

The Name Says It All ... **Program Magazine Success**

VALENTINE 2011



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Michelle Jackson Stewart is the President / CEO of IM Credit Solution & Grant Writer Consultant, Inc., providing grant writing services to small businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals. Her company over the past year has awarded over 2,000 grants to Businesses and Individuals. Government Grants has been the solution to many and they can work for you.

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The American Dream, kicked up a notch.



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A Source of Help... *In a Time of Need* **The Clara White Mission**



Clara and Eartha White

The Clara White Mission, Inc. (CWM) is a private, non-profit organization with a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status, founded in 1904, and incorporated in December 1936. The purpose of the agency, as expressed in its mission statement, is “to prevent and reduce homeless through advocacy, housing, job training and employment, and through working in partnership with the community”.

The Mission has a 107-year history of providing services to the homeless and low income, and since 2003, has operated as a one-stop

community development center designed to support workforce development. The program targets unemployed homeless / low-income, prioritizing veterans and provides up to twenty-four months of housing and supportive services, while building marketable job skills tailored to identify needs of community employers through on-site vocational training and job placement services.

Correlated homeless assistance program provided by Clara White include a Drop-in Day Center for street homeless individuals, also established in 2003, and the Mission’s century-old Daily Feeding Service for the homeless and economically disadvantaged. The drop-in center and feeding components currently provide outreach services to more than 10,000 unduplicated homeless each year, and act as recruitment mechanisms for the Mission’s housing and employment training programs. More than 80% of persons enrolled in housing and/or training services at the Clara White Mission initially learned of the services through their participation in feeding or drop-in activities. “Food for Today - Skills for Life”. Recently, the mission’s program was recognized by Al Roker, Anchor, NBC “Today Show” for our success, innovation and cost effective approach.

The Drop-in Day Center

Provides daytime relief and limited case management services to street-homeless individuals at an average rate of 50 unduplicated persons per day. The 100-year old feeding component (soup kitchen) serves from 400 – 500 homeless and low-income individuals daily.

Culinary Arts / Janitorial-Environmental Training Programs

Provides students with a broad range of educational experiences, hands-on job training with classroom instruction to secure entry to mid-level employment in these industry-specific fields. Curriculum for both vocational training tracks has been licensed by the State of Florida Commission of Independent Education.

Clara at the Cathedral Café

A training café featuring an upscale menu and providing students with hands-on training in production, presentation and front of the house restaurant service.

Ashley Street Catering

A full-service catering venture, providing professional catering services to a wide range of large and small venues.

Feeding Program

The Clara White Mission’s “soup kitchen” service provides hot meals to the homeless and low-income population seven days weekly.

Eartha M. M. White Historical Museum

A separate 501 (c) (3) organization housed within the Clara White Mission facility. The Mission is one of the oldest surviving structures in LaVilla, Jacksonville’s oldest suburb, and is potentially the oldest African American mission in the State of Florida.



Ju'Coby Pittman-Peele

is the CEO/President of the Clara White Mission. For the past 18 years, Ju'Coby has dedicated her life as an advocate for equality in developing and implementing programs for the homeless, veterans, youth and low-income in our community. With the support of community stakeholders, staff, the Board of Directors and volunteers, under her leadership the Mission has developed and implemented a one-stop community development facility that includes a 24-hour operation of transitional housing, job training in Culinary Arts/Janitorial Services, Drop-In Day Center, a daily feeding program and prevention program of golf, tennis and academic programs for inner city youth and an organic garden. In addition she has developed a separate 501© (3) organization for the Eartha M. M. White Historical Museum, which provides educational and historical resources to the community; and developed annual fundraisers called “Miracle On Ashley Street” and the “Pearls and Cufflink” Gala, venues that brings business/political leaders and the disadvantaged together in a social setting to raise contributions to support the mission’s efforts.



The Name Says It All

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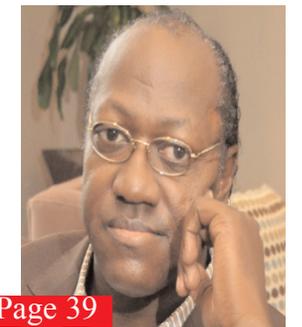
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America Loves CHOCOLATEBRIDES.COM

Over 100 Million Hits and Still Counting

“Mainstream media is still trying to tell us Black people don’t get married” are the words New York radio personality and ChocolateBrides.com founder, Kesha Monk has recited often.

ChocolateBrides.com was created in 2003 as a messageboard for black women seeking ideas and tips in regards to the wedding planning process. It has grown into a social networking website connecting black brides from around the world. The messageboard has helped the site garner over 93 million hits in 2007. In four years over 10,000 weddings have been planned using the resources of ChocolateBrides.com. Furthermore, ChocolateBrides.com has blossomed into a print publication. Chocolate Brides Magazine hit newsstands in the spring of 2007 and has rapidly racked up subscribers in 46 out of 50 states and seven countries.

Eugene Myrick, ChocolateBrides.com co-founder and husband of Kesha Monk adds, “Many potential advertisers who shied away from us originally, have come back asking questions. Black advertising executives have told me, ‘Black people don’t get married’. Meanwhile, I have a website that received over 93 million hits last year from Black women seeking helpful advice for their wedding planning process. In addition to the thousands of women who frequent our website daily, I’ve noticed many other mainstream magazines lurking around our messageboard for information.”



Kesha Monk and Eugene Myrick were featured in the July 2007 issue of Black Enterprise Magazine. The couple admits that the Black Enterprise article spiked subscriptions to Chocolate Brides Magazine from women excited about their concept. That article also brought a new flock of vendors to ChocolateBrides.com.

When asked what’s next, the couple smiled and rambled off a series of projects in the works. Kesha Monk stated, “I believe our next stop is television, WE (Women’s Entertainment) has Monica Taylor’s Hair Trauma and TBS has Tyler Perry’s House of Payne, both shows with Black Executive Producers. We’ve been able to pitch to mainstream outlets in addition networks that are geared specifically to Black audiences.”



Eugene Myrick ended by saying “We’re in the process of working on a really big ChocolateBrides.com Bridal Expo in New York. Depending on how it goes, we’ll consider taking it on the road. The world is beginning to take notice of what we’re doing. We’ve seen a number of duplicate websites out there. The good news is Chocolate Brides from around win by having

more resources available to them; however, as a business we have to try to remain one step ahead of competition that didn’t exist when started.”

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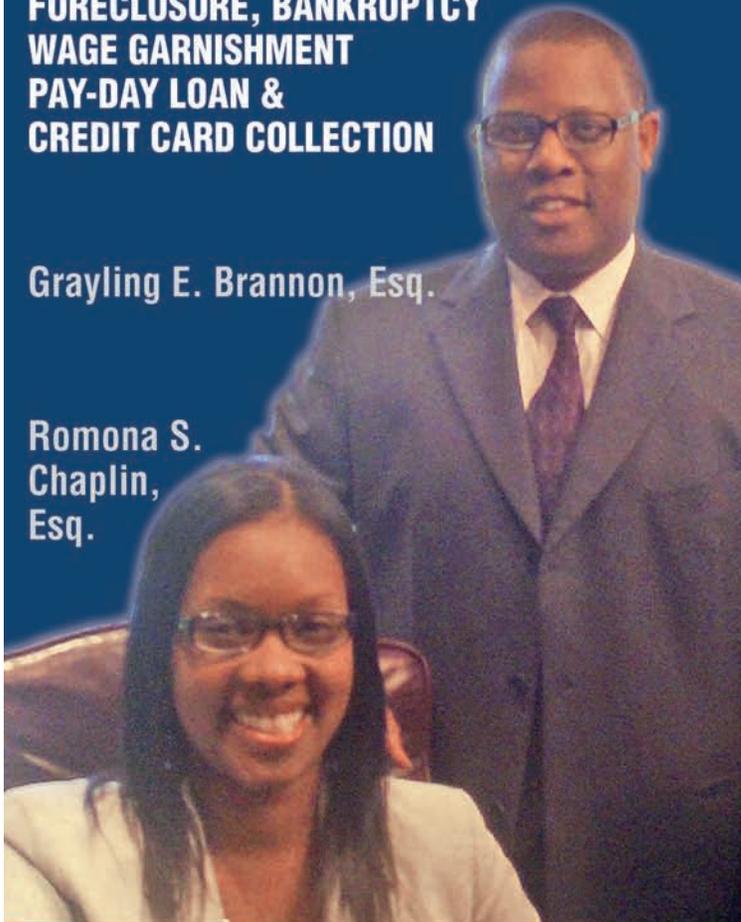
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Former Vice President Gore Support Alvin Brown As Jacksonville's Next Mayor

Former Vice President Gore came to Jacksonville today to support Alvin Brown's candidacy for mayor. He highlighted Brown's leadership and issued a strong endorsement. "President Clinton and I trusted Alvin to rebuild and reshape cities across America, and I believe that he can do the same here in Jacksonville," Gore said.

Gore said that Brown had lived the American dream, working his way through college, earning his bachelor's degree and MBA from Jacksonville University and then going on to work as an advisor and business leader. Gore said Brown has the knowledge, skill set and passion to take Jacksonville to the next level of great American cities.

Brown said he was "humbled and thrilled" that Gore had traveled here to campaign on his behalf, just as he was last October, when former President Bill Clinton attended a Jacksonville fundraiser for his campaign.

Alvin Brown served as a senior member of the Clinton-Gore Administration beginning in 1993. As Vice President Gore's Senior Advisor for Urban Policy and



Vice Chair of the White House Community Empowerment Board, Brown advised both Vice President Gore and President Clinton on a wide range of domestic issues, including community revitalization, job creation, new business development and expansion of the supply of affordable housing.

Brown led the Clinton-Gore Administration's \$4 billion overall Community Empowerment Initiatives, with a special emphasis on the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Program which included the New Market Tax Credit Initiatives. The highly successful programs helped revitalize economically impoverished urban and rural communities and generated unprecedented levels of public-private partnerships resulting in more than \$10 billion in private investments to the designated communities.

Brown was also Co-Chair of the White House Task Force on Livable Communities focusing on urban sprawl and smart growth prior to his work at the White House. He held a number of key positions within the administration, including Senior Advisor to the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and Senior Advisor to Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo. While at HUD, Brown was responsible for overseeing the Department's \$100 million Disaster Recovery Initiatives, which included leading an overhaul of the Department's Disaster Response Effort. Brown served in the Clinton-Gore transition team. Brown first came to Washington, D.C. to work as an intern for U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) while Nelson was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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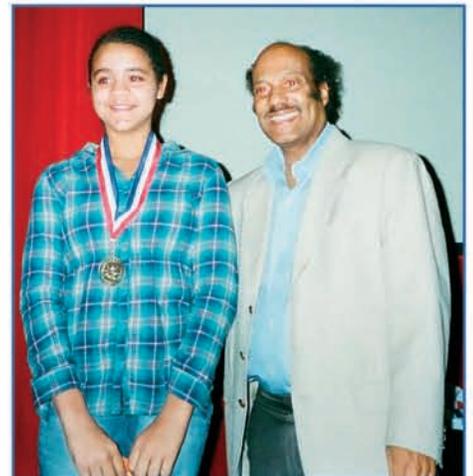
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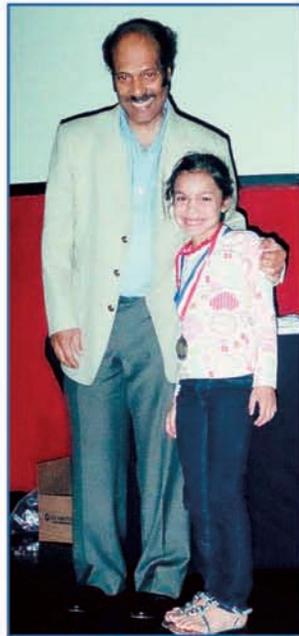
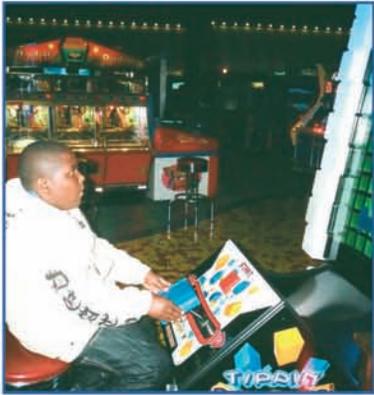


Simmons Pediatrics 2011 A/B Honor Roll Awards



The Eighth Annual A-B Honor Roll Party given by Dr. Charles Simmons for his pediatric patients was held at Dave & Busters on January 8th. The children were treated to an All-You-Can-Eat buffet and each was given a \$15.00 power card to play the games along with a medallion to wear around their neck saying A-B Honor Roll. Every child, along with their parents, had an exceptional good time.





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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 12

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.

GOD’S CORNER continued from page 7

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”.

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.

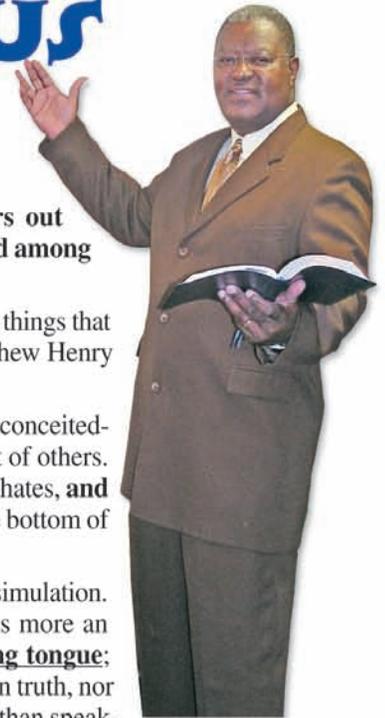
6. **False-witness bearing**, is one of the greatest mischief's that the wicked imagination can devise, and against which there is the least protection.

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!





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“Every Black Woman Should Wear a Red Dress”

Central Florida International Black Women’s Congress, Inc (CFIBWC) hosts its 18th Annual Women’s Health Conference, “Every Black Woman Should Wear a Red Dress” - Heart Disease Affecting our Everyday Life Style: The Mental Link.

Spreading the Word about Women and Heart Disease, the Central Florida International Black Women’s Congress continue to raise awareness amongst local women that heart disease is their #1 health threat, particularly in African American Women. Recent studies are “looking beyond the accepted risk of heart disease, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol, and taking a closer look at the link between *MENTAL HEALTH* by exploring factors such as personality and depression that may raise the risk of heart attack.

Central Florida International Black Women’s Congress (CFIBWC) is a non-profit organization providing a network of social, educational and cultural opportunities to help minority women in Central Florida communities to live healthier lifestyles. Since 1992, CFIBWC is dedicated to supporting and empowering individuals and groups through informational and educational forums, programs, and workshops.

For more information on the upcoming Women’s Health Conference, “Every Black Woman Should Wear a Red Dress” please contact the CFIBWC office at 407-331-5665 or please visit our web site at www.cfcibwc.org.



Central Florida International Black Women’s Congress 18th Annual Women’s Health Conference

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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



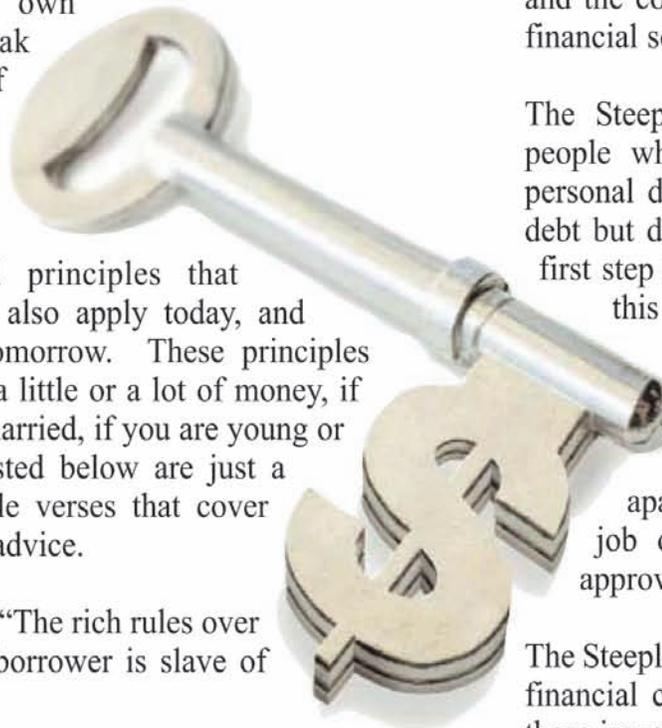
Lawrence Robinson

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.





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CHILDREN'S 'BROADWAY' SHOW - A BIG HIT WITH GROWN-UPS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND FOR ONE-WEEK RUN

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.— They'll be dancing in the aisles, doing the peanut butter bop, and singing their hearts out to a big-band rendition of the "A-B-C Blues" when "The Auntie Roz Peanut Show" comes to town with its high-voltage, Broadway-style revue that makes learning fun for everyone.

"I'm so excited about bringing the show to my hometown once again," says Roslyn ("Auntie Roz") Burrough, a renowned performing artist and former schoolteacher with the Duval County school system who grew up in Jacksonville's north side. "I'm especially pleased that the show is back by popular demand."

The "Auntie Roz Peanut Show" will be in town for one week only, March 7-11, at the Coleman Auditorium of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, located at 1118 Beaver St. Performances are at 10 a.m., and admission is \$5.

Fourteen students from local schools have feature roles in the show, which uses music, story-telling and other cultural forms to encourage schoolchildren to strive for academic excellence and develop strong core values. Tutelage by Auntie Roz, while purposeful, "is always good fun," and is for "children of all ages, including teachers and parents," says Burrough with a smile. "We're all in this soup together, and our children are our best hope for the future, so we must encourage them," she adds.



The great scientist, explorer, botanist, educator and inventor George Washington Carver, who was born into slavery, is both model and metaphor for "The Auntie Roz Peanut Show," says Burrough, who crams a truckload of life lessons and learning into a dazzling, hour-long show. "He is a shining example of perseverance and personal commitment to achievement, and his remarkable work centered on the humble peanut. The lesson here is, one's circumstances in life don't determine one's destiny. And, like the peanut, there is so much to be discovered, including about ourselves, if only we take the time to look."

**To learn more about
"The Auntie Roz Peanut Show"
visit auntieroz.com.**

A Business Grant or Personal Grant Can Get You the Money You Need



IM Credit Solution & Grant Writer Consultant, Inc. (IMCS) is a three year old company that experienced a growth explosion in 2010 as many reached out to government grants for assistance through the challenging economy. IMCS has served businesses and individuals through credit counseling and repair, and by providing aid in obtaining grants for housing, starting a business, paying for college, buying equipment, paying salaries, buying school supplies, getting out of debt, paying off medical bills, buying a house, music lessons, and anything else you can dream.

A Government Grant is your money that the government is required to give away, and every year the government gives billions of dollars to those that apply for it, however, only 15% of the available money is used each year. Anyone that is an American citizen can apply. Most importantly, this money is a Grant – money you don't have to pay back.

Michelle Jackson Stewart, the company's founder, has mastered the system of grant writing and has discovered how to maneuver through the government red-tape and landmines associated with grant writing. Michelle was trained by and received her certification in grant writing



from the renowned U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas. She put her training to use and discovered that she had been entrusted with the true “formula for success” when writing grants for minorities, women, students, education, housing and for seniors.

Michelle not only offers her clients the opportunity to receive grant money through the U.S. Government, but for many she restores faith and hope through her business. An Evangelist since the age of 14, born in Juarez, Mexico to an African American father and Mexican mother, she brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience. As a former Army Captain and fluent in Spanish, her native language, Michelle is at home with people from all walks of life and has never met an individual she could not call friend, and she welcomes everyone with her beautiful smile.

Misfortune is no stranger to Michelle; she has experienced her own personal setbacks and failures. Michelle wants everyone to know her story. She served time in prison for writing bad checks to provide food and shelter for her five children. While in prison, God dealt with her to minister to the women inside. She views her ability to write grants as her second chance on life and a gift from God to serve others. Never in her wildest dreams could she have fathomed the growth explosion or the notoriety her business has experienced over the past year. Michelle received a Service Award from the National Association of Professional Women and a Recognition Award from the Rosewood Foundation.

As a Consumer Advocate Group, IM Credit Solution makes finding and applying for federal, state and local government grants simple and easy. We are committed to helping businesses and individuals throughout the world achieve their personal and professional success by providing them the financial assistance they need.



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- ★ Co-Chaired the White House task force, Urban Sprawl and Smart Growth
- ★ Former Advisor to Late Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown
- ★ Senior Advisor to HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo
- ★ Managed \$4 billion initiative to create jobs as Executive Director of the White House Community Empowerment Board
- ★ Former Chairman of the Board of National Black MBA Association
- ★ Intern for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) while Nelson was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives
- ★ B.S. and M.B.A. from Jacksonville University
- ★ Post graduate work at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government
- ★ Worked full-time as a meat cutter at Winn Dixie while going to school at Jacksonville University
- ★ Honorary Degree from Edward Waters College
- ★ Member Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
- ★ Member St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church
- ★ Member, Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce and past Board Member
- ★ Served on Supervisor of Elections panel following the 2000 Presidential election
- ★ Married for 17 years to Santhea Hicks Brown with two lovely children; Joshua 10, and Jordan 8.

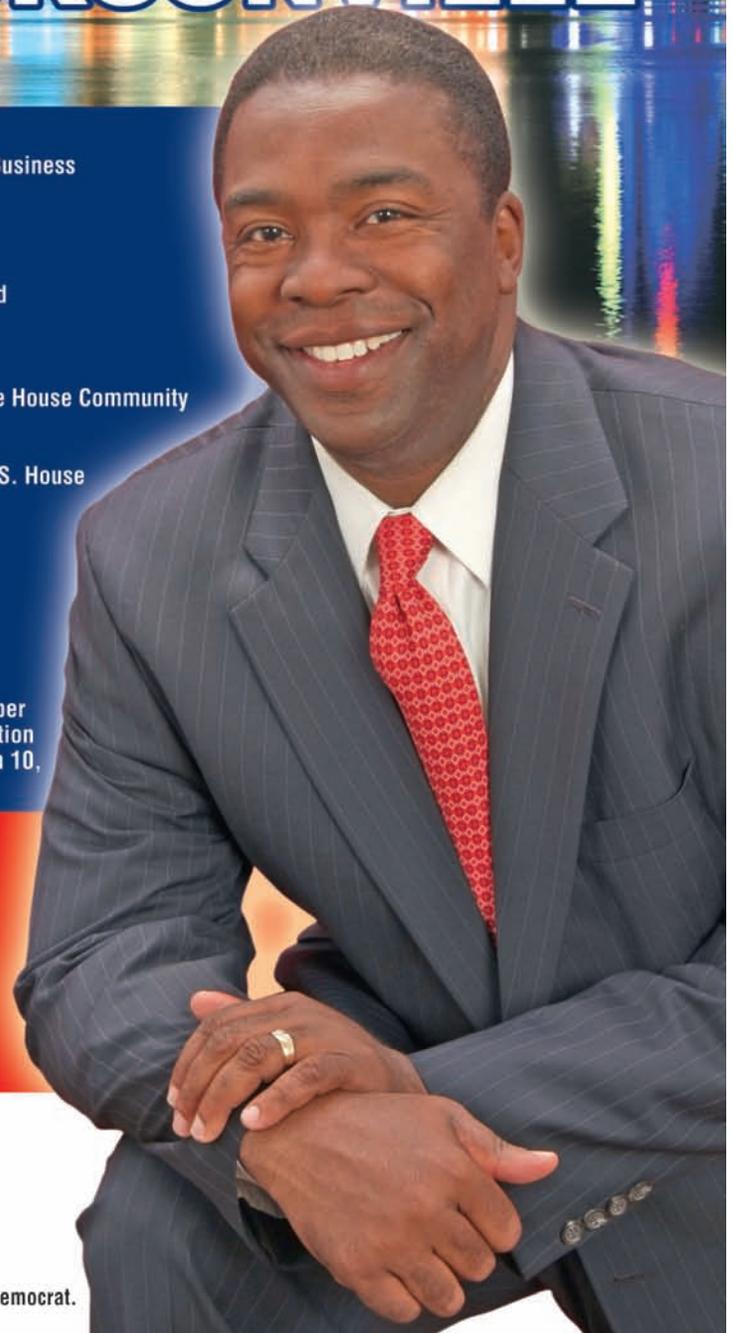
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“Cancer Does Not Have Me”

Approximately four and a half years ago Tamari Walter Walker was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma. A native of Daytona Beach, Florida, he is a sixteen year old 10th grader who formerly attended Mainland High School however, because of his health he is currently being home schooled.

Tamari’s oncologist explained that the type of cancer he has is a soft muscle tissue tumor located in the neck area. Since there aren’t any pediatric oncologists in Daytona Beach, he has to travel forty-five minutes to Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando for treatment. Tamari has been in remission twice. The last surgery left him paralyzed. Through his physical therapy, he is now able to walk short distances with the assistance of a walker. Since he’s unable to participate in physically demanding activities, his hobbies now consist of watching basketball, especially the Orlando Magic games, playing on his electronic gadgets, reading magazines, and attending a cancer organization called B.A.S.E. Camp.

The Orlando Magic Organization hosted Tamari and his family recently at one of their home game against the Cleveland Cavaliers. Tamari met his sports superstar Dwight Howard and was treat to a good-time at pre-game and throughout the game.

Due to Tamari’s condition, his mother has been unable to work for approximately (18) months. Tamari is a member of New Life Church Ministries and on Sunday, January 23, 2011, 11:00 A.M., the church family dedicated the morning service in his honor and a special financial presentation was made to the family.

We invite you to join us in our financial for Tamari and his family. An account has been established at:

Fifth Third Bank
Care of Tamari Walker
1020 West Internation Speedway Blvd.
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(386) 947-4703

Contributions can also be made at any Fifth Third Bank in Tamari’s name. If you have any questions or require additional information, you may contact:

Charles J. Bryant
(386) 671-8185 (Work)
(386) 214-2586 (Cell)

Tammy Davis (Tamari’s mother)
(386) 492-6589 (Home)
(386) 492-6589 (Cell)



“CANCER DOES NOT HAVE ME”

*LIKE A LEAF THAT DANGLES ON A BRANCH OF A TREE,
 I HAVE CANCER, “CANCER DOES NOT HAVE ME.”*

*LIKE A BLIND MAN WHO ONE DAY HOPES TO SEE,
 I HAVE CANCER, “CANCER DOES NOT HAVE ME.”*

*LIKE A SOLDIER WHO WANTS TO BE ALL THAT HE CAN BE,
 I HAVE CANCER, “CANCER DOES NOT HAVE ME.”*

*LIKE THE FISH THAT SWIM IN THE DEEP RED SEA,
 I HAVE CANCER, “CANCER DOES NOT HAVE ME.”*

*I KNOW DOWN IN MY HEART ONE DAY I WILL BE FREE,
 BECAUSE I HAVE CANCER, “CANCER DOES NOT HAVE ME.”*

*EACH NIGHT AS I PRAY DOWN ON MY KNEE,
 I KNOW THAT GOD WILL TAKE AWAY THE CANCER,
 AND HE’LL RELEASE ME.*

*WE’LL PRAY FOR EACH OTHER, AS WE ALL SHALL AGREE,
 FOR I KNOW GOD CONTROLS CANCER, AND HE WILL SAVE ME.*

A TRIBUTE TO TAMARI WALKER
WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY- DEC. CHARLES J. BRYANT



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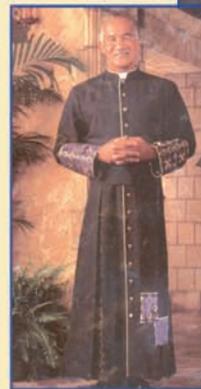
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City of Orlando to Host the First African-American Business Expo in Honor of Black History Month

WHAT: Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, the Orlando City Council, the Orlando Magic and the City of Orlando's Celebrate Black History Committee will host the City's first **African-American Business Expo**.

The free Expo will provide an opportunity for business owners to network with one another and learn from industry experts and various economic development organizations about how to start and/or grow their business. Topics include state and local business incentive programs, available space for lease in Downtown Orlando and other small business assistance programs.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Aspiring and existing business owners interested in learning about how to start and grow their business
- Businesses interested in promoting their services during the Expo are invited to reserve a booth (information below)

WHERE: Amway Center
400 West Church Street
Orlando, FL 32801

WHEN: Thursday, February 17, 2011
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

REGISTER: Attendance at the African-American Business Expo is free for business owners but space is limited. Please RSVP to Desnee Young (desnee.young@cityoforlando.net or 407.246.3306) or Ana Diaz-Coffey (ana.coffey@cityoforlando.net or 407.246.3396).

Businesses interested in showcasing their services during the Expo are invited to purchase a booth at a cost of \$40. Contact Desnee Young at 407.246.3306 or Ana Diaz-Coffey at 407.246.3396 for details and booth registration information.

www.cityoforlando.net/blackhistory

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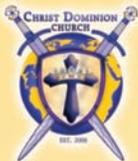


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Charity... beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

1 Corinthians 13:7

Are Blacks An Endangered Species?

By Makeisha Lee

Author, “Why Black People Can’t Lose Weight”

Blacks are officially considered to be an endangered species due to obesity and terrifying related illness. Diets, surgeries, pills, exercise motions and potions; though easily and readily available have done little-to-nothing to help people lose weight long-term. Even with all of these mechanisms in place, the 50 million pound question that lies before us is: Why is it that we as “Blacks” are STILL some of the most obese people on the planet?

The facts are the facts! Prevalence of obesity among Blacks has increased 35 percent in the past 10 years alone. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control), we lead in the highest percentages in both sexes and even amongst children, as compared to other ethnicities when it comes to the contemptible “beast of burden”- obesity. So what is REALLY going on?

There are in fact an infinite number of theories, but here are a few thought provoking ideas that many don’t want to address, but that will definitely make you want to go “Hummm!”

1) Too many of us are being brainwashed; covering ourselves up with being ignorance instead of trying to find out the real truth about why Blacks have been unsuccessful as a whole at getting/and or keeping the weight off.

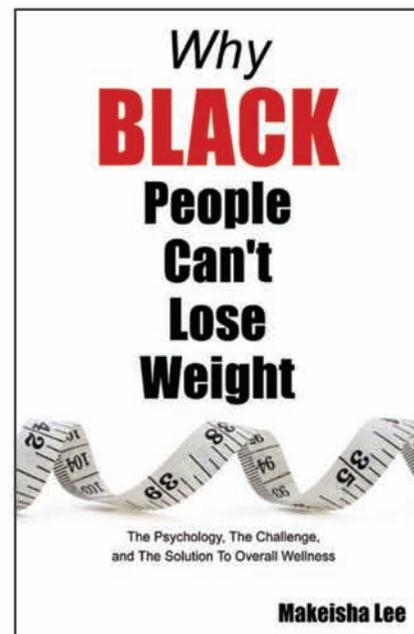
2) All of these diets, various weight loss challenges and campaigns that are currently underway are nothing more than band-aid remedies that will bring us right back to the drawing board - if we don’t find out

about pre-existing and current outside elements. That’s right, in this day and age mainstream society still suppresses corruption that adversely affects our lives, as a people; as a nation.

3) We may have to begin exposing some that are right within our own community that acts as wolves in sheep’s clothing – impeding progress. It’s been said that the “mean green” has caused stranger things to happen. Or perhaps, they are not wolves at all; rather it’s just a bad case of “blind leading the blind”.

4) Whatever the theory or rationale of the matter, one thing most can agree on is that the obesity pandemic for Blacks is unequivocally multi-factorial. People who can think for themselves can surmise that all on their own!

We all do well to open our minds, and eyes to the fact that if we don’t get proactive and put on our investigative hats - TODAY; we will be tottering upon a horrific human existence and will eventually land ourselves on the brink of extinction.



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

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

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



This Book Discusses:

- * The Psychology Behind The Vicious African American Weight Loss Cycle
- * The Truth About Fad Diets and Weight Loss Surgery
- * The Chronic Disease Burden That Makes Blacks An Endangered Species
- * New Scientific Research That Debunks All Current Methods and Approaches To Overall Wellness
- * A Powerful Two-Step Process To Change Your Psychology Towards Health Goals
- * Revolutionary Health Secrets
- * How To Live A Completely Balanced Life (whether you're trying to lose weight or not)

National Call To Action:

MAKEISHA LEE and consumer health advocates are asking everyone to join her as she sets out to change the future of health and wellness in the community by getting life-saving information out into the hands of every African American! Support this phenomenal sister by purchasing her newly published book, *Why Black People Can't Lose Weight* - NOW!

Even if you are not African American, overweight or sick, please purchase the book anyway so that you may be able to help someone else with what you learn! Contact all your friends to encourage them to do the same. When we ALL work together - that's when the greatest miracles happen! Don't delay, buy it today!

Important Message: This heavy concentration of purchases at this very specific time today and throughout the week will invite and encourage thousands that need this information to also get *Why Black People Can't Lose Weight*, without hesitation, as it will outsell other books in the same genre!

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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 woman (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 woman, 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

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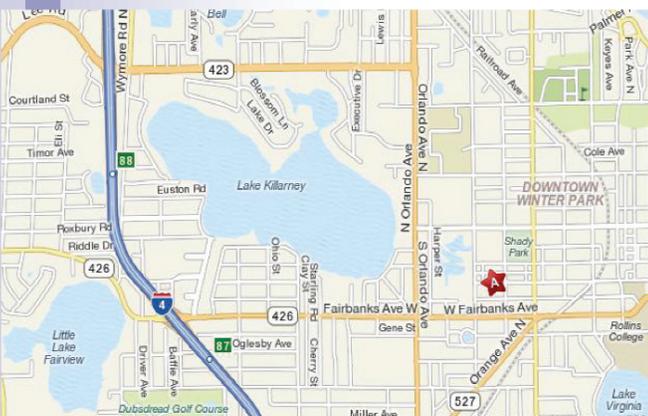


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The Real Reasons

Continued from Page 29

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.

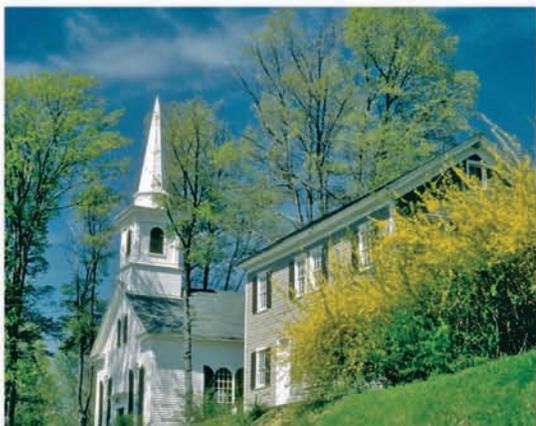


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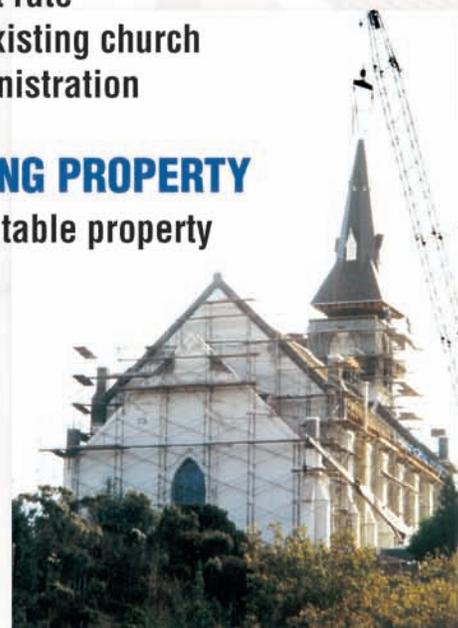
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Britain's Smartest Kids

By Terry Shropshire
Guest Columnist

Peter and Paula Imafidon, 9-year-old twins from Waltham Forest in northeast London, are a part of the highest-achieving clan in the history of Great Britain education. The two youngest siblings are about to make British history as the youngest students to ever enter high school. They astounded veteran experts of academia when they became the youngest to ever pass the University of Cambridge's advanced mathematics exam. That's on top of the fact they have set world records when they passed the A/AS-level math papers.

Chris Imafidon, their father, said he's not concerned about his youngest children's ability to adapt to secondary school despite their tender age. "We're delighted with the progress they have made," he said. "Because they are twins they are always able to help and support each other."

To Peter and Paula's parents, this is nothing new. Chris Imafidon said he and his wife have been through this before: they have other super-gifted, overachieving children.

Peter and Paula's sister, Anne-Marie, now 20, holds the world record as the youngest girl to pass the A-level computing, when she was just 13. She is now studying at arguably the most renowned medical school in the United States, Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore.

Another sister, Christina, 17, is the youngest student to ever get accepted and study at an undergraduate institution at any British university at the tender age of 11.

And Samantha, now age 12, had passed two rigorous high school-level mathematics and statistics exams at the age of 6, something that her twin siblings, Peter and Paula, also did.

Chris Imafidon migrated to London from Nigeria in West Africa over 30 years ago. And despite his children's jaw-dropping, history-making academic achievements, he denies there is some "genius gene" in his family. Instead, he credits



Peter and Paula Imafidon break their sister's world record by passing the University of Cambridge's Foundation of Advanced Mathematics, Official Government Figures Confirm the Imafidon Twins as new world record holders.

his children's success to the Excellence in Education program for disadvantaged inner-city children.

"Every child is a genius," he told British reporters. "Once you identify the talent of a child and put them in the environment that will nurture that talent, then the sky is the limit. Look at Tiger Woods or the Williams sisters [Venus and Serena] — they were nurtured. You can never rule anything out with them. The competition between the two of them makes them excel in anything they do."



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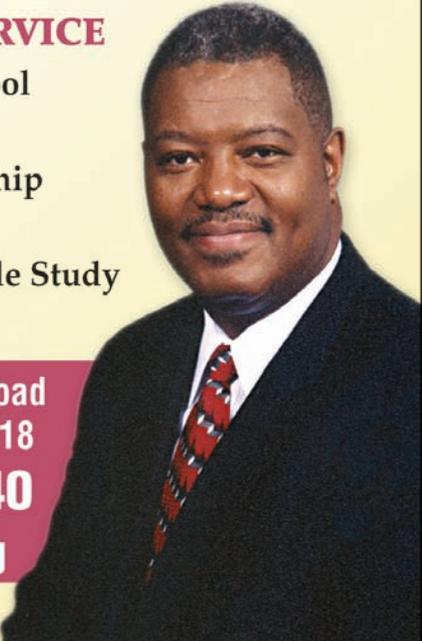
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The Family Reunion (Family, Fellowship, Friendship, Fun, Food)

Family Reunion season is here! It's a great way to get the whole gang together. Time to catch up on all the old news about aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and cousins! Time to meet and greet family you've known all your life and to welcome brand new ones. Family Reunions are times to cement bonds and celebrate roots.

Reunions, like family members, come in all shapes and sizes. More and more people are finding family reunions take on an important role in their lives. What better time to interview older relatives, to take photos, to tell the family story and to get everyone excited about and involved in preserving the family's history?

Organization and planning are important keys for a successful reunion. Listed below are a few tips that will help you get started in planning your family reunion. Find other relatives who are interested in planning a reunion and get together to make the basic decisions:

- **When will your reunion be held?**
- **Where will it be held?**
- **What will be the theme?**
- **How will you pay for it?**

◆ Picking a Date

Summertime is traditionally the time of the year for family gatherings. The weather is generally good, and children are out of school. But gatherings can be held any time of year. The most important decision is to set the date so that family members can put it on their calendar before planning vacations.

◆ Picking the Ideal Site

Location, Location, Location.

Of course, how food will be served affects the kind of site you select. Do you want a potluck meal, food that you and family members prepare at the site or catered food? If you don't want all the headaches involved in preparing and serving food and the cleanup afterwards, you might also consider a banquet room in a local hotel or restaurant.

◆ Creating a Theme

Use a theme in all communications about the reunion. Themes are limited only by your imagination. They can be tied to an event, someone's birthday or graduation, or to the season.

Give your theme visual impact by incorporating it into a logo and creating T-shirts for all who attend.

◆ Developing a Budget

Creating a budget, collecting funds and using these funds appropriately are important parts of a successful reunion and must be attended to. Be as thorough as possible. Sources of income will normally come from registration fees, donations, fund raisers, etc.

When preparing a budget, figuring expenses is of great importance. Remember, though, that some expenses are paid for directly by the attendees. For example: hotel rooms/travel, tours and meals not included in the program.

While it is important to make sure participants are happy and enjoy themselves, don't forget to relax and enjoy the fun. Discover the unexpected. After all, reunions are for celebrating the good things in life like being with family members. You may want to think about securing assistance from a professional event planner.

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-Louis E. Boone, Author-

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**"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly."
(John 10:10 KJV)**

UMW TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM RIDES, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

Fredericksburg, VA — The University of Mary Washington will launch a semester-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides, and civil rights pioneer James Farmer and Monday, Feb. 7, with a special kickoff event followed by a Freedom Rides scholar's remarks.

The 1961 Freedom Rides challenged the segregation of bus transportation throughout the Deep South. Freedom Riders were beaten and jailed, and their buses were attacked during the rides organized by James L. Farmer Jr., then head of CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality.

Farmer taught the history of the civil rights movement to Mary Washington students for about a dozen years before his retirement in 1998. That year, President Bill Clinton awarded Farmer the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2010, the university teamed with Rep. Lewis, who rode with Farmer on the Freedom Rides, to campaign for a U.S. postage stamp honoring the late Farmer.

The three-month tribute will feature appearances by Freedom Riders and academic scholars of race, civil rights and student activism. The March 30 limited-release showing of the critically acclaimed PBS documentary "Freedom Riders" will be among the highlights. The celebration will culminate May 7-8 with events that include a commencement address by U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), a Freedom Rider and civil rights leader.

UMW President Rick Hurley encourages the public to get involved in the university's celebration of Farmer and the rides by participating in the scheduled activities. "I invite the entire UMW community to come together to pay tribute to the legacy of the Freedom Riders, to recognize the role of our beloved professor as one of our greatest civil rights champions, and to reflect on the lessons that they have for us today," Hurley said.

The public is invited to the following events in a schedule that begins during Black History Month:

- * Freedom Riders celebration kickoff at noon Monday, Feb. 7, on Ball Circle and Campus Walk. Author Eric Etheridge will speak at the kickoff and he will be accompanied by two former Freedom Riders, the Rev. Reginald Green and Joan Trumpauer Mulholland.
- * Lecture by Eric Etheridge, author of *Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Freedom Riders*, at 7 p.m. Feb. 7, in the Great Hall, Woodard Campus Center. A journalist and photographer, Etheridge recently interviewed and photographed many of the

original Freedom Riders for the book.

- * An address, "Lessons of the Civil Rights Generation for Today's Students," by Andy Lewis, author of *The Shadows of Youth: The Remarkable Journey of the Civil Rights Generation*, from 3 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 30, in Lee Hall, room 411.

- * Limited-release showing of the film "Freedom Riders" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, in Dodd Auditorium, George Washington Hall. PBS and UMW have collaborated on this special showing of the widely hailed documentary directed by Stanley Nelson. PBS will broadcast the film in May on "American Experience."

- * Freedom Riders panel discussion and Great Lives lecture at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31, in Dodd Auditorium, featuring a talk by Raymond Arsenault, author of *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*, followed by a discussion with a panel of Freedom Riders.

- * UMW commencement address by Rep. Lewis, part of the ceremony at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 7 on Ball Circle. Lewis, a civil rights colleague of James Farmer and organizer of sit-ins to protest segregation, co-founded and chaired the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a leading organization for student activism.

- * Students aboard the PBS "American Experience" bus retracing the route of the first Freedom Ride will stop Sunday, May 8 at UMW in Fredericksburg, part of the original route, for a commemoration at the James Farmer memorial on Campus Walk.

The public is encouraged to check periodically for event updates at <http://freedomrides.umw.edu>. Learn about the university's Farmer stamp campaign <http://jamesfarmer.umw.edu>.

The original 13 Freedom Riders, including Farmer, boarded a bus in Washington, D.C., on May 4, 1961. The racially mixed group of men and women, ranging in age from 18 to 61, traveled through Virginia and into the Deep South, where segregation was decreed by local and state laws. The Freedom Riders risked their lives as they faced police brutality, vigilantes and even bombs.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy sent federal marshals to Alabama to restore order after mob violence erupted, and at one point, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. flew to Alabama to support the riders. When news of the brutality against the first rides reached the nation and the world, buses from all over the U.S. joined the effort. In all, more than 400 Freedom Riders - a majority of whom were jailed in Jackson, Miss. - traveled through the South to demand just treatment of all interstate travelers.





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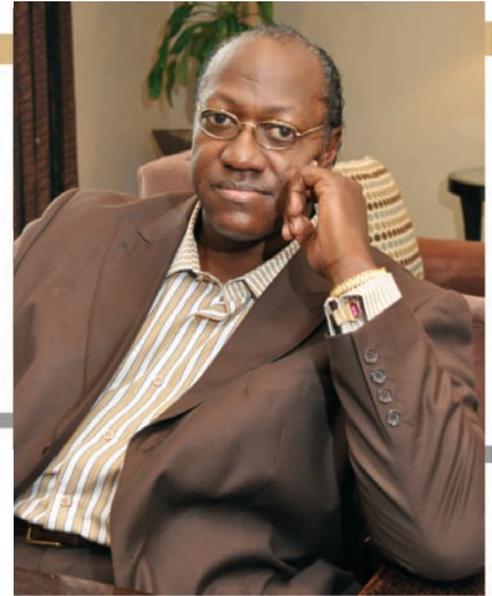
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Publisher's Editorial

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



Your Faith May Hinder Your Success

All of us want to be successful in life. We have goals and we have dreams. We have bench marks set in our minds at strategic points of our life anticipating the level of success we plan to have achieved at certain times. Our plan is that our accomplishments will be exhibited in our houses and cars, gold and diamonds, fine clothes and far-away trips. These are the types of goals we set for our life and the plans we make.

To fulfill these lofty expectations we set out to become business professionals and business owners making in excess of hundreds of thousands of dollars. This is what we want, these are our plans, we have prayed about it and God said there is nothing we can't accomplish.

There is nothing wrong with having great expectations in life. I am a believer in being all you can be. I believe that God has given each us the ability to create and complete. I believe that "if your mind can conceive it and your heart can believe it then you can achieve it." However, I have found that the greater your faith is in God, the lesser are your chances of success.

As I researched this theory, I discovered that those who have a strong faith in God are committed to prayer and reading the Bible which teaches "Ask and you shall be given..." and "I can do all things through Christ..." In so many circumstances in life these principles apply and are true, however, in business – your faith may hinder your success.

When it comes to business, the mentality is more like "seek and destroy" and "the survival of the fittest". You may have your life's goals which may be honorable, but so do others whose goals may align with yours, and in most cases everybody will not be successful, only a few – those who are willing to do what it takes. I learned early in business that "every dollar you make is a dollar someone else did not make doing the same thing you are doing." Therefore everybody won't be happy with your success.

Believe in yourself and have faith in God. I further instruct you to "pray as though everything depends on God and work as if everything depends on you." This is where I feel we go wrong with our faith. Too often we pray and believe, pray and believe, and sit back and wait for God to move mountains of success to our doorway. Then we wonder why it has been so many years and you still haven't been able to leave that job, make the big money, and live in your dream house?

Allow me to share just a few Business Success Principles I have learn over the years. I know due to this economy many people are finding themselves unemployed doing a time where there are no jobs and are considering for the first time starting their own business. You might say it has always been my dream to own a restaurant – I say... "you can dream a bigger lie than you can tell." If you have never even worked in a restaurant, you will never be successful owning a restaurant. I have seen barrels of good money thrown away and wasted on ventures where individuals did not have the knowledge or experience – only the dream. The first principle is choose a business where you have expertise or become an apprentice to someone doing what you want to do.

The second principle is "Success begins and ends with Money." You will not have success until you have money. It takes money to rent space, buy product, make sales calls, and manage an office. There are several ways to get the money you need – i.e.; a bank, a family member, or a friend. For a bank to give you money, you will have to present a business plan stated in detail your business model and income projections for the next three years. To get money from a family member or friend you will have to make a convincing presentation to them ensuring them you know what you are doing. Either way, if you can't convince someone to give you the money, chances are you won't be successful in business. The second principle is getting the money you need.

The third principle is Failure. You cannot be successful without failure. As a matter of fact, you need a lot of failure to be successful. People of faith believe in the blessings of God, and to believe that God blesses, you must also believe that God curses. In business when one meets failure, failure is sometimes interpreted as a sign of God to stop and quit. It is a long journey to the mountain top that is filled with twists, turns, rough terrains, in-climate weather, and stress and strain. Failure is feedback, and feedback is the breakfast of champions. The third principle is to expect Failure.

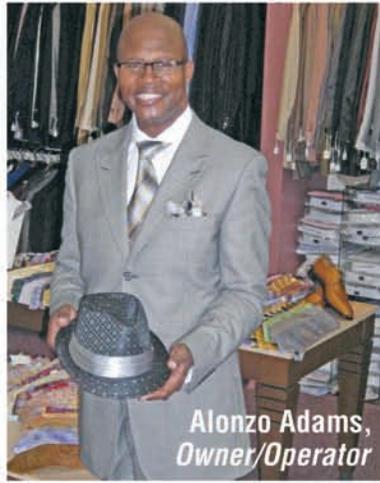
The forth and final principle I want to share is "Plan your work and Work your plan." You must have a specific definition of work. In my business I defined my work by my sales. If I went out and called on 20 businesses, explained my product and did not make a sale, did I work? ... No, I just visited. I learned to define my work by the number of sales I made not the number of visits I made. Only sales keep you in business. I noted the number of sales I needed to make each day - if I made it I had a successful day, if I did not my day was non-productive. No gray areas – only good days or bad days.

In planning your work, each day must be productive. Feeling content about stacking unproductive weeks upon unproductive weeks is an exercise of in-fertility and make-believe, you "making yourself believe" next month will be better. Remember, failure is feedback, when your plan is not working, re-invent yourself, change your sale script, or even modify your product. Monitor your success with well defined goals. The forth principle is Plan your work and Work your plan – Daily.

A dream doesn't become a reality through prayer; it takes sweat and determination. The only Secret to Success is hard work. Today is a new day we have never seen nor experienced. It is an opportunity for you to be better and do better, and allow your faith and your work to lift you above doubts, obstacles, excuses and fear, so that at the end of the day, you are closer to obtaining your success.



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