles you will say... It came to pass!



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