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FEBRUARY 2010

It was a time of slavery, it was a time of great men, it was a time of conflict. 'Filling the Gap' reveals the untold stories of Blacks in bondage during the Civil war era. These stories of artisans, inventors, engineers and spies unveils the great contributions of Blacks during the early settlement and development of our great nation.

see
**'FILLING THE GAP'
HIGHLIGHTS TRIUMPHS
BY BLACKS DURING 19th
CENTURY – page 20**

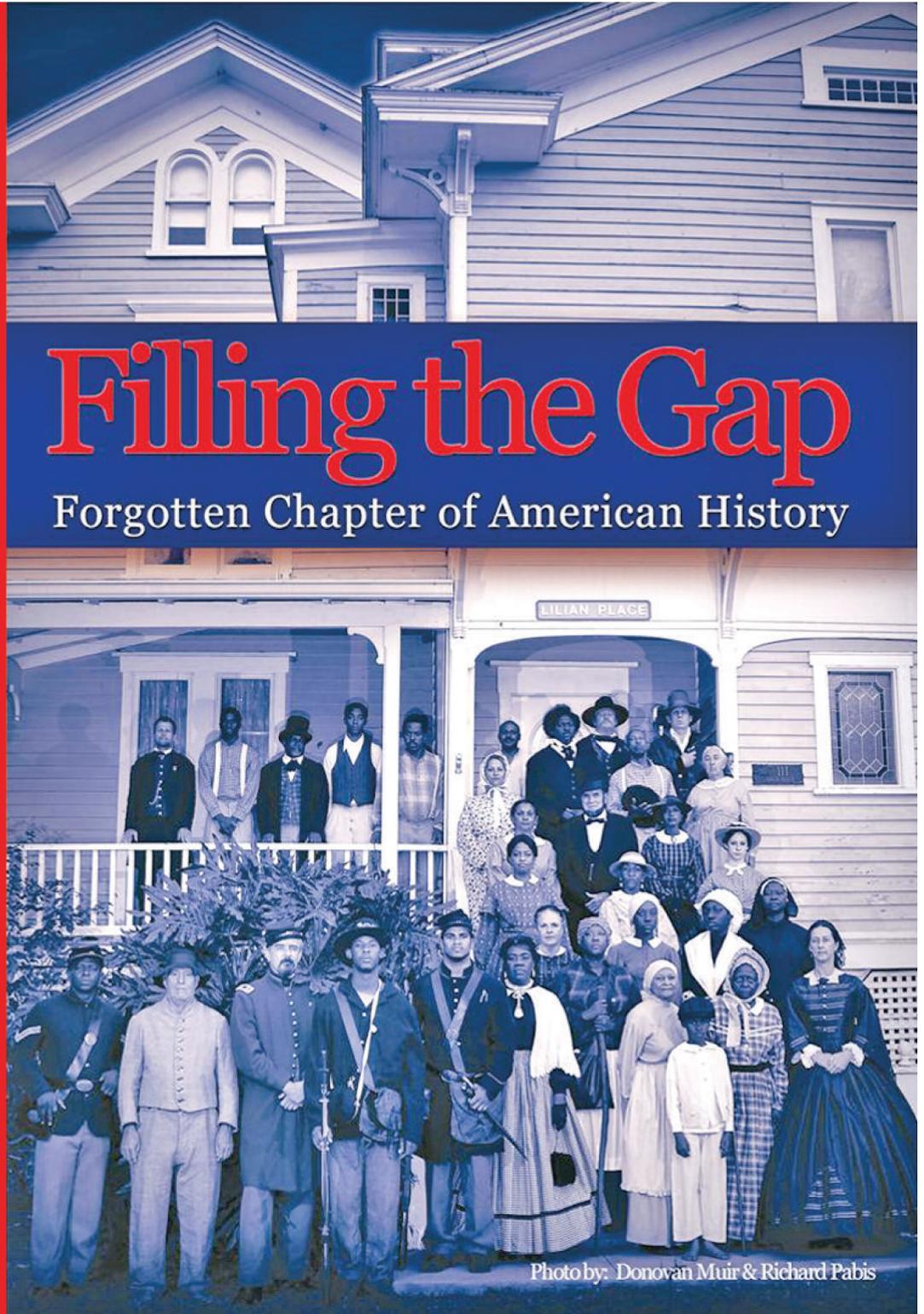


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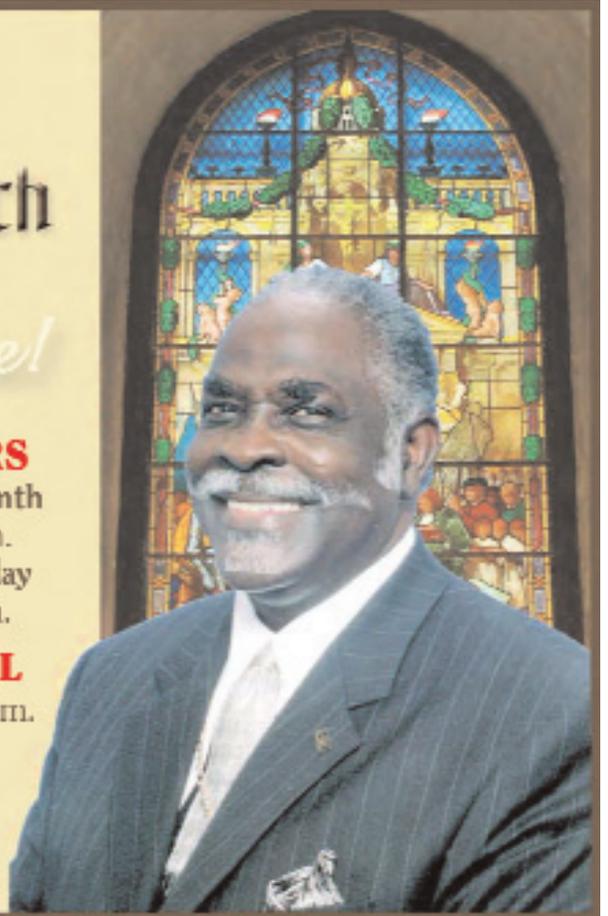
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Congresswoman Corrine Brown Delivers Immediate Assistance for Haiti

You Too Can Help!

Congresswoman Brown and her constituents of the 3rd Congressional District, sent seven (7) 53 Ft. tractor trailer or non-perishable needed aid and water to Haiti which arrived today. The Congresswoman raised over \$50,000 to purchase aid from Sam's Club who offered a tremendous discount. She is working with the Food For The Poor Foundation (foodforthepoor.org) in Haiti for direct distribution to the people.

Congresswoman Corrine Brown issued the following statement: "To whom God has given much, much is to be expected. My thoughts and prayers go out to the people of the island nation of Haiti, and to the Haitian diaspora community. The loss of life and destruction of property in and around the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince are simply unimaginable, and the work of caring for the injured, sheltering the displaced, and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure will be a long, difficult process. I am pleased to see that the United States, working with the international community, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, both domestic and international, has provided a tremendous amount of emergency relief and support to the Haitian people during this critical time.

The situation the country is facing in the wake of the January 12th, 7.0 magnitude earthquake is severe: there are as many as 200,000 dead and approximately 3 million in dire need of food, shelter, and medical attention. Moreover, getting assistance to the island has proven to be extraordinarily difficult because the communication and infrastructure systems on the island have been decimated. Perhaps most notably, even the ports are inoperable at this time, adding to the delay of the arrival relief supplies.

In my congressional district, Florida's third, I have organized with numerous area churches, as well as businesses and non-profit organizations, to donate seven tractor-trailers filled with supplies ready to be delivered to Haiti. I also have water donations going through the nonprofit organization, Food for the Poor, and am advocating for people all over the state to donate. As a Florida Member who was in Haiti just a few months ago, I pledge to do everything I can to ensure that the survivors receive the water, food, medical, and other supplies so desperately needed.

I am encouraging everyone to assist the people of Haiti in any way possible, and am including a few important phone numbers and websites to donate and/or to make a contribution.



Kristina Johnson of Sam's Club and Congresswoman Corrine Brown (3rd - FL)

Contributions/Donations

From cell phones/Blackberries, Text "HAITI" to the number 90999 (\$10 will be charged to your cell phone bill and donated to the Red Cross and Mercy Corps towards relief efforts on the island).

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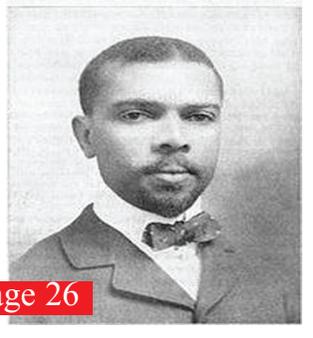
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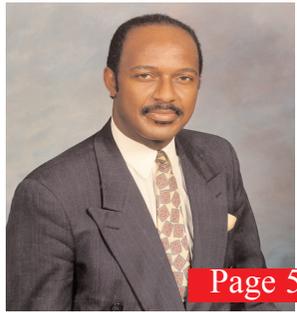
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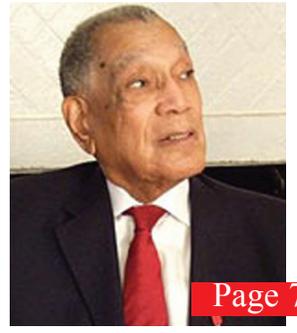
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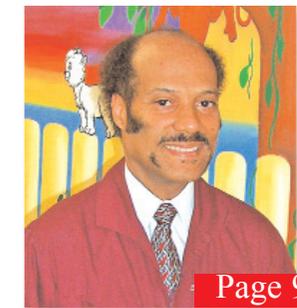
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FROM GOD'S CORNER



“JESUS GAVE ME WATER AND IT WAS NOT FROM THE WELL”

By Aundra Bryant
Tallahassee, Florida

In Mark Twain's famous novel the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn there is an account in the book where Aunt Sally asked Huckleberry Finn was anyone hurt in the

steamboat explosion? He replied, “No, killed a nigger”. She then responded, “Well, it lucky because sometimes people do get hurt”. As I thought about this account in one of the most familiar piece of American literature my mind fell on our President Barack Obama. Isn't it strange that we can be athletes and entertainers but when it comes to the highest office in our nation we are not respected.

There have been many attacks on President Obama in recent weeks where he has been called a socialist, a communist, a racist and even a downright liar by one of the members of Congress. Someone even went as far as saying the other day that “They should have buried him with Senator Ted Kennedy”. No time during the eight years that Former President George Bush was in control did I see such hatred and disrespect given to the President in the oval office. However, I am always encouraged and excited because there is always assurance and motivation in the Word of God.

Today our lesson comes by way of the Gospel according to St. John Chapter Four verses 1-15. Jesus is on his way from Judea back to Galilee and had to go through Samaria and he goes and sits down by the well in the meantime his disciples are gone to town to buy food. There are three points that Jesus gives us today that we can use to meet the changes and challenges of the future. Firstly, in order for Jesus and the disciples to get to Galilee they had to go through Samaria. We know that biblical history tells us that when the Jews would conquer a nation they would take the women captive and they called them the spoils of their victory. The men would in many cases have children from these women and they were labeled as half breed and the Jews despised them

and considered them as second class and inferior to their culture and history.

Just as Jesus had to go through Samaria, we as blacks must realize that there are situations where we are going to have to face the evil words and actions of people who say that they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb just as we are but who constantly wave the flag of hatred and prejudice. I think now that our President realizes that since we have got to go that way, we might as well address the problem and make the trip worthwhile.

Secondly, a Samaritan woman came to draw some water from the well and Jesus asked her to



give him a drink of water. However, she replied, “How is it that you ask me for a drink of water? It is said that the human body can go without food for forty days, water for twelve days, and oxygen for four minutes but we cannot go one second without hope. Jesus uses water as a symbol to show the Samaritan woman and us today that we all need water no matter what race, color or creed or national origin. Likewise, we need Christ in our lives because we all have sinned and come

See GOD'S CORNER Page 8

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Tuskegee Ace Pilot Dies at 90

Retired Air Force Lt. Colonel Lee Archer, a former Tuskegee Airman during World War II, died January 27 at Cornell University Medical Center in New York City. He was 90.

Archer was born on September 6, 1919 in Yonkers, N.Y. and raised in Harlem. He attended New York University before dropping out and enlisting in the Army Air Corps. At that time, African-American men were not allowed to fly in combat missions, and so his enlistment in the air corps was rejected. That led Archer to the Tuskegee Airmen, the first Black fighter pilot group. In his duty with the airmen during World War II, Archer downed five enemy planes, making him the first Black pilot to achieve an “ace” rating.

Archer retired from the military in 1970 and became Vice President of General Foods. The job made him one of the first Blacks to be in such a position in a major U.S. company.



Air Force Lt. Colonel Lee Archer

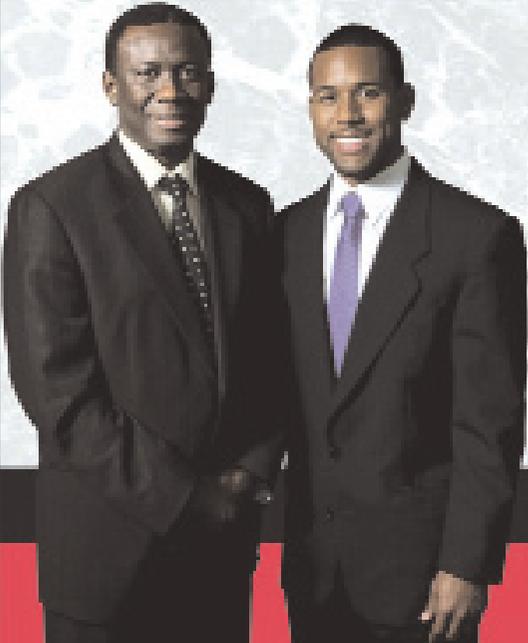
Archer ran North Street Capital Corporation, one of General Foods’ investment arms, which funded *Essence* Communications and Black Enterprise Magazine. During his time there, he also helped create another company, TLC Beatrice, which was the nation’s largest company to be owned and operated by African-Americans at that time. Archer retired from General Foods in 1987 and started Archer Asset Management, a venture capital firm.

In January 2009, Archer was invited to attend President Obama’s inauguration along with other surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen. Respected by many for his talents and contributions, Archer leaves a lasting legacy.

“He had a heart of gold and treated people with respect,” fellow Tuskegee Airman, Dr. Roscoe Brown Jr., told the AP. “He demanded respect by the way he carried himself.” Archer is survived by three sons and a daughter. Lee Archer is considered the only black ‘Ace’ pilot.

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Jack Johnson

Boxer, Jack Johnson Won His First Title On February 3, 1903, Beating “Denver” Ed Martin Over 20 Rounds For The World Colored Heavyweight Championship.

His Efforts To Win The Full Title Were Blocked, As Then World Heavyweight Champion James J. Jeffries, Refused To Face Him.



Johnson Eventually Won The Heavyweight

Title After Defeating Tommy Burns In Sydney, Australia On December 26, 1908, In Front Of 20,000 Spectator.. The Bout Went 14 Rounds. The Referee Stopped The Fight After 14 Rounds And Awarded Johnson A TKO Decision.

On July 4, 1910, A Boxing Match Billed As “The Fight Of The Century,” Took Place Heavyweight Champion, Jack Johnson And White Challenger, James J. Jeffries, In Reno, Nevada. Jeffries Came Out Of Retirement As “The Great White Hope,” To Take Down The World’s First Black Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Whites Generally Believed That A World Boxing Championship Was Too Prestigious A Prize For A Black Man To Hold.

Johnson Knocked Jeffries Out In The 15th Round Of The Fight And Retained His Championship. White America Was Outraged While Black America Celebrated The Victory.

This Led To A Backlash Of White-On-Black Rioting, In Which 11 African Americans Were Killed.

“In Order For Black History To Live, We Must Continue To Breathe Life Into It.”

- Hubert Gaddy, Jr.

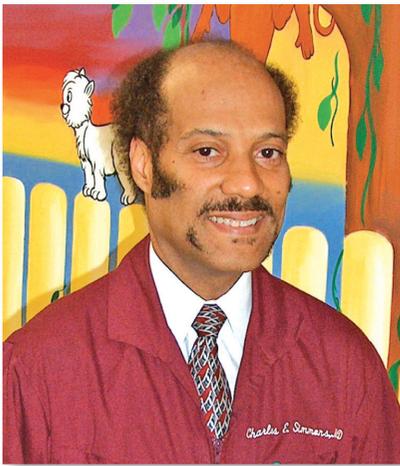
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short of the glory of God, Democrats, Republicans and those of other political parties as well.

We want be able to see the fruit of the Spirit in our lives such as love, peace, joy, gentleness and patience until we meet Jesus at the well. Jesus uses reverse psychology on the woman because he did not wait until she asked him for anything but he offered her something that was not in the physical well or Jacob’s well. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life. This is Jesus way of asking us for a drink from our well and in exchange he will give us his everlasting water as the songwriter says “It reaches to the highest mountains and it flows to lowest valley, the blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power”.

Finally, the Samaritan woman told Jesus that he had nothing to draw the water with and the well is deep. We live in a capitalistic society and we know that people are constantly relying on stocks, bonds and investments to ensure that they are able to continue to keep this nation in a business perspective. However, the greatest resource that we have is each other. We know that the well of problems and issues are deep but if we would just learn to work together as President Obama is trying to get everyone to do and pool our talents and gifts together everyone would benefit from this collective effort. It does not matter whether it is healthcare, education, economy, international issues or political issues, we are going to have to come to the Lord and ask him to fill us with his grace, his mercy and his love.

In conclusion, a young man took his son to New York City for the first time and as the young man saw all of the hustle and bustle associated with that lifestyle he told his father, “Daddy I hate New York. It is so crowded here you can’t even walk”. The father became somewhat discouraged and told his son that there was one more place that he wanted to take him and they then would go back to the hotel. As they rode the elevator to the top of the Empire State Building, the son was astounded and amazed to how beautiful New York City looked. The son said “Daddy this place is beautiful, why didn’t it look like this when I was on the ground?” His father replied “This is the same place but you just raised your level of thinking”.



Dr. Charles E. Simmons

TEETHING BABIES

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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President Obama May Improve the Image of African Americans, But Being Black or Brown In America Is Still Tough For Kids

Sandy Lynne Holman urges educators and parents to action

Davis, CA — The media is touting new films about image and the African American experience - Chris Rock's "Good Hair," Oprah's "Precious," CNN's Black in America, Disney's Princess and the Frog and Tyler Perry's films - but talking about self-image is a mission for Sandy Holman, director of The Culture CO-OP, Davis, California. Holman has dedicated the last twenty years of her career to boosting the body-image and self-esteem of the nation's youth. Her focus is on diversity and children who are disproportionately affected by negative messages such as African Americans and Latinos.



Sandy Lynn Holman

Her first book -"Grandpa, Why Is Everything Black Bad?"- won national awards in spite of what her critics called its "negative title." Holman reads this and her other titles, "Grandma Says Our Hair has Flair" and "We All Have a Heritage," to the nation's children. The children who read her books know exactly what they mean, and they feel validated by the positive messages inside. Holman observes that from age three, kids notice when their skin and hair doesn't measure up to their role models in movies and television.

"Things have reached an epidemic level for our children and the messages they internalize," Holman said, "And still we debate why there are achievement gaps in education, high dropout rates, high incarceration rates and worse." The negative messages that children of color receive, coupled with insidious institutional systems, are taking their toll.

Holman says it is vital to take collective action because ultimately all of society is affected. By working with schools, creating community conversations, giving presentations and creating books, songs and other

materials, she encourages individuals to intervene in the lives of youth during their formative years.

Sandy Holman has degrees from the University of California and California State University in psychology and counseling. The Culture CO-OP (Caring, Optimistic, Open-minded People) promotes understanding and respect for diversity, reading and quality education for all. They accomplish their mission through dynamic presentations and research-based multicultural products that incorporate reading, music and the arts for people of all ages and backgrounds. They are preparing to launch the national campaign "We All Have a Heritage" to increase cross-cultural awareness and understanding. For more details, visit www.cultureco-op.com or contact Sandy Lynn Holman, Director, Business Phone: 530-792-1334, Cell Phone: 530-902-4534 sandy@CultureCo-op.com

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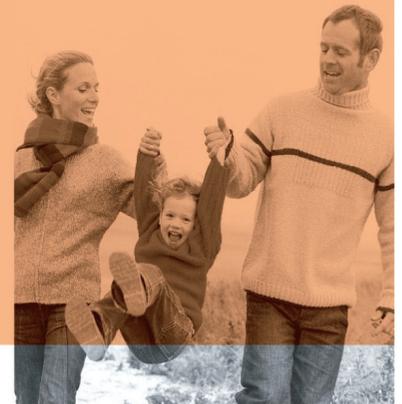
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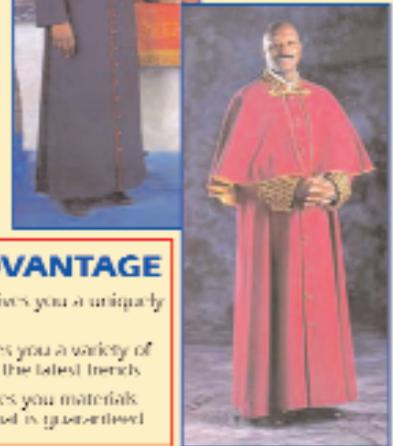
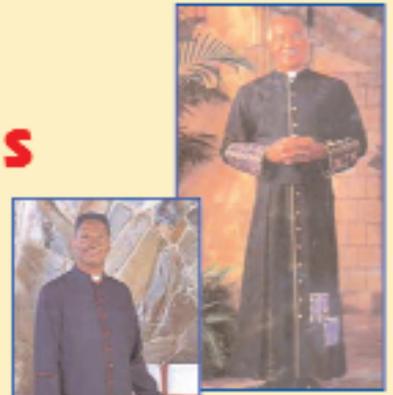


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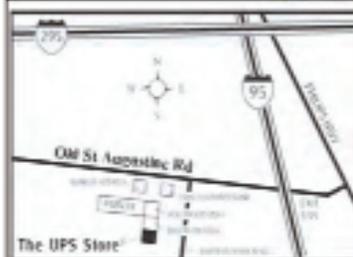
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Orlando Urban League Name's Allie Braswell, Jr. New CEO

The Metropolitan Orlando Urban League announces that Disney diversity manager and former Urban League board chairman Allie Braswell Jr. will be its new CEO, filling the void left by the departure of E. Lance McCarthy last May. "I'm extremely excited. I'm extremely hopeful that this is an opportunity to contribute back to the community I really do believe in," said Braswell, 48, who is leaving his diversity-management job with Walt Disney Parks and Resorts brings to the job a background in information technology, corporate management and nonprofit work. He said that when he takes over Feb. 1, his priority



will be to work with the board of directors to re-establish the Urban League's credibility among financial supporters and members of the black community.

The Orlando Urban League, created in 1977, provides employment assistance, educational and social services and job-training programs to low-income residents from its Pine Hills headquarters. It also assists minority-owned businesses and black professionals. Board Chairman Michael Lewellen said Braswell was selected from more than 40 applicants because he possessed the best skills, talents and ideas to move the Urban League forward.

The Ultimate Humanitarian & Orlando Globe Awards Highlights General Equivalency Diploma Official Graduation Ceremony

The Metropolitan Orlando Urban League Guild holds a yearly The Ultimate Humanitarian and Orlando Globe Awards at Orlando City Hall, to honor those citizens who with limited abilities go above, beyond and around the description of volunteerism and caring to make a difference in the lives of others.

This year, was the first ever General Equivalency Diploma Ceremony. Dr. Randal Pinkett, from the television show 'The Apprentice', fourth season was our principal for the day. Our Valedictorian was Mr. Craig Smith, a graduate from our Urban Youth Empowerment Program. Craig wore his cap and gown with pride. This young man before the Guild became apart of his life admitted that he had suicidal thoughts and thought that life for him was an endless road - He now shares a different story.

We gave several honors that evening:

Mr. Ronald Blocker, OCPS Superintendent, received the Eloise Gentry Educational Award

Mr. James Larsen, OCPS West Orange High School received, Globe of Kindness

Mr. Theodore 'Pastor Ted' Pastor of Coalition received, Globe of Peace

Ms. Cassandra Doty, Golfer/Realtor received Globe of Courage

Ms. Lorraine Onfroy-Dean, Medtronic, received Globe of Courage

Mr. Tony Lesessne, In-Focus Magazine received Best Business Practices

Ms. Dana Jackson, the Metropolitan Orlando Urban League Guild - 2009 Ultimate Humanitarian (for her weekly show Justice for All) and her work for



See MOUL page 24

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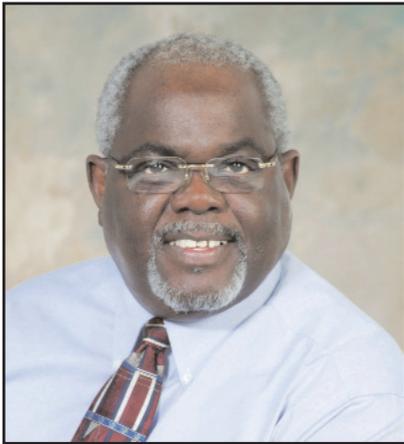
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POISONS THAT KEEP US FROM PROSPERING

By Pastor L. R. Bing

Proverbs 6:12-19 NLT

12 Here is a description of worthless and wicked people: They are constant liars,

13 signaling their true intentions to their friends by making signs with their eyes and feet and fingers.

14 Their perverted hearts plot evil. They stir up trouble constantly.

15 But they will be destroyed suddenly, broken beyond all hope of healing.

16 There are six things the LORD hates — no, seven things he detests:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent,

18 a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong,

19 a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.

In this passage of scripture, I would like to point out poisons that can keep us from prospering. These are things that God hates to see operating in our lives. In verses 12 – 15, we see the effects of people with these poisons operating in them.

12 Here is a description of worthless and wicked people: They are constant liars,

13 signaling their true intentions to their friends by making signs with their eyes and feet and fingers.

14 Their perverted hearts plot evil. They stir up trouble constantly.

15 But they will be destroyed suddenly, broken beyond all hope of healing.

They are constant liars, deceivers, and have perverted hearts that plot evil and stir up trouble constantly. Over the past few years, how many of you have been lied to or deceived in business dealings? It could have been that lemon of a car you purchased, or that bad home loan, or any other venture you bought into that was promised to be one thing but turned out to be something else.

These are people who live with poisons in them that give them a false sense of prospering. In the end God will have the final say, and all that they thought they gained will be destroyed. Look how many people have nearly sent this country into financial ruin because of their deceit. From the Wall Street Bankers, to the independent business person who have scammed from the widow next door to you.

One thing for sure is that God does not want you to be named with any of these evil doers! So Solomon tells us in verses 16 – 19, the six things that God hates!

16 There are six things the LORD hates — no, seven things he detests:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent,

18 a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong,

19 a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.

Let's take a look at each of these things that the Lord hates (taken from Mathew Henry Commentary):

1. **A proud look** - Haughtiness, conceitedness of ourselves, and contempt of others. There are seven things that God hates, and **pride is first**, because it is at the bottom of much sin and gives rise to it.

2. Falsehood, and fraud, and dissimulation. Next to a proud look nothing is more an abomination to God than **a lying tongue**; there is nothing more sacred than truth, nor more necessary to conversation than speaking truth. **God and all good men hate and abhor lying.**

3. Cruelty and blood-thirstiness. The devil was, from the beginning, a liar and a murderer (John 8:44), and therefore, as a lying tongue, so **hands that shed innocent blood** are hateful to God, because they have in them the devil's image and do him service.

John 8:44

For you are the children of your father the Devil and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning and has always hated the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. NLT

4. **A heart that designs and a head that devises wicked imaginations**, is acquainted with the depths of Satan and knows how to carry on a covetous, envious, revengeful plot, most effectually. The more there is of craft and management in sin, the more it is an abomination to God.

5. **Feet that are swift in running to mischief** are if they were afraid of losing time or were impatient of delay in a thing they are so greedy of.

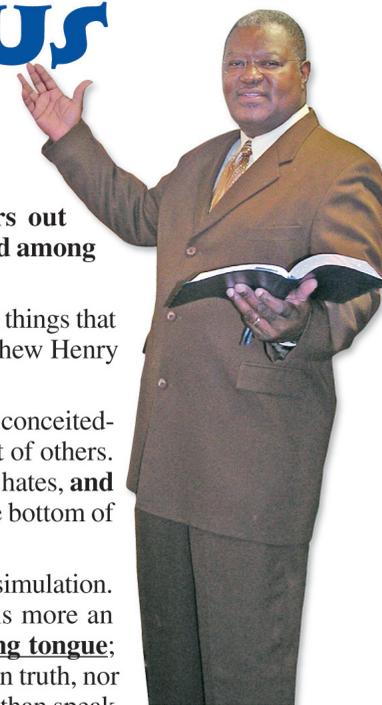
6. **False-witness bearing**, is one of the greatest mischief's that the wicked imagination can devise, and against which there is the least protection.

There cannot be a greater disrespect to God or a greater injury to our neighbor than knowingly to give in a false testimony. There are seven things which God hates, and lying involves two of them.

7. The God of love and peace **hates him that sows discord among brethren**, for he delights in unity.

Making mischief between relationships and neighbors, and using all wicked means possible, not only to alienate their affections one from another, but to irritate their passions one against another is something that God hates.

When we can remove these poisons from our bodies, we can become stronger, more prosperous Christians. It is these little things that most Christians overlook in their lives that they don't realize that is keeping them from prospering. For these little things are very big in God's eyes! Let's make the corrections in our lives and go forward in prospering in the Lord!



'Filling the Gap' Highlights Triumphs by Blacks during 19th Century

from Page 1

Orlando filmmaker Tyrone Young hopes to change the way African-American children think of their ancestors — and themselves — with a film that focuses on the inventive and creative contributions by Blacks during the 19th century
(RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA, ORLANDO SENTINEL)



Filling the Gap: Forgotten Chapter of American History highlights the triumphs by Blacks during the late 1800s as engineers, spies, artisans and inventors — some as young as 9 years old — who in their own way helped develop the U.S. economy or secure victory for the Union army.

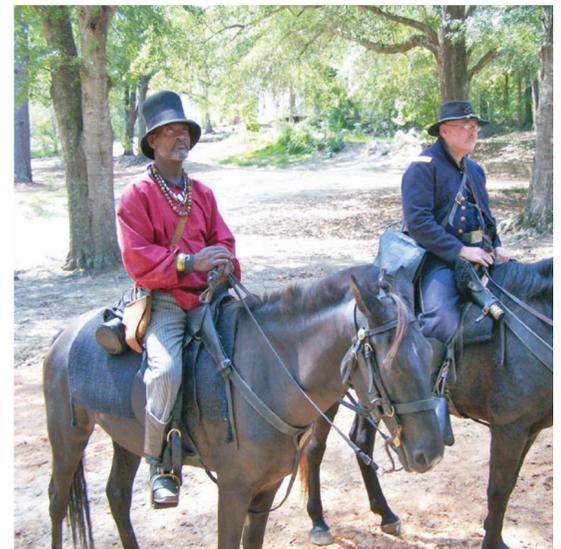
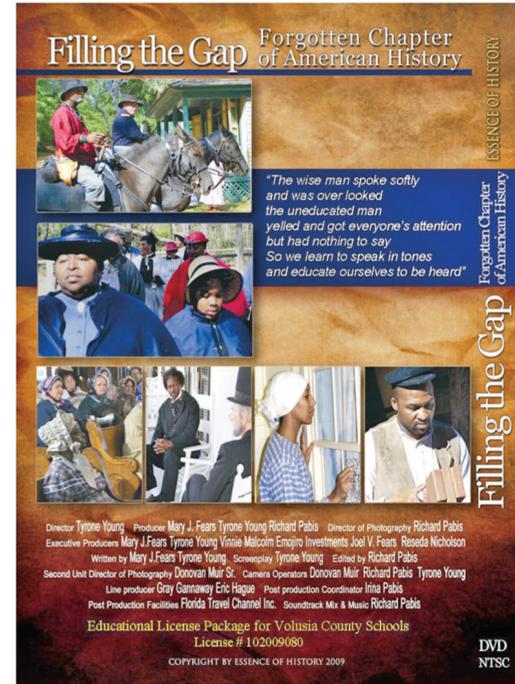
“People today still think that with the exception of a few well-known Blacks, everyone was in the field picking cotton, they were enslaved, they were beaten, they were treated wrongly. That is a fact, but we were still doing some wonderful things. “We were able to rise above chains and bondage because of the gift and talents that we have”, states Tyrone Young, the movie’s director.

“Black people feel neglected in their history ... and they are not proud of what they do read,” said film co-producer Mary Fears, 79, a retired school media specialist and a storyteller in Daytona Beach. The film is timely given a statewide panel’s recent finding that most Florida school districts have failed to adequately infuse Black history in their teachings. Only Volusia and seven other school districts have met the standards of the state’s Task Force on African American History, which the state Legislature created to determine whether schools were following a law requiring they teach the history of Blacks and their “contributions to society.”

Fears said she felt cheated by the textbooks for a long time. Her own study of history and her ancestry had led her to discover prominent Blacks missing from school lessons, such as Susie King Taylor, a black Civil War nurse who taught black soldiers to read and write and chronicled her life in a 1902 mem-



Mary & Joel Fears



Westville

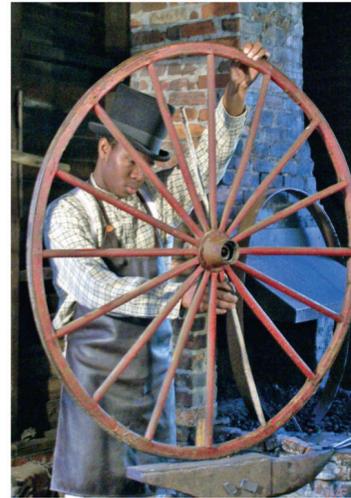
“Black people feel neglected in their history ...



oir. She and Young came up with the idea of using actors, re-enactors and students to tell the true but untold stories of prominent Blacks during that era.

The film features Thomas Day, a free Black cabinetmaker who went on to operate the largest cabinet shop in North Carolina in 1850, and a slave potter known simply as Dave, who put words of poetry on the sides of his pots. It tells the story of 16-year-old steam-engine maker Benjamin Bradley, who never received a patent because of his slave status but could buy his freedom with the \$1,000 he got for his invention.

“People aren’t going to cringe and feel uncomfortable. Everyone — Blacks, Whites — is going to be proud of this nation, because they see a part of us they’ve never seen before,” Young said.



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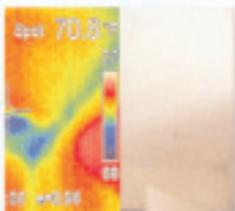
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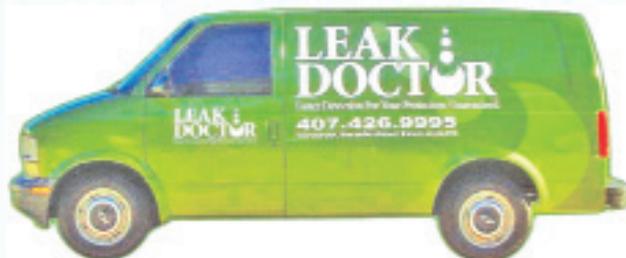
The source of water spots can be difficult to ascertain. We use special equipment to look behind dry walls and ceilings to see if the water leak is still active and if mold is developing.

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South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Faces Backlash for “Stray Animals” Comment

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer (R) has set off a round of controversy with his comparison of providing government assistances to individuals in Greenville, S.C. to “feeding stray animals.”



According to Columbia, S.C. newspaper The State, Bauer’s remarks came during a January 22 town hall meeting which included both lawmakers and residents. “My grandmother was not a highly educated woman, but she told me as a small child to quit feeding stray animals. You know why? Because they breed,” Bauer said. “You’re facilitating the problem if you give an animal or a person ample food supply. They will reproduce, especially ones that don’t think too much further than that. And so what you’ve got to do is you’ve got to curtail that type of behavior. They don’t know any better.”

In his speech, Bauer said the government should take away assistance if any recipient fails a drug test or fails to attend PTA meetings while their children are receiving free and reduced-price lunches at school. Approximately 58 percent of students in South Carolina are enrolled in the free and reduced-price lunch program.

Despite the comparison, he told The Greenville News that he wasn’t saying people on government assistance “were animals or anything else.” Rather, he was trying to explain that people have to become more engaged with government.

Shortly after his speech, Bauer said, “I can show you a bar graph where [schools with the most students taking] free and reduced lunch have the worst test scores in the state of South Carolina,” adding, “You show me the school that has the highest free and reduced lunch, and I’ll show you the worst test scores, folks. It’s there, period.”

Bauer’s remarks set off a string of controversy across the Palmetto State. “Everyone should be offended at the comparison of our school children to stray animals,” House Democratic Leader Harry Ott said in a statement. “Mr. Bauer should immediately apologize to the people of South Carolina for these remarks.”

Bauer’s remarks raised a “legitimate argument,” Bruce Ransom, a Clemson University political science professor told Fox News, but “he didn’t need to compare those individuals to stray animals. The way he framed his points was terrible.” Bauer later wrote that he will continue to push his views on government handouts even if they are perceived as “politically incorrect” by the media.

According to Fox News, U.S. Census data shows that approximately 15 percent of South Carolinians live below the poverty line. As of October 2009, approximately 20,648 South Carolina families were listed as welfare recipients—totaling \$3,979,701 in government assistance.

The Associated Press reported that Bauer, who is a product of a working class family and grew up in a single parent household, benefited from subsidized school lunches himself.

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CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH A GIFT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FROM THOMAS BLACKSHEAR'S AWARD-WINNING COLLECTION

For the first time in history, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient and President of the United States of America, Barack Obama joins the Tuskegee Airman, a United States Army figurine, an Ebony Visions(TM) African-American Nativity and a heart-warming portrait of Mother Teresa, as part of the exciting presentation of Thomas Blackshear's newest artistic renderings with one piece garnering the attention of the United States Postal Service.

Now that the holiday season is over, what better way to ring in the New Year than to start making plans for a Black History Month Celebration? Only a few weeks away, the month of February is set aside to focus on the many momentous events and courageous feats of Black Americans. Just in time to commemorate some of these great contributions, internationally acclaimed artist, Thomas Blackshear unveils several new designs of historical significance. Each piece of his collection can be purchased from Blackshear Online for yourself or as a thought-provoking gift that will arouse interest and inspire style for any decor.

BARACK OBAMA FIGURINE & BUST

Beginning with the highest office in the land, Blackshear presents a handsome figurine of our 44th President and Commander in Chief, Barack Obama, an artistically detailed rendition produced by the famous Lenox China Company, our president stands in front of two American flags as he looks toward the future as Leader of the Free World.

In a candid interview, Thomas explains the inspiration that led him to create the Obama figurine. "The reason why I wanted to do the Obama piece was because something was happening in this country that had never been done before. This was a piece of history that was unfolding right before our eyes. Who ever thought that we would have a Black president in our life time, and it's already happened."

Winner of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, Obama's election was a historic event, not only for Black History but for the history of the United States. In addition to the figurine, Blackshear is introducing the Barack Obama Bust, a stately sculpture that adds distinction to any room. Both presidential pieces ship February in plenty of time to celebrate Black History Month.



ABOUT BLACKSHEAR ONLINE

Established in 2001, we are the internet's pre-eminent gathering place for fans and collectors of internationally acclaimed African-American artist Thomas Blackshear. Our goal is to continue to be the most comprehensive Thomas Blackshear community by providing the essential link collectors need to interact and share ideas and information, and conveniently and confidently purchase Thomas Blackshear products online. Visit our web site at www.BlackshearOnline.com or call us at (209) 599-8599.

MOUL

continued from page 15

ADHD

Mr. Paul Bracker, General Manager Publix received Globe of Friendship

Mr. Bracker's Publix store is in the heart of downtown across from Lake Eola, under his leadership has championed and fostered care and integrity in his mannerism and leadership style to continuously help the disadvantaged. He provides nightly food, drink and a warm lobby for the homeless. Mr. Paul Bracker, is a phenomenal gift to not only Publix but our downtown and extended community. It is support like his that allows the Guild to keep families like Craig and others with a meal on their table and dishes at their celebrations.

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Pat Robertson is “NUTS” “ Not Understanding The Scriptures”

By: Rev. Dr. Robert M. Spooney

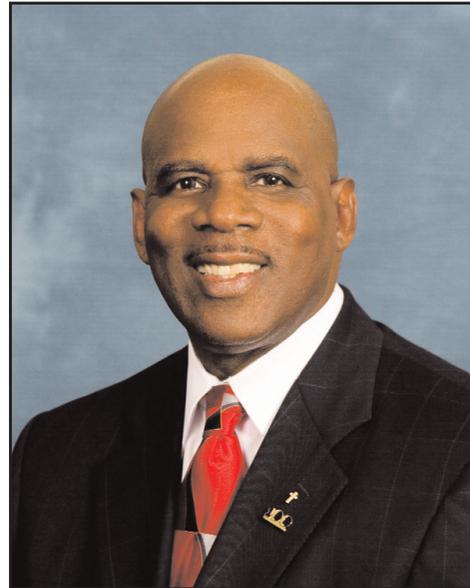
Pastor of Christian Education, Fellowship Baptist Church of Pine Hills

Pat Robertson has really outdone himself this time. On his Christian Broadcasting Network, Robertson stated that Haiti’s calamity was the result of a 19th century “pact” between “the devil” and native Haitians who desired to rid their country of the French colonists.

Native Haitians did indeed defeat the French colonists in a revolution that began in 1791 and ended when they declared their independence after soundly defeating the French in 1804. Robertson then said that ever since defeating the French and gaining independence, “they have been cursed by one thing after the other.” After hearing him speak those words, I felt compelled to offer some clarity on what the Bible says about natural disasters. After reading this you may agree that Pat Robertson is indeed “Nuts” (Not Understanding The Scriptures).

I find it distressing that natural disasters are often termed “acts of God” while no “credit” is given to God for years, decades, or even centuries of peaceful weather. God created the whole universe and the laws of nature as indicated in Genesis 1:1 which reads, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Most natural disasters are a result of these laws at work. Hurricanes, typhoons, and tornados are the results of divergent weather patterns colliding. Earthquakes are the result of the earth’s plate structure shifting. A tsunami is caused by an underwater earthquake.

The Bible proclaims that Jesus Christ holds all of nature together. Colossians 1:16-17 reads, “16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Could the Lord prevent natural disasters? Absolutely! Does the Lord sometimes influence the weather? Yes, as we see in James 5:17 which reads, “17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.” The book of Revelation describes many events which could definitely be described as natural disasters (Revelation



Dr. Robert M. Spooney

chapters 6, 8, and 16). Is every natural disaster a punishment from God? Absolutely not!

In much the same way that God allows evil people to commit evil acts, God allows the earth to reflect the consequences sin has had on creation. Romans 8:19-21 tells us,

“The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”

The fall of humanity into sin, let me put it this way, the act committed by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden has affected everything, including the world we live in. As a result of Adam’s and Eve’s sin, everything in creation is now subject to “frustration” and “decay.” So the real truth is that the sin committed in the Garden of Eden by Adam and Eve is the ultimate cause of natural disasters just as it is the cause of death, disease, and suffering. Prior to their sin, none of those things existed on the earth.

We can understand why natural disasters occur. What we do not understand is why God allows them to occur. Why did God allow the tsunami to kill over 225,000 people in Asia? Why did God allow Hurricane Katrina to destroy the homes of thousands of people? Why did God allow this earthquake to befall on this tiny country? Well, for one thing, when tribulation comes into our lives such events shake our confidence in this

See “NUTS” page 30

James Weldon Johnson

On February 2, 1988, A Commemorative Stamp Of James Weldon Johnson Was Issued By The United States Postal Service As Part Of Its Black Heritage USA Series.

James Weldon Johnson Was Born June 17, 1871, In Jacksonville, Florida. In November, 1900, James Weldon Johnson And His Brother, John Rosemond Johnson, Composed The Song, **“Lift Ev’ry Voice And Sing,”** Generally Known As The Black National Anthem.

Johnson Served As General Secretary Of The NAACP From 1920 - 1930, Resigning To Teach Creative Literature At Fisk University. Johnson Was The First Black Executive Secretary Of The NAACP.

Johnson Was A True Renaissance Man. During His Distinguished Career He Was A Lawyer (He Was The First Black Person Admitted To The Florida Bar),



Diplomat (U.S. Consul To Venezuela And Nicaragua), Educator, Civil Rights Activist Poet, Editor, Literary Critic And Author.

As An African American Literary Critic And Author, Johnson Had A Profound Influence On Black Literature In The 1900’s. He Was A Major Presence During the Harlem Renaissance.

His Books Includes The Autobiography Of An Ex-Colored Man (1912), The Book Of American Negro Spirituals (1925) And Black Manhattan (1935).

Johnson Died June 26, 1938.

“In Order For Black History To Live, We Must Continue To Breathe Life Into It.”

- Hubert Gaddy, Jr.

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The Third Annual Ms./Mrs. Corporate America Pageant will be a two-day event, culminating with the public competition on the evening of March 20, 2010. The contestants will enjoy their stay with luxury accommodations at the beautiful Peabody Orlando Hotel. The competition will be held at one of Orlando's prominent exposition facilities, the Linda Chapin Theatre. The MCA pageant weekend will feature highly informative and entertaining workshops, professional photo shoots, lavish dinners and other events. In addition, contestants will have the opportunity to socialize and network with many of Orlando's business, corporate and entertainment VIP's.

In producing the MCA Pageant, the MCA Organization aims to mix business and beauty, displaying that a woman can be professional and elegant. The MCA pageant will bring together hundreds of the brightest business professionals, community leaders and government officials for a night of fun, designed to both raise funds for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and heighten awareness of issues facing today's modern corporate women. In March of 2008, history was made as the Ms./Mrs. Corporate America (MCA)

Organization presented the first annual Ms./Mrs. Corporate America Pageant, showcasing some of America's top professional women. It will continue its history making legacy with a more established, crowd-fulfilling event as next year tops the charts of all newly designed pageants. This pageant will represent the future of corporate beauty.

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Adoption: A Journey of Faith and Hope



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

There is no other area of work that I can think of that so profoundly and intimately affects the lives of those involved as does the field of adoption. Adoption alters the family relationship in a permanent way and experiencing adoption is engaging in a full range of emotions; it can be heart-wrenching and heart-lifting, life-affirming and life-changing, not only for the many birth parents and adoptive parents we are privileged to serve, but also for those of us that labor in such blessed work. Adoption is never routine, never mundane and it will change your perspective on life. A Chosen Child, along with its Board of Directors is committed to being a haven for both birth parents and adoptive parents, a refuge for their injuries and sorrows and a sanctuary of hope and dignity.

Our stories begin with the courage of those birth parents who seek place a baby they have cherished, carried and brought into the world, into the arms of a family that will nurture, guide, love and protect them the way they would if they could. Adoption is also about the courage of a hopeful family that will open up their homes to a child of another, pledging to provide the best of themselves and honoring the birth parents that helped them become or extend their family. These desires are born in prayer and faith, and hearts so large and accommodating that extend loving arms towards the child of another to love and raise as their own. Adoption is a wish filled with possibilities, excitement and longing.

Recently, an adoptive family working with A Chosen Child was selected for placement by the birth parents - a frequent occurrence at our office, but somehow, this situation uniquely embodied the fulfillment of a wish. These birth parents are married and are facing challenges that go beyond anything we know and they seem committed to finding the perfect home for their baby. They had the opportunity to view a profile of a family that has been wait-



ing quite a while and they both told us that they knew that this family was “the one” the minute they looked at their pictures and read their letter. The birth parents were so moved by them that they had tears in their eyes and they wanted the family to know that they would be honored to have them adopt their child. Words cannot express the profound impact of this moment, and we never cease to be astonished as the birth parents and adoptive family come together in a cataclysm of light, faith, love, hope, respect and commitment.

For those of you that feel called to adoption, know that there is a place where you will not only receive assistance in navigating the steps that will lead to your forever child, but also experience the awesome wonder and beauty of life

and love and the spirit of adoption. A Chosen Child, Inc. can guide you and encourage you every step of the way, through your home study process, your profile preparation all the way through the matching process and ultimately, placement of your child into your home.

For any birth parents that have to face, the difficult, but noble decision to place their children permanently in the care of another, A Chosen Child, Inc. is here to help –

whether you are in our own backyard in Orlando, have ventured out into the far reaches of our state, or across the country — we are here for you. You will be cared for by a group of compassionate, competent and licensed professionals that will listen to you about what you wish for your child and will help you find a wonderful family that will provide everything you would if you could.

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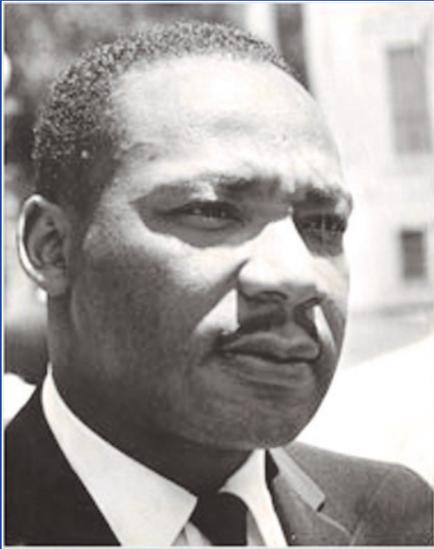
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Celebrate A King



Jan. 15, 1929 to April 4, 1968

“Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!”

With these words, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. built a crescendo to his final speech on April 3, 1968. The next day, the civil rights leader was shot and killed on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

At the roots Dr. King’s civil rights convictions was an even more profound faith in the basic goodness of man and the great potential of American democracy. These beliefs gave to his speeches a fervor that could not be stilled by criticism.

He rose in 1955 from a newly arrived minister in Montgomery, Ala. to a figure of national prominence. It was Dr. King who dramatized the Montgomery bus boycott with his decision to make it the testing ground, before the eyes of the nation, of his belief in the civil disobedience teachings of Thoreau and Gandhi.

In the summer of 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington, stirring the emotions of millions with the words “I have a dream.” On Dec. 10, 1964, he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

His strong beliefs in civil rights and non-violence made him one of the leading opponents to American participation in the war in Vietnam.

At the time he was assassinated in Memphis, Dr. King was involved in one of his greatest plans to dramatize the plight of the poor and stir Congress to help Blacks. He called his venture the “*Poor People’s Campaign.*”

“NUT”

continued from page 25

life and force us to think about eternity. Churches are usually filled to the brim after disasters as people realize how tenuous their lives really are and how life can be taken away in an instant.

What I do know is this: God is good! What I know is that many amazing miracles occurred during the course of natural disasters that prevented even greater loss of life. Natural disasters cause millions of people to reevaluate their priorities in life. Hundreds of millions of dollars in aid is now being sent to Haiti. It is being sent to help a people who were suffering and are suffering more now.

No, I do not believe God is punishing the millions of people living in Haiti because a man named Dutty Boukman cut a pig’s throat in 1791. Since 80% of Haiti’s population is Roman Catholic and 16% is Protestant it is a Christian nation. As I see it, God is putting Christian ministries in a position to help, minister, counsel, pray, and assist a people who were in need and were being ignored. God can, and does, bring great good out of terrible tragedies. Romans 8:28: “28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

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Savor the Moment.... Ignite the Spirit

Whether 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.

A Spirit of Excellence Event Planning is here to make your life easier as you plan your next event. The company is committed to providing personal, prompt, professional service and is passionate about making every event the BEST it can be!

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10:45 – Mid Morning Worship

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6:30 – 7:15 – Prayer Meeting
7:15 – 7:30 – Praise and Worship
7:30 – 8:30 – Pastoral Adult Bible Study
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BREAK THE CHAINS OF FINANCIAL SLAVERY

By Darlene Robinson,
President/The Steeple HOME Team

In the state of today's economy, with millions losing their homes to foreclosure and their jobs due to downsizing, many people turn to prayer to relieve themselves of their stress and burdens of life. Most people don't know that the bible contains almost 500 verses on prayer and a little less than 500 verses on faith, yet over 2,300 verses that address in very practical, specific ways how to earn, save, spend, invest and give money. Two-thirds of the parables deal with money. The Bible has more to say about money than heaven and hell combined, even more to say about money than salvation. The Bible has more to say about money than any other subject except love. So isn't it time we take charge of our own finances and break the chains of financial slavery and eliminate our debt?

Biblical financial principles that applied yesterday, also apply today, and they will apply tomorrow. These principles apply if you have a little or a lot of money, if you are single or married, if you are young or young-at-heart. Listed below are just a couple of the Bible verses that cover different financial advice.

- 1) Proverbs 22:7 "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is slave of the lender."
- 2) Proverbs 13:22 "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children,
- 3) Romans 13:8 (NIV) Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other.

One of The Steeple H.O.M.E. Team's primary goals is to save homeowners from foreclosure by negotiating an affordable mortgage payment with their lender. Hundreds of homeowners have enjoyed tremendous success through our modification system, therefore the



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Darlene Robinson



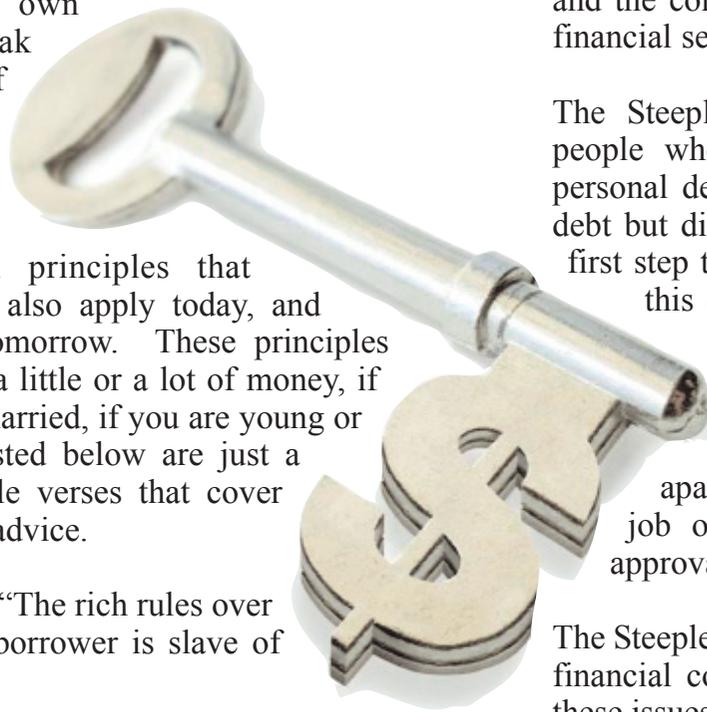
Lawrence Robinson

next logical extension of services for the homeowners and the community is financial planning that leads to financial security.

The Steeple H.O.M.E. Team consulted with many people who said they were overwhelmed by their personal debt situation. Or they wanted to get out of debt but didn't know how to get started to make that first step to take charge of their financial destiny. In this economy, it's more important than ever to take steps toward getting out of debt. A good credit score can impact the cost of homeowner and auto insurance. Whether you are approved to rent a house or apartment and in some cases, whether you get a job offer or even the type of job or license approval.

The Steeple H.O.M.E. Team has partnered with a global financial company to guide people through resolving these issues and to create a personal plan to show them how to take charge of their finances. When you have a financial plan you can visualize your success, whether it's getting out of credit card debt, paying off other bills/debt quickly, debt consolidation or paying off mortgages in one-half to one-third the time.

Call 407-615-4066 to schedule your financial needs analysis or for your personal invitation to our Financial Empowerment Seminars (Wednesdays/7pm) at The Steeple H.O.M.E. Team Center located at 771 Kirkman Road, Suite 108, Orlando, FL 32811.



The Real Reasons 70% Of Black Women Are Single: It's Not What They're Telling You!



By J.J. Smith

We've all heard on Oprah, CNN, ABC News, and the Washington Post that 70% of black women are single, and 42% are unmarried. We've even recently

heard a young black women (Helena Andrews) say that she is successful, black and lonely and that "Bitch is the New Black". Helena's story is probably the most heartfelt as I can relate to her, when I was in my 20s that is... but now at 40, I can say that there are many things that I have learned about Black men and 2 that stand out the most are that:

1) "Being a bitch" was never going to get me the love I desired from black men. (Note: Being a bitch as in being mean, argumentative, hard to get along with, bitter, etc.)

2) Our "credentials" don't attract men! Just because WE feel that we are successful, independent, professional and educated doesn't mean that we're attractive to men, or even datable for that matter. I have learned that it is our EXTERIOR that gets a man's attention (smile, look, personality, non-bitchy attitude, confidence and overall attractiveness) and our INTERIOR (our love for God, family, friends, being honest, supportive, respectful, emotionally stable, goal-oriented) that keeps a man coming back for more.

Even though many news organizations have provided the statistics I mentioned above, I've rarely seen these media outlets offer any real solutions. In fact, I've yet to hear anyone really explain the REAL reasons so many black women are single, as it's much more complicated than the "numbers". I personally don't believe in allowing the media to exploit this issue and give an appearance that Black people have issues and challenges that we cannot solve on our own. As a single, successful black women, I refuse to allow the media to make me feel bad or desperate about the plight of the single black female, especially given the personal and professional success sistas have made in a male-dominated world. So, Black men and women, WE can facilitate our own discussion on this challenge and identify real solutions that work for us. I'll begin by offering a 2-part article to address this challenge. In Part 1, I will discuss the real reasons why so many Black women are single... because you know the media isn't

telling the whole story and in Part 2: I will offer 10 practical solutions for women who are looking to find a "good man". Please feel free to share other suggestions!

The Real Reasons So Many Black Women are Single:

**Note: Some of the reasons could apply to women that are not black, but the focus of this article is on Black women because that's all we keep hearing about in the media these days.*

There are many factors that have lead to why so many Black women are single, but I believe the most significant factors are listed below:

1) The Black Man Shortage (as I read on [Essence.com](#)):

42% of Black women are unmarried. 70% of professional Black women are single. The numbers don't lie and there is a real gap between "datable" Black women and men. Even if there is some degree of inaccuracy in the numbers, if you just talk to Black women, many will agree that there are some challenges finding a "good black man," that is ... one that is not behind bars, gay, or with other races. I'm also fully aware of this challenge due to the number of Black women who write me about it every week. So, the statistics do play a role in this challenge, but it does not tell the whole story. Please read on!

2) Too Many Black Women Have Bought Into the Stereotypes On Who They Are:

The perception that Black women are hard to get along with, mean, bitchy, argumentative, bitter, etc. has become a reality for too many black women. I know, because I used to be that way (and still have relapses on occasion but irrational behavior and constantly "going off" on people, especially your man, is not an attractive quality to have when trying to maintain a relationship with a man. I had to LEARN that just because I was running things at work, didn't mean I was going to run things with my man. So, I had to "check my attitude" at the door when dealing with my black man. Maybe a man really needs to be the head of the household, and if you don't trust that he can be, then leave him alone and move on. A wise man once told me that anything with two heads is a monster, so only I can be head of the household, and for me, I prefer it to be my man. Sistias, we

know we have carried too much of the financial and emotional burden of raising our families alone, but we should use that to draw strength from and not allow that to make us emotionally weaker. I remember being in my 20s at a management consulting firm I worked for and this brother told me that I would definitely make Partner but no one would ever like me because I was so damn mean, and I actually was naive enough to take that as a compliment; not realizing that my “meanness and bitchiness” had spilled over into my personal life and keeping me from attracting and keeping good men in my life.

3) Many Black Women Have Made a Conscious Decision To Be Single:

I know you're saying yea right. But this is actually true. I know personally for me, I have been married before, but I prefer to be single, especially since I don't want to have children. Personally, I am not looking to get married again, but I'm not opposed to the idea either. If I meet someone who makes me feel that being married to them is better than my freedom and the luxuries of my single life, then I would consider getting married again. The most important thing to me is to have quality, meaningful relationships with men with similar dreams, goals and interests in life. People fall in love and marry because it's the tradition. Men and women have been getting married since before recorded history. Until recently, America was the most “married” nation in the world. But now many ask, “Do I have to be married to live happily ever after?” In today's society, people have a strong desire to simply be happy, whether that means being married or unmarried. Being single is not synonymous with being “alone”. Many single people do have a meaningful love relationship in their life. Society makes people think that end goal of two people who love each other is a “traditional monogamous marriage” but I don't believe everyone fits that model. Whoever said dating has to end in marriage? If marriages were so great, why do more than half of them end in divorce? So, there are really some women who are happy being single... Seriously!



4) Black Men Don't See Many of the Qualities That They So Much Admire in Their Mothers and Grandmothers:

To say it's just a shortage of black men is only a small part of the problem, but as Black women we have to re-evaluate who we are and who we've become today. Black men don't see the strong, quiet strength of their mothers and grandmothers; neither the homemaking/cooking skills either. In my book *Why I Love Men*, I have a section called “Never Underestimate the Relationship Between a Man and His Mother” that discusses this further. A wise woman understands the precious bond between a man and his mother. You're not going to change it nor would you want to. A mother is very proud of her son, especially if he's a good man. His mother values him. His mom and grandmother has loved him unconditionally all his life, and well, you, not so long. If you want a smooth relationship with a Black man, be sure you understand *WHY* he loves his mom so much and it will help you build a stronger relationship with him. And, if you don't know why he admires and loves his mom so much, ask him. In fact, a huge red flag for me is when a guy doesn't have any relationship with his mother, and she is still living. Or if he speaks to his mother in a disrespectful or harsh manner, he will likely treat you the same way.

5) Black Women Have Spent Their Best Years Pursuing Their Education and Career Goals not Realizing that Their Strongest Assets (e.g., Looks, Fertility) Decrease With Age:

I know this may be unpopular, but it is the truth. A woman who wants to have a family should capitalize on her looks, age, and fertility while she is young instead of only focusing on chasing the high-powered career. I believe (and of course I could be wrong) that a man would more likely be with a young, fine woman that is less educated and makes him feel good (in terms of stroking his ego) than an average looking woman with a great career and education.) If marriage and having children is important to you, you may want to NOT focus as much time on pursuing your career goals, but spend more time pursuing and developing meaningful love relationships while you're young, perky and fertile. If you want a husband and family, you have to pursue it with the same focus and attention you did to achieve your career goals, and by all means, don't let your looks, fashion sense, and overall attractiveness go downhill. Note: In my book, *Why I Love Men: The Joys of Dating*, I share insider secrets, practical advice and techniques that any woman can use to

see **THE REAL REASONS** page 36

The Real Reasons

Continued from page 35

maximize her physical beauty without cosmetic surgery, because as shallow as it may sound, how physically attractive you are is very important to men, and should also be to you if you are seriously looking to attract and keep a man.

6) Black Men Struggle More Than Any Other Group of People in Society and in the Workplace:

You have to ask why are there so many black men in prison and under-educated? Why is the unemployment rate so high for black males? Why is the suicide rate so high for black males? Why are so many black men absent in their child's life? Why are black males struggling more than other group of people? We have to better understand the struggles of Black men to really increase the number of datable black men...and I'm no expert on the answers to these questions and I know when I'm out of my lane, but there are others who have studied Black males and written on this topic and could surely provide some answers to these questions.

7) Black Women Haven't Adjusted to the New Hypercompetitive Dating Environment That Exists Today:

Many of the traditional rules of courtship don't exist, for better or for worse, Black women have to do things differently to attract and maintain a long-term relationship with a man. And, if you think about it, most of us have never been taught how to date to find a compatible partner. There was no college course for it. Yes, many women have received advice from family or friends. We may have taken advice from other single women. But most of us are winging it as we go. There are some women who are obviously better at it than others. In *Why I Love Men: The Joys of Dating*, I've consolidated the best strategies that I have learned from friends, relatives and my own experiences and frankly some of the best practical advice that I have ever received and successfully applied to attract the type of men I wanted in my life and they did show up. These strategies have worked for others and they can work for you. You can't continue doing the same thing and expect different results. It is time to change your approach to dating!

So, those are my thoughts, I'd love to hear why you think so many Black women are single and please be sure to read Part 2: 10 Things Single Black Women Should Do to Find a Good Man.

Also, check out Real Talk with JJ and The Fellas see www.jjsmithonline.com, as we will dedicate our radio shows the entire month of January (1/13 and 1/27) we to discuss this topic so that Black men and women can have real dialogue and discuss real solutions. You can check out the show nationally, so please join in the discussion!

J.J. Smith is a Dating and Relationship Expert, Author, Radio Host, Life Coach and Corporate Executive. J.J. is also the host of "Real Talk with JJ and The Fellas," a radio show that provides advice to single women looking for real answers on love, dating, sex and relationships. J.J. has appeared on NBC, FOX, NewsChannel8, Glamour Magazine, Ladies Home Journal, the Jamie Foxx Show, Montel Williams Show, Michael Baisden Show, HOT97, KISS 98.7 and many others. J.J. is also the Dating and Relationship Columnist for Black Star News. J.J.'s engaging personality, and no-holds barred dating books offer sometimes controversial guidance that has been grabbing readers and listeners, both men and women alike, and keeping them coming back for more!

J.J. Smith is available to discuss this topic on print/radio/TV. Feel free to contact her at info@jjsmithonline.com at 202-230-7195 or visit her at www.jjsmithonline.com to view her demo reel and media clips.



President Obama Knocks Supreme Court Decision In Address

By Zenitha Prince
Washington Bureau Chief

(January 28, 2010) - President Obama's State of the Union Address on January 27 featured a rare confrontation between two branches of American government. The president called out the Supreme Court for their recent decision in the case of Citizens United vs. FEC, which overturned two precedents and allowed corporate financing in political campaigns.

In a detour from his prepared speech, the president said, "With all due deference to separation of powers, last week the Supreme Court reversed a century of law that, I believe, will open the floodgates for special interests, including foreign corporations, to spend without limit in our elections."

"I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests or, worse, by foreign entities," he continued. "They should be decided by the American people. And I urge Democrats and Republicans to pass a bill that helps correct some of these problems."



The president's challenge—a rare occurrence in the history of the yearly presidential address—was met by an even more atypical reaction. While most of the phalanx of justices appeared unmoved by the president's remarks, Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. appeared to have a pained expression and muttered the words,

"That's not true." Obama's words and Alito's response stirred up a flurry of chatter on the Internet and on television networks with observers taking sides on whose actions were more inappropriate.

Meanwhile, lawmakers have already begun to seek ways around the Supreme Court ruling. The most visible is the Fair Elections Now Act, sponsored by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Rep. John Larson (D-Conn.). The bill would support small individual campaign contributions with public financing to counteract the influence of large single donors. To qualify, candidates would have to raise contributions from a large number of individuals in the area in which they are running. This approach would free incumbent candidates "from the incessant preoccupation with raising money, and [allow] them more time to carry out their public responsibilities," according to the House version of the bill.

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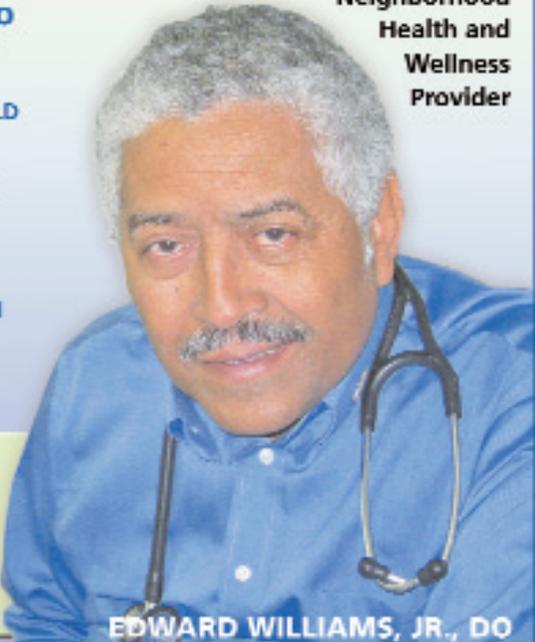
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HEAL THE LAND

ARTISTES UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN NIGER DELTA

Musicians from the Akwa Ibom State have come together to produce a musical album in support of the nation's avowed quest for peace in the Niger Delta region. This **HEAL THE LAND United Peace Song Project** is an initiative lead by Mrs. Ima Ikon Jackson (a.k.a. Lady I), a Nigerian and a top flight broadcaster and radio personality who resides in Daytona Beach, Florida. She has lived through the violence of the brutal Nigerian Civil War (1967-970) and was a teenager during Nigeria Civil war. "With our music and song, we want to inspire our brothers to lay down arms and embrace dialogue. We want to let the entire world know we are a peace loving people," explains Ima Jackson.

HEAL THE LAND United Peace Song Project is a CD featuring songs like: "It Takes a Village," "I Heal the Land" and "Niger Delta,"

performed by over 20 Akwa Ibom State musicians and written and composed by Ima Ikon Jackson. Proceeds from the project will go toward providing quality education at post primary school levels to children in the Niger Delta region.

The launch of this peace project was well received in Uyo, the capitol of Akwa Ibom State by dignitaries and celebrities, and Ima Ikon Jackson hopes that the cause will be greatly supported in the United States with purchases being made by individuals, churches, social communities, sororities and fraternities.

HEAL THE LAND United Peace Song Project CD makes a great gift to children as a special addition to their music collection.



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Contact Ima Ikon Jackson,
450 Cameron Street,
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or call (386) 254-7292 or
email: jrjackson3@juno.com

Publisher's Editorial



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



Program Success

If you keep on doing what you have always done, you will keep on getting what you have always gotten. In order to get what you have never gotten, you have to do what you have never done. When you do what you have never done to get what you have never gotten, you are Program Success.

Program Success Magazine celebrates our accomplishments as a people in the fields of Business, Politics, Religion, and Society. We place the spotlight of success on individuals who have excelled in their arenas of expertise in order to inspire, encourage and enhance the lives of others aspiring greatness.

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At the rising of each new sun, I thank God for a new day, a day I have never seen nor experienced. With that new day comes new opportunity, a chance to do better and be better. Advance myself while advancing others. I plan my work and work my plan. This is Program Success.

We Must Change. Now that we for the first time in history, have elected a Black to the highest office of the land, this is not an end – only a new beginning. It is hope for a better tomorrow and to achieve it we must be a better people, and to that end, we must be better individuals.

As a society we are experiencing many problems. Among them our children are chief. Our children are not graduating from High School. Our children are apathetic, offensive, and disrespect authority. Our children are our future and when our future is in jeopardy so is our relevance as a people. We must change.

In order for us to make it today, we need the best of our people giving their best. We need the best of our people as our leaders and the best of our people as our teachers. This is Program Success.

We need leaders that ascribe to excellence – not mediocrity. We need teachers willing to enhance our abilities to advance us to a higher level of achievement. This is Program Success.

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PS: Wake up early and work late.

PS: Turn off the television set.

PS: Talk to people you don't want to talk to.

PS: Have patience.

PS: Establishing untraditional allies.

PS: Find a Role Model

PS: Find a youth to Mentor

PS: Volunteer at a school

PS: Give financial support to a needy family weekly

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