

# Christian Reader

Vol. 15 No. 3

MARCH 2007

FREE MONTHLY

## HE IS RISEN

*Easter quotations to stir heart and mind.*

Compiled by **Richard A. Kauffman**

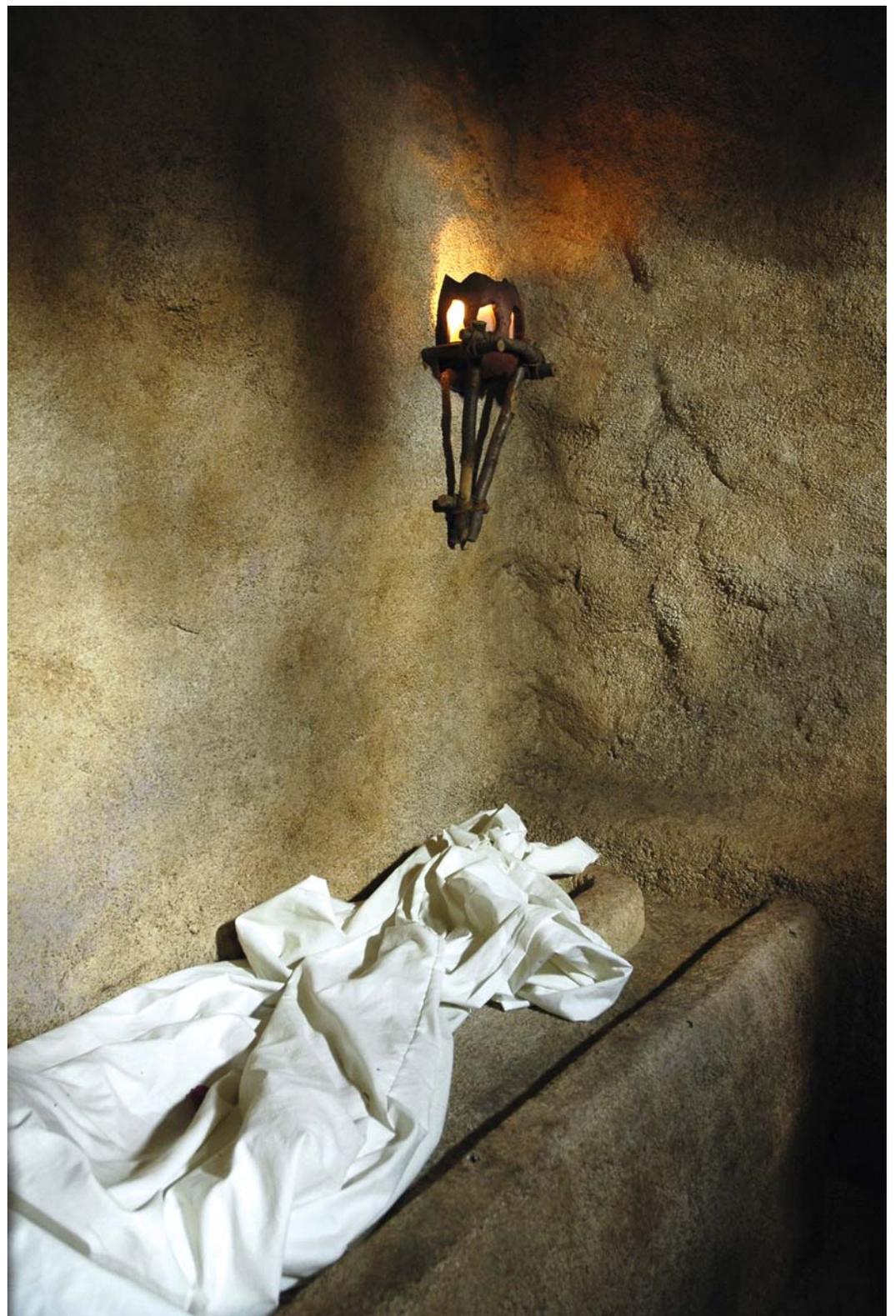
**THE RESURRECTION** is the keystone of the arch on which our faith is supported. If Christ has not risen, we must impeach all those witnesses for lying. If Christ has not risen, we have no proof that the crucifixion of Jesus differed from that of the two thieves who suffered with him. If Christ has not risen, it is impossible to believe his atoning death was accepted.

**IF THE FIRST** Christians had not believed that Christ rose from the dead there would have been no church and no New Testament... If Christianity had been founded merely on the moral teaching of Jesus, it would no doubt have flourished for a short time as a well-meaning deviation from Orthodox Judaism. It would quickly have lost its identity amid the innumerable varieties of religion and philosophy which occupied the minds of the ancient world.

**IN THE RESURRECTION** of Jesus from the dead, we see God's decisive victory not only over death but over all God's other enemies as well. In that one climactic event, we see the certainty that someday, in the kingdom of God, there will be no more violence, war, jealousy, or death... These forces are still alive and at work in the world, but because of the victory that God won at Easter, their doom is certain.

**THERE ARE TIMES** when I feel that he has withdrawn from me, and I have often given him cause, but Easter is always the answer to My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!

**THE GREAT JOY** that the disciples felt when they saw the risen Lord, that "burning of heart" that they experienced on the way to Emmaus, were not because the mysteries of an "other world" were revealed to them, but because they saw the Lord... They announced what they knew, that in Christ the new life has already begun, that he is Life Eternal.



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- ★ Initiated the Redevelopment of Blighted Areas.
- ★ Facilitated the relocation of the Head Start Program from a contaminated site.
- ★ Supported legislation for Sexual Predator Regulations.

You can be assured that I will continue to work to improve District 10's economic, educational, housing, safety & infrastructure needs. I am committed to serving you with excellence and I ask for your support and Your Vote.



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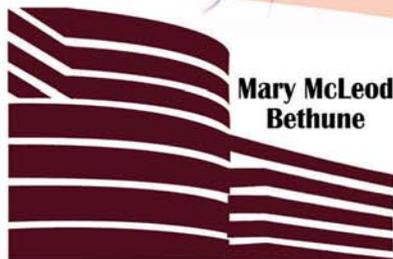
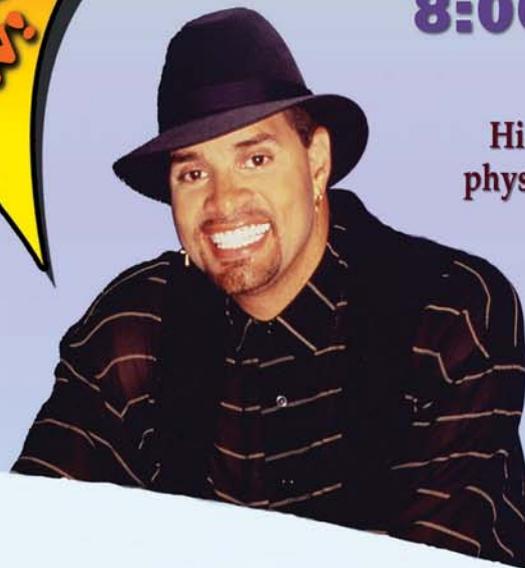
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# GO WHERE YOU ARE CELEBRATED NOT WHERE YOU ARE TOLERATED

By, Rev. Dr. Carlton D. Jones  
Jacksonville, Florida

I am writing from the New International version Mark 6:1-6: *“Jesus left the house of Jairus and went to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples. When the Sabbath came He began to teach in the synagogue and many who had heard Him were amazed.”*

*“Where did this man get these things? They asked, what’s this wisdom that has been given Him, that for He even does miracles! Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph’s, Juda and Simon? Aren’t His sisters here with us? And they took offense at Him.”*

*“Jesus said to them, ‘Only in His hometown among His relatives and in His own house is a prophet without honor.’ He could not do any miracles there except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. And He was amazed at their lack of faith.”*

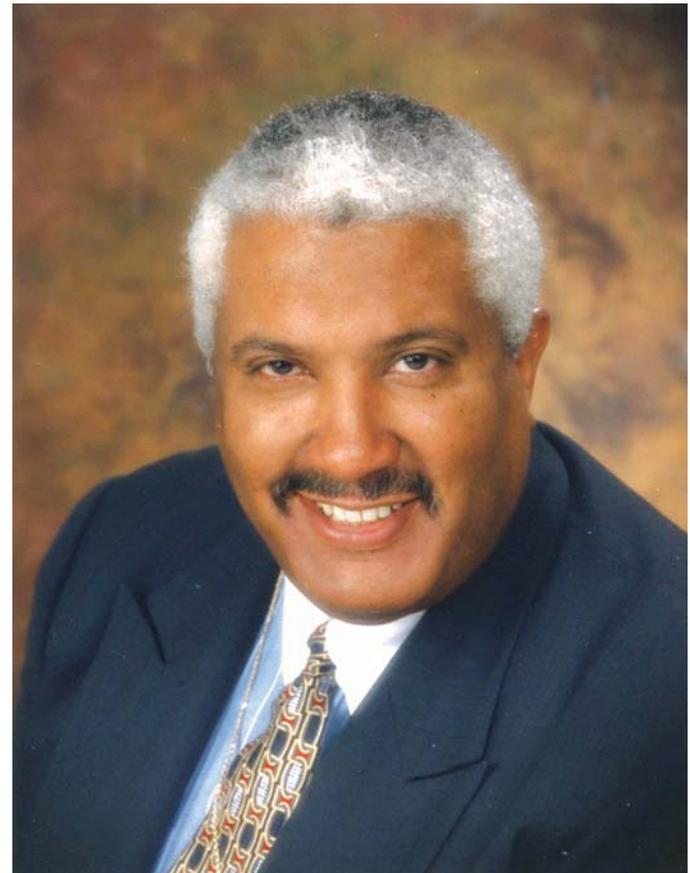
This message “Go where you are Celebrated, not where you are Tolerated” has helped me deal with all kinds of people in the business world; God is my Director and Enabler in all that I do. Jesus was “dished” (disrespected), as my children would say. Jesus who had just come from healing a woman and resurrecting a young girl, went to His hometown with His disciples where He should have been celebrated, but instead they only tolerated Him. The apostle Luke was much more descriptive of what happened to Jesus after He taught in the synagogue, states in Luke 4:29-30 that they tried to cast Jesus out of the city, but Jesus just walked through the crowd.

This was Jesus second time teaching in this synagogue, the last time was when He was a young boy. Like with Jesus, it is people who know you, who knew you as a child, who just can’t see God working in you. You see, Jesus own people, His earthly relatives could not see God in Him. They were blind. They only could see Jesus as a carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James. They were blind and could not see Jesus as the Son of God; they could not see God in the flesh.

Jesus taught His disciples to disconnect from any place that did not see their worth. Matthew 10:14 states “If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.” You see, Jewish people considered the dust of heathens lands as defiling compared to holy land, so to shake the dust off your feet meant that you recognized those people as rejecting God or His word. Never stay where you are not valued or the people are not willing to worship or praise God. Never stay where God has not assigned you. Guard the gifts and talents that God has given you. God has prepared those to receive you when you are at your assigned place.

Jesus was unable to do any miracles in certain towns because of the people’s doubt and unbelief. Their unbelief and lack of faith was like a cancer in the atmosphere. Doubt and unbelief will bind you up; it is a tool of Satan. It is Satan who wants to destroy you; it is Satan who wants to destroy God’s creation - man. It was unbelief that stopped Jesus from releasing His healing powers.

Our whole being is based on faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. God created and designed us in His image and likeness to worship Him. It is Satan who is envious and jealous of Gods creation. That’s why Satan tempts us into worshipping him through other gods like our cars, our homes, money, our children, and our spouses. We are not to worship any other god, but our Creator, for He is a jealous God and wants us to put Him first in our lives. The first commandment



is to love your God with all your heart and all your soul. For God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. That’s true love.

Jesus never allowed what others said about Him to change His opinion of Himself. It is not what people say about you that really matters in life. It is what you believe about yourself. Jesus was slandered, He was falsely accused. They said He was possessed with devils. Countless accusations were hurled against Him. But it never affected Jesus.

We fight what we do not understand. The mind will always resent what it can not master. Wars are fought because of ignorance and fear. Throughout human history, champions have had their names soiled and stained. Accusations and slanderous lies have come against great political leaders as well as Ministers of the Gospel. This is life. Joseph was accused of trying to lay with his employer’s wife. Paul was accused of arousing mobs through hatred and division concerning the religious people.

Jesus never begged anyone to believe in Him. He knew that integrity can not be proven, it must be discerned. He never wasted time with critics. He kept His attention on His goal. Jesus stayed focus, they accused Him of being filled with devils, but He simply continued to cast out devils. Jesus never strived to

*Only in His hometown among His relatives and in His own house is a prophet without honor.*

See **CARLTON JONES** page 6

Serving North & Central Florida

# Christian Reader

The "Good-News" Newspaper

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

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

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

Our mailing address is:

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Publisher / Managing Editor

**Gwendolyn E. Barrs**

General Manager / Chief Executive Officer

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Principal / Executive Manager

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## Main Office:

1725 Oakhurst Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32218

Post Office Box 9604, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

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# DO WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PREACH?

## New Scripture Added to the Bible: "LET THE WOMEN PREACH"

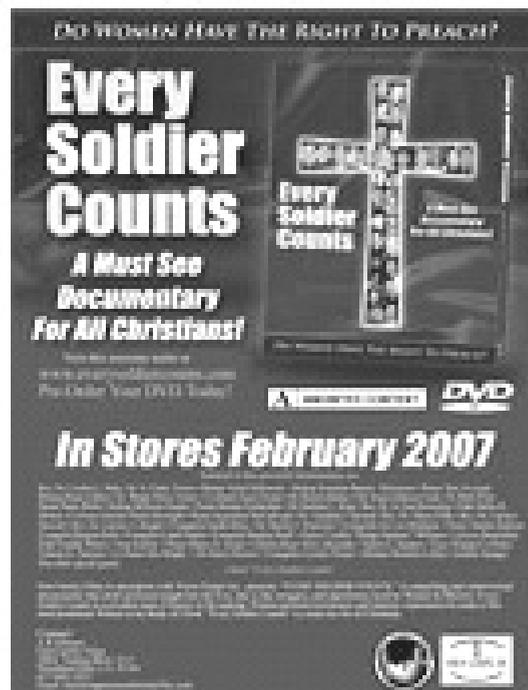
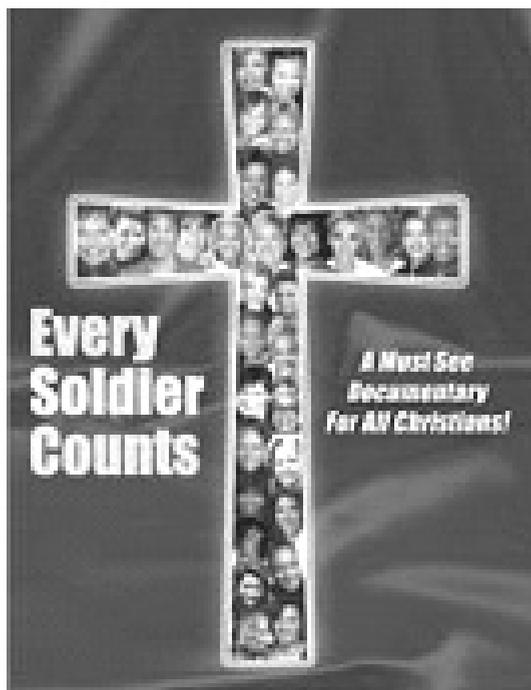
Women continue to be the backbone of almost every church across this nation serving in various capacities from the pew to the pulpit. While there is no shortage of women ready to serve in the traditional roles of cooking, cleaning & communion preparation, the opportunities dramatically decrease as the roles advance a few steps to the front of the church into the pulpit. However, there are bold women among us who have honored their pulpit calling; yet they are often met with less than enthusiastic saints & non-believers armed with 1001 reasons why women preachers are somehow less effective than their male counterparts.

On February 21, 2007, First Family Films in association with Vision Gospel Inc. release EVERY SOLDIER COUNTS, a compelling documentary film that will examine the controversial topic of Christian women leaders, Do Women Have the Right to Preach? Executive producers, Grammy Award winner A.R. Johnson along with Jennifer Sparger conducted research for this project over a two year period. The finished product exceeds even their expectations. In this powerful documentary you will meet more than 40 anointed women preachers across denominational lines, and be provoked by others who oppose them. So do women have the right to preach? You decide! Some use the words of Apostle Paul and say no! Others hear the call of God and say yes! No matter where you stand on the issue, you can't afford to sit on it.

Hear from Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Dr. Betty Price, Co-Pastor Susie Owens, Rev. Dr. Elaine Flake, Dr. Suzan Johnson-Cook, Pastor Darlene Bishop, Bishop Millicent Hunter, Dr. Wanda Davis Turner, Dr. N. Cindy Trimm,

Bishop Ernestine Reems-Dickerson and Pastor Paula White, just to name a few...as they share their life changing testimonies and ministry experiences along with expressions of opposition from those who wish to stop this powerful movement of Women In Ministry. Witness candid opinions on key topics such as: The Call to Ministry, The Importance of Christian Education, Prayer, Fasting and Balancing Family Life & Ministry. Gain new insights into their lives and hear REAL stores about REAL issues in the ministry. Knowing that it would either take an act of congress or an official call from on high to add new scriptures to the Bible before they are fully accepted; these anointed women are far to gifted to wait for that to occur. Instead they deliver a long awaited empowering message declaring that in the battle of saving souls Every Soldier Counts regardless of gender.

To find out more about this documentary log onto [www.eversoldiercounts.com](http://www.eversoldiercounts.com). First Family Films was started for the sole purpose of producing quality Christian properties designed with the Christian Family in mind. Vision Gospel Inc's mission is to promote Kingdom Building, by winning souls and enriching the lives of people universally, through the art of music and media. Together they have partnered to encourage and edify Women in Ministry to go forth and speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world without fear or condemnation. In addition to the film project, plans are set for a national church tour with the dynamic stage play Every Soldier Counts along with a seven city Every Soldier Counts Empowerment Tour that will include several of the powerful women from the documentary.



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### CARLTON JONES continued from page 3

to look good, He simply was good. He did not labor to appear truthful, He is truthful.

Every successful person wants to be loved, admired. But, your enemies and critics will never leave your reputation unstained and untarnished. You must rise above that fact. You must never allow what others say about you to change your opinion of yourself. Never.

We have nothing to prove to anyone. We are the offspring of a remarkable Creator. We have the mind of Jesus Christ. Our gift and talents have been placed within us by our Creator. Find out what they are. Celebrate them. Find ways to use your gifts to improve the lives of others. Help someone achieve their dreams and goals through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

But never, never, never exhaust or waste your energies trying to prove something to somebody else. Worth must be discerned. Jesus knew this, Matthew 4:3 states that Satan tempted Jesus... "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Jesus ignored Satan.

Jesus unstopped deaf ears, He opened blind eyes, He made the lame to walk, and He raised the dead. Sinners were changed. Yet, the jeers of the doubters continued to scream into His ears, even at His crucifixion. "And saying thou that destroyest the temple and build it in three days, save thyself. If you be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matthew 27:40). Jesus was referring to His earthly body being destroyed and that in three days it would be resurrected.

Jesus, our people received Him not, so Jesus, God in the flesh offered salvation to all who believed. Jesus demonstrated faith that He was born of a virgin; that He came as a final atonement for our sins; He taught us to love one another; He fed the hungry; He healed the sick and raised the dead. The Pharisees and Sadducees feared Jesus so much that they had crucified Him. Satan rejoiced when they hung Him high on a hill called Calvary.

They pierced His side and yes He died, and they buried Jesus in a borrowed tomb. But Jesus knew He wasn't going to be there very long. He went down into the depths of Hell and bound Satan over sin, sickness and the grave. Jesus busted up Satan's party, and Jesus rose on that third day with all POWER over sin, sickness and the grave, that with His stripes we are healed, that those who believe have conquered death.

Yes He rose, and walked on the earth for forty days to prove to the doubting Thomas's that He is alive, yes Jesus is alive! He ascended up to heaven to set on the right hand of the Father as an Intercessor. Jesus did not leave us alone, no He sent us the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, to walk with us and to give us the same power Jesus had. The good news is that Jesus is coming back again and He does not want any to perish so we are to act on His commandment to go out into all the world and preach and teach the Good-News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us celebrate the Holy name of Jesus. Yes, Jesus who saved a wretch like me, so that I can be Celebrated and not Tolerated. So I can Celebrate God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and God the Holy Spirit - the Holy Trinity from whom all blessings flow. Hallelujah!

# E. DENISE LEE CANDIDATE FOR JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 GETS SUPPORT OF U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN CORRINE BROWN AND FORMER MAYOR JAKE GODBOLD

*"I have known and worked with Denise for 30 years, and her greatest strength is that she has the community interest at heart, in her heart. Denise deserves and needs to be back on the City Council and to that end I fully endorse her candidacy."*

... U. S. Congresswoman Corrine Brown

*"Denise's public service record speaks for itself. Her work ethic and integrity are unmatched. She's unafraid and un-owned. The most important reason to elect Denise is the trust she's earned"*

... Mayor Jake Godbold

**Jacksonville, Fl – March 6, 2007 – District 8 City Council Candidate E. Denise Lee**, this week picked up the crucial endorsements of former mayor **Jake Godbold** and **U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown**, and by clergy, business, and community leaders: *Rev. Marvin C. Zanders, II, Bishop McKinley Young, 11th Episcopal District AME Church, Baptist Ministers Conference Duval & Adjacent Counties, CLU Pac, DTU – Tiger Cope, First Coast Manufacturers Association, JaxBiz, NEFBA - P. E. Local 630 – N.E. Fl. Public Employees, Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, Northeast Florida Builders Association, Northeast Florida Building & Construction Trades Council, The Construction Trade Workers Union, The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce's PAC, The Jacksonville Firefighters Association, The Jacksonville Fraternal Order of Police and the UA – United Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters – Local Union #234.*

Lee has earned the trust of the people she represents. She built a reputation for taking care of people and for getting things done. Her effective service improved neighborhoods in District 8 with more than \$37 million worth of public works, recreation and housing projects. For Lee, public service is all about people and the neighborhoods where they live. That's why she successfully fought for new parks, infrastructure, roads and drainage projects. Lee earned the trust of our law enforcement by securing funds for neighborhood safety improvements, more police officers and community substations. She championed education, children and seniors. She worked to lower the costs of healthcare, especially for lower income and fixed-income residents.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by E. Denise Lee, Democrat, for City Council District 8

## VOTE March 20, 2007



**E. Denise Lee**

### FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

- ✓ U.S. Congresswoman Corrine Brown
- ✓ Mayor Jake Godbold
- ✓ Rev. Marvin C. Zanders, II,
- ✓ Bishop McKinley Young, 11th
- ✓ Episcopal District AME Church,
- ✓ Baptist Ministers Conference Duval & Adjacent Counties
- ✓ CLU Pac
- ✓ DTU – Tiger Cope
- ✓ First Coast Manufacturers Association
- ✓ JaxBiz
- ✓ Northeast Florida Builders Association
- ✓ P.E. Local 630 – N.E. Fl. Public Employees
- ✓ Northeast Florida Association of Realtors
- ✓ Northeast Florida Building & Construction Trades Council
- ✓ The Construction Trade Workers Union
- ✓ The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce's PAC
- ✓ The Jacksonville Firefighters Association
- ✓ The Jacksonville Fraternal Order of Police
- ✓ UA – United Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters – Local Union #234.

*"I have known and worked with Denise for 30 years, and her greatest strength is that she has the community interest at heart, in her heart. Denise deserves and needs to be back on the City Council and to that end I fully endorse her candidacy."*

— U. S. Congresswoman Corrine Brown

*"Denise's public service record speaks for itself. Her work ethic and integrity are unmatched. She's unafraid and un-owned. The most important reason to elect Denise is the trust she's earned."*

— Mayor Jake Godbold

*"Denise is experienced and effective. She wakes up in the morning thinking of what she can do for her constituents...and it's the last thing she thinks about before falling asleep. She gets things done."*

— Community Leader Norma S. White

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Lee**  
**For City Council District 8**

Norma S. White, Campaign Treasurer  
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Democrat, for City Council District 8

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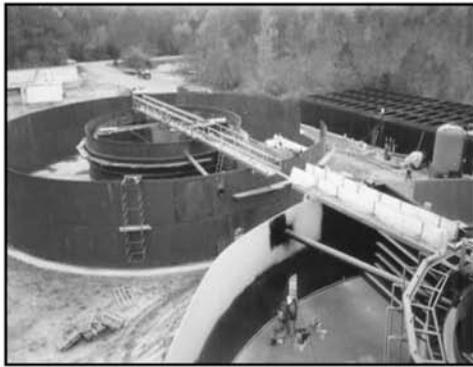
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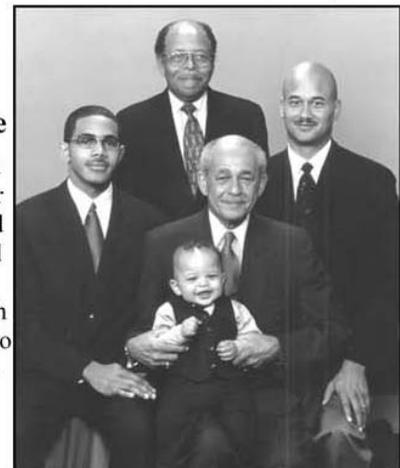
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## AFRICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH SEEKS ARTISTS

Gainesville, FL - African American heritage, like a quilt, is composed of diverse and colorful fabrics. It has been passed down across centuries and through family lines. And yet, it is not entirely whole, and no quilt can provide warmth with pieces missing.

JFest, the 1st Annual Juneteenth Festival & Juried Art Show, is currently seeking applications from artists whose work touches on the African heritage experience to display and sell their pieces at JFest in Lincoln Park, Gainesville, Florida, on Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17, 2007. The competitive media categories are ceramics/pottery, fiber/textiles/leather, glass, graphics/drawings, jewelry, sculpture, folk art, mixed media, photography, painting, printmaking, and wearable art. Cash prizes amounting to \$17,500 will be awarded to top and emerging artists at the show. Applications are available online at [www.JFestCentral.com](http://www.JFestCentral.com) or by request - but act fast, as the extended application post-mark deadline is March 12, 2007!

JFest commemorates Juneteenth, a celebration recalling the end of slavery in the U.S. This unique occasion, which is only now being widely recognized (despite marking its 140th anniversary in 2005), is a celebration of independence, freedom, and family. JFest will explore all facets of African heritage in a multicultural extravaganza of fine and folk arts, music, dance, theater, and storytelling.

The theme of JFest 2007 is Sankofa: Go Back to Fetch It! Sankofa is an Adinkra symbol used by the Akan people of Ghana. Often represented as a bird looking backwards but with its feet planted firmly forward, it is a symbolic reminder that familiarity with the past is necessary in order to build for the future. The Sankofa Bird plays a prominent role in the JFest artwork for 2007, Ananse Patches, a piece specially designed for the festival by local artist Dr. Patricia Hilliard-

Nunn. Dr. Hilliard-Nunn is a professor at the University of Florida, local historian, dance instructor, owner of Makare Publishing Company, and serves on the advisory board for both the University of Florida Performing Arts and Channel 5 - WUFT.

### Help Stitch Together the Patchwork Pieces of African American History at JFest!



**Ananse Patches  
By Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn**

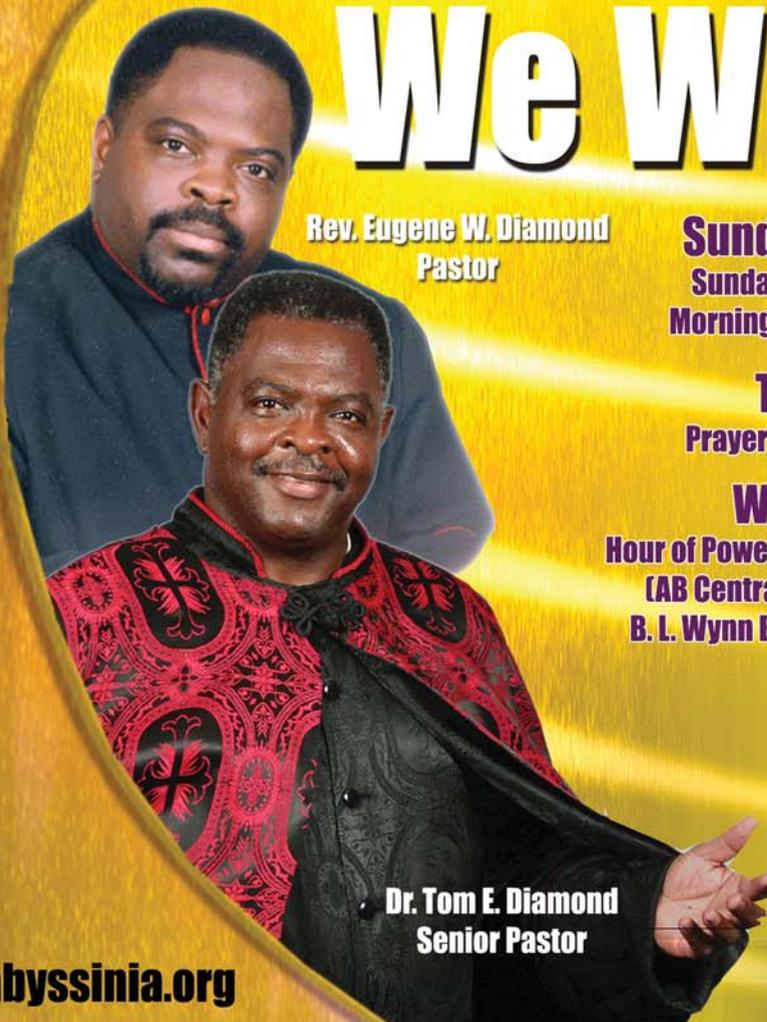
North Central Florida during the period of segregation. The organization of this two-day event by CCMCC is another page in the illustrious history of this community.

Apply now to become a part of this unique cultural experience! JFest will draw art lovers, heritage enthusiasts, and prospective buyers from across the country. In addition to artists, numerous food vendors and community organizations will participate in the festivities. In addition, limited sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information and applications, please visit [www.JFestCentral.com](http://www.JFestCentral.com) or contact Donna Isaacs, Festival Coordinator, at (352) 273-1172.

With bright colors and the historical and emotional resonance of a patchwork quilt, her vibrant piece depicts the diverse facets of African cultural heritage that JFest celebrates. According to Vivian Filer, "The design captures the essence of our cultural experience and commemorates the journey from slavery to the present." Filer, a retired professor of nursing and local civil rights activist, serves as the Chairwoman of the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center, Inc. (CCMCC) Board of Directors.

CCMCC is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the historic preservation of the Cotton Club, a music hall that hosted legendary artists such as B.B. King, Brook Benton, James Brown and Bo Diddley, as part of the "Chitlin' Circuit". This hall, named after the Cotton Club in Harlem, was the cornerstone of the predominately black Springhill neighborhood and served as one of the few sources of entertainment for African Americans in

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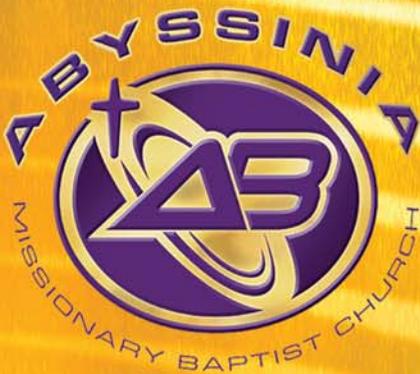
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<p><b>Chicken</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curried Chicken</li> <li>Jerk Chicken</li> <li>Brown Stew Chicken</li> <li>Jerk Chicken Wings</li> <li>Jerk Chicken Wrap</li> <li>Crispy Jerk Wrap</li> <li>Chicken Fingers (served w/french fries)</li> <li>Jerk Chicken Salad</li> </ul>	<p><b>Seafood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shrimp (Curried, Jerked, or Brown Stewed)</li> <li>Red Snapper (Jerked, Steamed, Grilled, Brown Stewed, or Curried)</li> <li>King Fish (Jerked, Steamed, Grilled, Brown Stewed, or Curried)</li> <li>Conch Fritters</li> </ul>	<p><b>Beef</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxtails</li> <li>Pepper Steak</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Meats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curried Goat</li> <li>Jerk Ribs</li> </ul> <p><b>Patties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beef</li> <li>Jerk Chicken</li> <li>Vegetable</li> </ul>
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**Sides**

Rice n Peas (Red Beans n Rice), Yellow Rice, White Rice, Roti, Fried Plantains, Cornbread, Mixed Vegetables, Steamed Cabbage, Oka (extra), House Salad

*\*Menu Items are subject to availability*

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I am motivated by the powerful words of *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*, the inspiring anthem written by two of Jacksonville's most famous residents James Weldon Johnson and John Rosemond Johnson.

I look forward to working with you each day to continue the progress we have made together. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.



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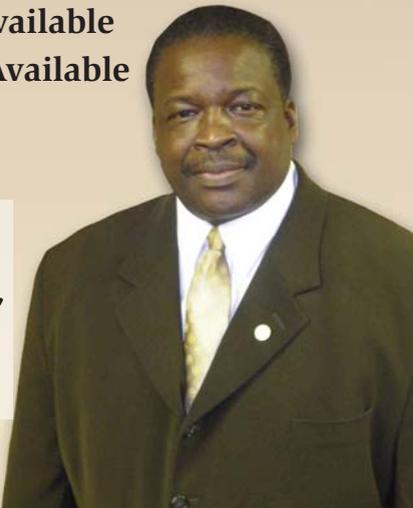
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# ANNUAL A-B HONOR ROLL PARTY OF SIMMONS PEDIATRICS



The Annual A-B Honor Roll Party for the patients of Simmons Pediatrics was held at Dave & Busters on Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 12 noon - 2 p.m. Each of the children received a medallion around their neck, a power card to play games and a buffet with a cake. Most importantly, the children had big smiles when they took pictures and received their awards.

We are very excited about this achievement of excellence towards their future endeavors. We would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the parents of these children for their dedication, love, patience and strong-will to encourage them to soar like eagles and strive for success.



## **Congresswoman Corrine Brown Announces Orlando Veterans Hospital Site**



“When I was first elected to Congress, I requested to be a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee. As the second most senior Democrat on the Committee, I believe it is my duty to do everything I can to assist the brave men and women who have served on our armed forces.

I am ecstatic the VA Medical Center will be located alongside the new Florida State Medical School near an urban medical complex. The new center, along with the Burnham Institute, will create a biotech cluster at Lake Nona, allowing the area to become one in which doctors and research professionals can work collaboratively on the needs of our area Veterans. Numerous studies have demonstrated that teaching hospitals provide the best health care available, which is invaluable for the VA and our area’s Veterans. This is the ultimate urban model, and it would be beneficial for other facilities to follow it at all levels of medical treatment, both in Florida and throughout the nation.

For the first time, VA acute care, complex specialty care and advanced diagnostic services will be available for inpatients in east central Florida. More than 90,000 veterans already enrolled in VA health care will directly benefit from the location.

The complex will include a 134-bed hospital, a 120-bed nursing home, a 60-bed domiciliary, an outpatient clinic, a Veterans benefits office to help veterans with financial benefits and generous parking.

I categorically believe this hospital will benefit veterans throughout the Central Florida region. Its presence will ensure the VA will follow through with its mission to provide veterans with all of the benefits they are eligible to receive. For this to happen, it is essential to have greater communication between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense before a veteran separates from service so he or she is knowledgeable of the full range of eligible benefits.

It took too long, over 25 years in fact, to get this VA Medical Center for Central Florida. Beyond a doubt, the new hospital is a win-win for everyone, and the veterans in Central Florida are truly deserving of this facility. Again, this is a great day for the Central Florida community, for Central Florida veterans, and for veterans from all over the nation who come to Central Florida to retire.”

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# UNINSURED / UNDERINSURED INSURANCE

## Why you should buy it?

By Christopher M. Chestnut, Esq.  
Gainesville, Florida

Often in our vigilant pursuit of a favorable result for our clients, our efforts are stifled if not prohibited by insufficient insurance coverage. When involved in a car accident where the other driver was at fault there are generally two avenues of recovery, insurance or liens / liquidation of the assets of the at-fault driver. Most at-fault drivers do not have the immediate liquidity to pay were he or she sued by the injured. Thus the predominate method of recovery is INSURANCE.

### What is UM Coverage?

Uninsured / Underinsured Insurance Coverage, covers you when you are involved in an accident, not the fault of your own, and the at-fault party does not have any insurance or has insufficient insurance to cover your medical bills and pain and suffering.

### Why should I purchase UM coverage?

UM Coverage is very important. Let's explore a hypothetical to illustrate how UM may be applied to benefit you.

Imagine you were on your way to Church on Sunday morning and someone rear ends you while you are legally stopped at a red light. Assume you received spinal injury requiring back surgery. Assume that person who hit you has the minimum coverage required by Florida Law: \$10,000 Property Damage and \$10,000 Personal Injury Protection. Thus, the other person has coverage up to \$10,000 to repair your car and coverage up to \$10,000 to cover their injuries and lost wages, however your Medical bills are \$70,000. How is it that you will pay for your surgery? UM Coverage.

Assume you have UM coverage of \$100,000 per person / \$200,000 per accident. Your insurance provider, through your UM Coverage, would pay for you medical bills including the surgery up to your \$100,000 policy limit, because the person who injured you did not have sufficient insurance.

### What is the distinction between per person / per accident?

Per person would insure you the driver for \$100,000. Let's assume that you were giving Mother Williams and Mother Johnson a ride to church and they too were injured. Then the \$200,000 per accident would apply to cover the injuries of everyone injured in the car.

### Should I elect for stacking?

Absolutely!!

Stacking, is when you own two or more vehicles and you stack the UM policies for each vehicle to apply to your single accident. Reverting to the aforementioned hypothetical, let's assume you were driving your "Sunday-Go-To-Meeting" Cadillac on the day of the accident, but your household also owns a Chevy Truck for Fishing, and a Toyota Hybrid Work Car for everyday use. Let's say you have \$100,000 per person / \$200,000 per accident in UM with "Stacking" on each vehicle. That means, you may stack the \$100,000 per person UM coverage from the Cadillac, the \$100,000 per person UM coverage from the Fishing Truck, and the \$100,000 per person UM Coverage from your work car for a total of \$300,000 in UM Coverage. If you were to chose not to elect "Stacking", then you would only have the \$100,000 in coverage that applied to the Cadillac that was involved in the accident. It will likely cost you a little extra for stacking, but that amount is nominal in comparison to doubling or tripling your UM policy limit



Christopher M. Chestnut, Esq.

### Won't PIP be enough to cover my medical bills?

Considering the current cost of medical care, the \$10,000 of PIP will likely not be sufficient for your medical bills, especially if surgery is required. It is better to be safe with the UM Coverage. Again, PIP only covers injuries and lost wages up to \$10,000, and does not cover Pain and Suffering.

### Be aware...

In reviewing your policy listing of coverages, if you don't see UM coverage, or you see "rejected" or "non-stacked", call your agent and have that corrected. If they won't correct it, then find a new agent.

**If you have been injured in an accident Call or Email us at:**

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## **SOULOFAMERICA.COM Reveals 12 Top Travel Destinations to Experience the History of African Americans**

SoulOfAmerica.com today announced 12 top travel destinations that help tell the story of Black History in America. Where can you find the most comprehensive collection of artifacts chronicling slavery? A museum dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen? A memorial honoring Eddie Kendricks and the Temptations? A Black Panther Legacy Walking Tour?

Look no further than “SoulOfAmerica.com’s 12 Top Travel Destination Guides for Black History” (listed in alphabetical order and including links to their Black cultural sites):

1. Atlanta - In addition to the birthplace, church and tombs of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, Atlanta is home to Auburn Avenue Research Library and APEX Museum. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=112,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=112,0,0,1,0,0) [Atlanta Cultural Sites]

2. Baltimore - The first wax museum of African-American history, “The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum,” the remarkable Reginald Lewis Museum and the new Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum are located in Baltimore. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=9611,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=9611,0,0,1,0,0) [Baltimore Cultural Sites]

3. Birmingham - A major backdrop to the civil rights struggle, this city boasts the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and is also home to the Eddie Kendricks & Temptations Memorial. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=5977,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=5977,0,0,1,0,0) [Birmingham Cultural Sites]

4. Chicago - First settled by Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, a black man, Chicago is home to a museum named in his honor, the Du Sable Museum of African-American History. In addition, the A. Philip Randolph / Pullman Porter Museum, which pays tribute to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, is in this city. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=8078,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=8078,0,0,1,0,0) [Chicago Cultural Sites]

5. Cincinnati - Located on the north bank of the Ohio River, Cincinnati boasts this country’s most comprehensive museum chronicling U.S. slavery, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6122,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6122,0,0,1,0,0) [Cincinnati Cultural Sites]

6. Detroit - The motor city has several notable museums, including the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Motown Historical Museum. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6238,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6238,0,0,1,0,0) [Detroit Cultural Sites]

7. Memphis - Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed at Memphis’ Lorraine Hotel, now the site of a memorial in his honor. The memorial is connected to the National Civil Rights Museum. Soulsville Museum is a must visit for music devotees. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6586,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6586,0,0,1,0,0) [Memphis Cultural Sites]



**The Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore is a great place to visit for Black History.**

8. New Orleans - The birthplace of jazz, New Orleans is the location of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation and the New Orleans African-American Museum of Art, Culture & History. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6760,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6760,0,0,1,0,0) [New Orleans Cultural Sites]

9. New York City - The world-renown Apollo Theater, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and Malcolm X Museum are must visits. The Dance Theater of Harlem is where some of the world’s greatest dancers got their start. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6789,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6789,0,0,1,0,0) [New York City Cultural Sites]

10 Philadelphia - In the first American city to ban slavery, you should explore the African-American Museum of Philadelphia and see where Philadelphia International Records shaped so much of the music we love today. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6934,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=6934,0,0,1,0,0) [Philadelphia Cultural Sites]

11. San Francisco & Oakland - In this metropolis, which was the western terminus of the Underground Railroad, you’ll find the Museum of the African Diaspora and the Black Panthers Legacy Walking Tour. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=7166,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=7166,0,0,1,0,0) [San Francisco & Oakland Cultural Sites]

12. Washington, DC - The Benjamin Banneker Memorial & Fountain honors the black man who completed the landscape design for the District of Columbia. Howard University and the headquarters of Black Entertainment Television are also in D.C. [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=7311,0,0,1,0,0](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?id=7311,0,0,1,0,0) [Washington, D.C. Cultural Sites]

“There is no better way to experience Black History than to see it up close and personal,” said SoulOfAmerica.com’s Founder and Publisher Thomas Dorsey. “SoulOfAmerica.com is the roadmap to an exhaustive list of cultural and historic sites that make Black History come alive. We easily could have included 12 more of city guides in this list.” To find all of SoulOfAmerica.com’s U.S. City Guides, visit [www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?city\\_guides](http://www.soulofamerica.com/index.php?city_guides)

Publishing online since 1997, SoulOfAmerica.com is the first, only comprehensive, most quoted, highest traffic and award-winning Black Travel Website. In a poll of 100,000 voters, BlackWebAwards.com named SoulOfAmerica.com the “2007 Best Travel Destination Website.”

# Bethune-Cookman College Makes Historic Leap To Become Bethune-Cookman University

In the spirit of love and appreciation for the hard work of her trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni, President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed took the opportunity of Valentine's Day to make a campus-wide announcement that the college has officially been renamed BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY.

"This has been a part of the vision for the college since August of 2004," said Dr. Reed. A grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded the initial planning that resulted in a master's degree program being launched in August 2007. That step led to the school's eligibility for university status.

"Our graduate school and the graduate program in Transformative Leadership have enabled us to become the great Bethune-Cookman University," said Reed. "I am certain that our founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, would be very pleased that we have taken her vision into the 21st century."

According to the "new" Bethune-Cookman University officials, a formal announcement and ceremony took place at the March meeting of the school's Board of Trustees.



**Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, President**

School officials expect that the name change will be phased in over the next 24 months. "This is a huge and exciting undertaking" says Dr. Stephen Schafer, Vice President for Advancement, who will be responsible for implementing a marketing plan that will ensure that the school keeps its history intact and at the same time takes every advantage of publicizing its new university status.

The marketing and public relations plan calls for new signage on the campus grounds and buildings, changes on the web site and on every printed document. "We want everyone to feel comfortable with the change and encourage our alumni and students to continue to use the B-CC and Bethune-Cookman College names as long as they want to," said Dr. Reed. "I have no plans to change the alma mater."

According to President Reed, the next step in the process will be to develop a committee of stakeholders to build consensus for the many changes that will come with adoption of the new name. "The alumni are elated that we have gone to another level. We think it's wonderful!", says Jackie Mongal, President of the "new" Bethune-Cookman University National Alumni Association. "We see the value of the university status and we want our alma mater to grow; we've come along way in our history. I know Dr. Bethune would be proud."

Founded in 1904 by Mary McLeod Bethune, a renowned educator and an advocate of civil and human rights, Bethune-Cookman College, today, continues its founder's legacy of Faith, Scholarship and Service through its long-standing relationship with The United Methodist Church, its solid reputation for academic excellence, and its exemplary civic engagement initiatives. The College has a diverse and international faculty and student body of 3,111 (fall semester 2006).

Bethune-Cookman is a private, contemporary, career-oriented college that offers a state-of-the art master's degree program in Transformative Leadership and baccalaureate degrees through six academic schools: Arts & Humanities, Business, Education, Nursing, Science, Engineering and Mathematics, and Social Sciences. A Freshman College program offers a new and unique introduction to the history and traditions of the college, as well as academic and behavior expectations.

For more information, contact our website <http://bethune.cookman.edu>.

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## Mr. Speaker Speaks

# FIND YOUR WAY TO BEING OUT FRONT

By Vincent T. Edwards  
Blessed Enterprise  
Tallahassee, Florida

The question we must ask ourselves is “where is Out In Front and how do I get there?” Out In Front is being the best at what you have been called to do. It is being the leader in your role with respect to your God given gifts, talents and abilities. Whatever your role (Father, Mother, Husband, Wife, Pastor, CEO, President, Governor, Student, Dishwasher, etc.) in life your goal should be to be the best, the standard/model, the one people want to emulate and duplicate. My first real job was as a dishwasher at the Ponderosa Steakhouse on Oakland Park Blvd. in Ft. Lauderdale. This particular restaurant is no longer there, but the memories, experiences and life lessons are forever imbedded within my heart, mind and soul. Earning \$3.35 an hour performing a seemingly endless, grueling, messy task can take its toll. In the midst of it all perseverance provided promotion.

By being the best dishwasher that I could be or that the Managers had ever seen provided opportunity. The hand of God ren-



**Vincent T. Edwards**

dered favor and by the time I graduated from High School I had progressed from the Dishwasher (the back of the restaurant) to the Grill Cook (up front in the restaurant). After the military and graduating from college I have managed/supervised (out in front of the restaurant) restaurant operations. This journey required work, sacrifice, dedication, and commitment. To be Out In Front requires work. I was told that the only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary and life has proven this to be true.

How do you get Out In Front? The answer is the three P's - Purpose, Plan and Perform. It is so simple but not easy. I recall a quote that states “The person who knows How will always have a job, but the person who knows Why will always be his boss.” The purpose is the Why, the reasons. The plan is the How, the map with the vision. The last P (Perform) is crucial to success.

It is here that most stop. It is here where the separation of boys and men, girls and women, the successful and unsuccessful occurs. The omission of the last P (Perform) is what keeps people from success, their dreams, goals and aspirations. It is the lack of performance that prevents individuals from being Out In Front. From my days of pledging Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, I will forever remember that “Excuses are the tools of the incompetent and those who specialize in them seldom accomplish anything and build monuments to nothing.” Today, make no more excuses. The question now becomes where do you want to be, In The Back or Out In Front?

Vincent T. Edwards “Mr. Speaker” is an inspirational and motivational speaker/radio talk show host. On the web at [www.blessedenterprise.com](http://www.blessedenterprise.com) or by email at [mrspeakerspeaks@blessedenterprise.com](mailto:mrspeakerspeaks@blessedenterprise.com).

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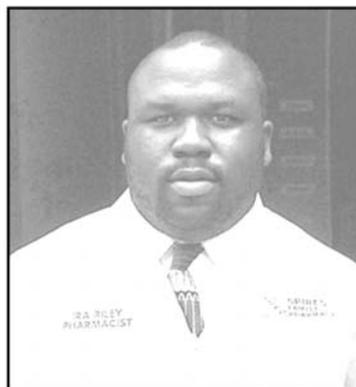
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**[agapefaithcenter@aol.com](mailto:agapefaithcenter@aol.com)**

**The Consecration of a Apostle Elect  
Pastor Ronald Thomas**

Friday, March 9, 2007, Mt. Carmel Baptist  
Church, 5:30 p.m.

**Pastor Appreciation, Tuesday, March 6th-11th.**  
Speakers: Willie Bolden, Apostle Cleopatra Steele,  
Bishop Anne Evans, Apostle Frank Clifton

## LIVING HOPE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES CELEBRATES 22ND YEAR OF SERVICE TO CENTRAL FLORIDA WITH FUNDRAISER BENEFIT CONCERT DINNER

Living Hope International Ministries, a non-profit organization in Orlando, will present their 22nd annual Celebration and Benefit Concert Dinner at the First Baptist Church of Orlando on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Born to Win." Special Guest Host and local celebrity Randy McLemore will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies in this unique and fun 'television production' themed event.

Headlining the event will be world-renowned Christian sensation United in Praise, a powerful non-denominational choir that features over 100 voices that resonate an eclectic variety of musical styles for every generation including: Inspirational, Praise and Worship, Black Gospel, R&B, and more. In addition, one successful past graduate will be awarded the LHIM New Beginnings Woman of the Year Award, sponsored by the Citrus Club's Women at the Top (WATT), Weekender's women's fashions, and Kerry Kosmitis and Susy Williams, Independent Consultants for Arbonne International. The award acknowledges and celebrates phenomenal achievement against all odds by a woman whose indomitable spirit has shown her commu-



**Pastor Caretha Brown**

nity and the world that recovery and success is within reach.

"This Benefit Concert celebration dinner will serve to heighten awareness of our programs and services," states Caretha Brown, LHIM's Founder and President. "It is also a homecoming for the women who have benefited from the program and come back to celebrate their accomplishments." The event also aims to raise funds that will continue to allow LHIM to provide essential services to drug-addicted, incarcerated, or otherwise hurting women and individuals in the Central Florida community. This year's sponsors include Darden Restaurants and Walt Disney World, Inc.

Founded in 1985, Living Hope International Ministries offers hurting women the opportunity to change their lifestyle and recover from chemical dependency, abuse and a dysfunctional life through the program services that we offer. Their goal is to help them break the family pattern of dysfunctional living.

A faith-based organization, Living Hope International Ministries serves women in three fundamental programs: 1) New Beginnings Home treatment facility; 2) New Beginnings Outreach program; and 3) Community Outreach, which provides teaching and counseling in jails, seminars and workshops throughout the community. Non-residential support and outreach programs are also available to men.

Ticket prices range from \$50 for an individual ticket to a \$500 for tables. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available for online purchase through the organization's website – [www.livinghopecdc.org](http://www.livinghopecdc.org), or from Living Hope directly at (407) 422-6797.

Proceeds from the Benefit Concert Dinner will allow Living Hope International Ministries to continue to provide essential services to help hurting individuals heal and re-build their lives. For more information, call 407-422-6797 or visit [www.livinghopecdc.org](http://www.livinghopecdc.org).



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# The Crucifixion Of Jesus

The shadow of the cross that was raised on Golgotha reaches across the centuries to offer comfort, forgiveness, and hope to us today. The story is almost unbelievable, for it is hard for us to image such love. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" is the message of the golden text of the Bible, John Chapter 3, verse 16. Jesus had to love us beyond measure to give Himself willingly to die for our sins. And we must complete the story of love by loving Him in return.



Some of the Jewish leaders hated Jesus because He condemned their sins. They did not want to believe the truth He preached, as He urged them to repent and turn back to God. They became jealous of the great crowds that followed Him and believed in Him, and finally decided to get rid of Him by having Him killed.

Since the Jews did not have the right to have a man killed without the approval of the Roman governor, they had to take Jesus to Pilate. At the trial they had no evidence of wrong-doing by Jesus, but put enough pressure on Pilate that he finally agreed to have the soldiers kill Jesus by crucifying Him.

The place where they killed prisoners was outside the city of Jerusalem on a small hill called Golgotha or the place of the skull. Here they laid the cross on the ground while they nailed his hands and feet to it with great spikes. The cross was then lifted and dropped into a hole in the ground. The entire weight of the body tore at the spikes, and the pain was almost beyond endurance. The blood began to pound through the body as the shock of what was happening began to take its toll. As the cells of the body were broken down it became a living death that sometimes lasted for a few hours, and could even last for a few days. Since Jesus had been whipped before they took Him to be crucified, He was already weak from loss of blood. Mercifully, He lived only a few hours on the cross.

Even with all the pain, Jesus thought of others rather than Himself. His first words from the cross were, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". Even though He could have threatened to punish them eternally when they faced Him in judgement, he did not do so. He thought of His mother, who stood by the cross weeping, and asked his beloved friend John to take care of her. On either side of Him there were two thieves crucified with Him. When one of them expressed faith in Jesus, the Saviour answered, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise". As the terrible afternoon wore on and His pain increased he finally moaned, "I thirst", and was offered vinegar, which He would not drink. God blotted out the sun as if to

let us know how black the deed which was being done, and out of that blackness Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?". His final words expressed his complete surrender to the will of God as He said, "It is finished; Father into Thy hands I commend my spirit". He then bowed His head and died.

Even the earth could not accept the death of its Creator and Master without showing grief. There was a great earthquake which shook the countryside and made all people afraid. The only fear which we need to have, however, is that of refusing the love He showed in dying for us. The theme of our lives ought to be, "I'll live for Him who died for me, how happy then my soul shall be. I'll live for Him who died for me, my Saviour and my God".

## Daytona's Newest Jamaican Style Restaurant Has Grand Opening

This past January, Taste of the Tropics Seafood & Grill celebrated its grand opening in grand style. With great food, wine tasting, a live band, and people as far away as England and as close as Palm Coast, locals experienced what will continue to be an environment for food, fun, and fellowship.



The restaurant has four owners: Vincent and Louise McCourty, Blossom White, and Philip Gawle who claims their special receipts for curry chicken, pork and goat will be the best you ever tasted. The menu leaves out nothing from the tropics and highlight oxtails, sauteed shrimp, and red snapper.

Stop by today, enjoy the cuisine, book your next party, explore the catering options, and meet new friends.

**Taste of the Tropics**  
Seafood & Grill  
933 W. International Speedway Drive,  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
(386) 254-7556

## Palm Sunday

*The celebration of Easter begins with Palm Sunday. What a splendid occasion that must have been - Jesus riding on that humble donkey, into the city of Jerusalem while children spread palm branches on the street in front of Him. People on the side shouting "Hosanna, Hosanna! Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord."*

*Perhaps Palm Sunday didn't make much of an impact on the city of Jerusalem. These were festival days. Jerusalem was crowded. During this time of year it became a large city even as it does on the holy days of our modern times. No, it probably didn't make a big impression on the Holy City. But those people who stood on the side knew that something special was happening in their very midst. Someone special was entering their city. And so they shouted "Hosanna."*

*Paul describes the same kind of event with regard to the coming of Christ into the world when he writes in Philippians: "Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."*

*In Christ's preparation during the week, He held the last supper with his disciples, and at that table was a cup. The cup represented His blood which was to be shed at the cross. His blood was more than just blood... it is God's blood because Jesus was more than just a man, He is the God man and the mediator of all men as the only way of salvation. After the last supper, Jesus retired to a garden with a few of his disciples and prayed to the Father. Jesus didn't have to die but He choose to die for us willingly, He who knew no sin, that we might have the gift of God which is eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.*

*Let us therefore be thoughtful this week of this love and be a witness for Christ and the hope we have in Him. We need to be like David who said in Psalms 116:13 "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord."*

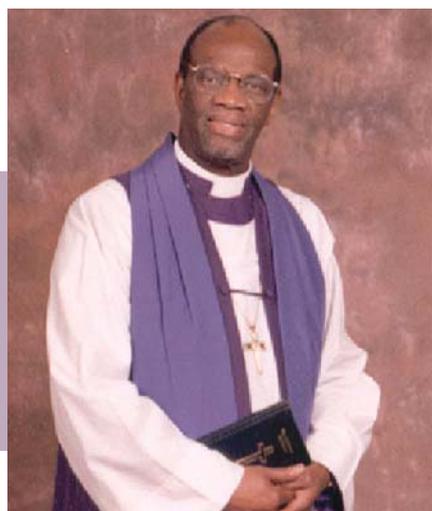
# Florida Central Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Headquarters

2179 Emerson Street • Jacksonville, Florida 32207 • (904) 398-1625

**Bishop Edward Robinson, Sr.**  
**Jurisdictional Prelate**  
**Mother Mildred Eason**  
**Supervisor of Women**

“Expanding Christ’s Kingdom thru strategic planning, investments, networking, proclamation and empowerment” ...Not by power, nor by might, but by spirit, saith the Lord of host.

Zechariah 4:6



## Southside Church of God In Christ

2179 Emerson Street • Jacksonville, FL 32207 • (904) 398-1625

**Bishop Edward Robinson, Sr. – Pastor**

**E-mail: [SSCOGIC@aol.com](mailto:SSCOGIC@aol.com)**

**Website: [Southsidecogic.com](http://Southsidecogic.com)**

***If in the area, please visit one of our affiliating churches.***

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855 Townsend Road  
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Carpenter’s House COGIC  
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Elder Wayne Milliner  
New Redeemed COGIC  
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Elder Robert Stanford  
Life Through The Word  
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West Palm Beach, FL  
(531) 889-2729

# Let It Shine, Let It Shine, Let It Shine

By Viola Walker  
Jacksonville, Florida

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven” – Matthew 5: 13 – 16*



Photo: FM Powell – *Roslyn (Auntie Roz) Burrough performing for Congresswoman Corrine Brown’s Computer Giveaway Program at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, FL.*

Roslyn Burrough has let her light shine all over the world. As Auntie Roz, as she has become known, she has delighted young and old alike with her singing and creative renditions of a whole menagerie of performances, shows and vignettes. Audiences from as far away as Japan and Korea and as close to home as New York City have listened to Auntie Roz break down language barriers and touch the hearts of so many with her music. In Japan and South Korea, she boldly performed the music of George Gershwin



Photo: James Alexander – *Roz and Debra Laws with Children backstage in Tokyo.*



Photo: James Alexander – *Roz with Dr. Sam Whan Kim, founder and senior pastor of Myungsung Presbyterian Church in Seoul, Korea (3rd largest church in the world).*

and Duke Ellington. Auntie Roz describes the experience of feeling and expressing the power of God in a language that you do not speak as a true blessing. Singing and worshipping at the Myungsung Presbyterian Church with its congregation of 70,000, 5 choirs with 5 to 6 hundred members each and its full orchestra left her thankful for the opportunity to be used as a vessel and translate through music the universal message of love and peace.

This past December, Auntie Roz joined the New York Harlem Singers to perform a concert of jazz, spirituals and Christmas music, which included her stunning rendition of Linda Twine’s arrangement of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*.

Locally, Auntie Roz uses her creativity and talent to educate and render her performances for various public service activities. She

has worked with Congresswoman Corrine Brown’s Community Book Club, which awards free computers to Jacksonville’s school age youths who read and summarized 25 books. Auntie Roz has made improving children’s learning and achieving possibilities her life’s work. She has formed relationships with children, parents, grandparents as well as school and community representatives.

The Auntie Roz Children’s Workshop, Inc. is the ongoing vehicle that enables her to reach and teach. This venture serves as the major umbrella under which she is able to produce informal learning programs. The Children’s Workshop has as its goal improving the quality of life for children and adults in the community by maximizing their potential through education, fostering cultural understanding, imparting an appreciation of the performing arts, and providing an awareness of historic contributions.

Our most popular component of the Children’s Workshop is The Auntie Roz Peanut Show. This theatrical production integrates music with reading, science and social studies to highlight George Washington Carver and his research with Peanuts. It is a fun-filled, participatory program that stimulates learning through song, movement, the spoken word, call & response and life applications.

March is National Peanut Month and The Auntie Roz Peanut Show will open the first week in March in Wales, United Kingdom. We are happy to announce that the Jacksonville performances will take place March 26-31 at Edward Waters College – Milne Auditorium and the FCCJ Downtown Campus on May 1.



Photo: Pat Taylor – *Roz with Jacob Manchester, Kelsey Coffey and Nutty McBuddy (National Peanut Board’s Mascot) at Plains, Georgia Peanut Festival.*

For more information and to secure seats, please contact Auntie Roz Children’s Workshop (904) 713 0885. [www.auntieroz.com](http://www.auntieroz.com)

# ELECT

**REV. DR. JAMES B. SAMPSON**  
**PRESIDENT, FLORIDA GENERAL**  
**BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.**



## LEADERSHIP THAT CAN BE TRUSTED!

### Strength, Structure, and Stability

*My proven leadership abilities in the areas of Evangelism, Christian Education, Foreign & Home Mission, Economic Empowerment, and Social Justice will provide our Convention with **STRENGTH, STRUCTURE and STABILITY** as we move into the 21st century.*

#### **Family:**

- Married October 25, 1980 to Sheila "Nelson" Sampson.
- One daughter, Jaime; three sons: Rev. James J. (Meia), Joel and Min. Alvin; three grandchildren.

#### **Ministry:**

- Called to Preach in 1979.
- Ordained as a Licensed Minister – March 25, 1986.
- March 15, 1986 to present – Pastor of First New Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

#### **Education:**

- 1977 – graduated, Stanton High School, Jacksonville, Florida.
- 1978-79 – attended FCCJ, Jacksonville, Florida.
- 1995 – completed Dale Carnegie Course, Dale Carnegie Association, Inc.
- 2000 – Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, Southern Baptist School for Biblical Studies.
- 2002 – graduated, Harvard Divinity School Leadership Summer Conference.

#### **Affiliations & Boards:**

- 1998 to Current – President of Baptist Ministers Conference of Duval and Adjacent Counties.
- Lifetime Membership – NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).
- Member of SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference).
- Founder and President of HOPE Inc. of Jacksonville.
- Founder and President of HOPE Town Production.
- President of Excel Consultants.
- National Board Member – AAMLC (African American Minister Leadership Council of America).
- Member of Board of Directors – Clara White Mission Center and Northwest Behavioral Services.
- Past 2nd Vice President and Director of Finance and Budget, Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc.
- Past Board Member – Shands Medical Center.
- Numerous other awards and accomplishments.

Sampson Leadership DELIVERS. As I survey the landscape of the Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. it has become vividly clear that it is time for a new direction. 1st Chronicles 12:32 states: "And the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." These are crucial times and God has given me an understanding of the times to know what must be done to bring direction and guidance to our convention.

During my tenure as 2nd Vice President (under the leadership of the Late Arthur Jackson, Jr.) God enabled me by the aid of the Holy Spirit to successfully create an operable budget, refinance and reduce the interest rate of our retreat site in Palatka, and construct a professional informative website.

I honor and solicit your prayers, support, and vote as we bring glory to our Heavenly Father through the Message, Mission and Mandate of the Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc.



***"Moving In A Positive Direction"***

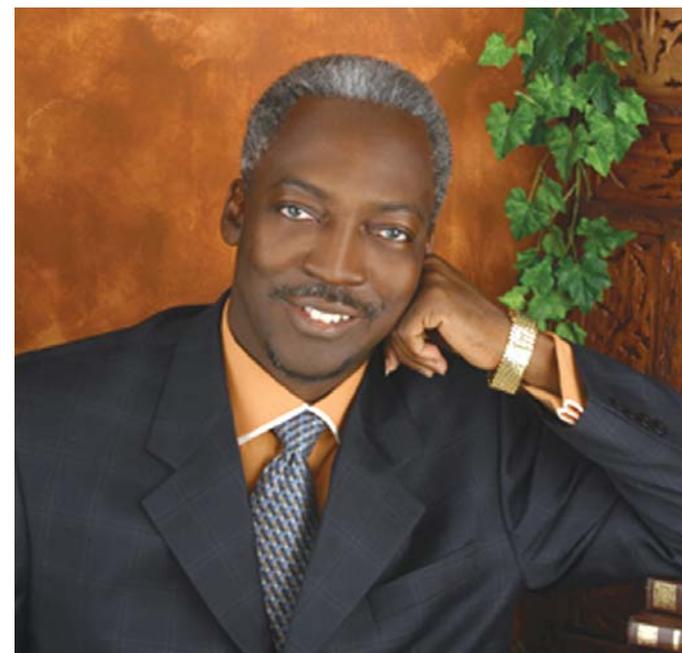
## PREPARING & POSITIONING

By Warren B. Jackson, Founder / Senior Pastor  
Rise Above It Family Church, Inc.  
Daytona Beach, Florida

In order to receive the miraculous in 2007 there is a preparation and a positioning that has taken place in the hearts and minds of many believers in Christ Jesus. The preparation period is sometimes long and frustrating. However, it is the very thing that is needed in order to receive or harvest the blessings. This is the time and year where we don't do our own thing, or think our own thoughts, we say as the Apostle Paul said after his visitation with the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, "Lord what would you have me to do?" (Acts 9:8). This action spoken out of our mouths places us in a 'favor' atmosphere, and a spirit of obedience which allows the God of Heaven to Show up and show Himself Strong on our behalf. It allows us to really see that we can do nothing of importance that has eternal value without having the Lord Jesus as our Compass and our Guide. He is what the church needs so desperately in this day.

You might say well, Pastor, How do I position myself or even prepare myself for what God desires for my life? Well, the first step would be to make the Word of God your focus and not the thing that you are believing for. It is disturbing to see the lack of Word being preached in our churches today or even the lack of real faith being displayed concerning individuals and their hearts toward God. You cannot move in the areas of where God wants to take you unless you are willing to put the Word of God **FIRST PLACE** in your life. Then that Word will become your life, and you will live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God and not from your physical senses. You must be willing to live by the Word daily, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you regarding your life. The Word will lead you and guide you into all righteousness and true holiness. King David in Psalm 119:105 states "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light on my path. So there is nothing that we can do without the Word. It is the safest and most effective place to hear God.

The **SECOND PLACE** is to obey or to be a doer of the Word and not just a hearer. Over in the Deuteronomy chapter 1:19 the Bible says "If you be willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land". So God is interested in you being



blessed and those blessing come out of an obedient heart. It means that we are willing to do and are willing to become all that God has for us. It does not mean a life without problems or upsets, instead, it means that I am willing to trust God in all of it. And that is usually the place that we don't want. We want the easy life but that is not always the case.

Obedience of course, takes us from the background and places us in the front. It allows our negative circumstances to change, it allows the heart of God to come forth in our lives. It allows the glory of God to come into our homes and not just in our "church" settings. It allows the past of our lives to be forgotten like a vapor because the heart of God begins to rule when we are obedient. We began to possess the mind of Christ, and walk in the newness of life that He intended for us to walk in. Obedience to the Lord is the Force that removes the negative and brings the positive and the right into our lives. It empowers us to go boldly to the throne of Grace and causes us to walk in Holy Ghost confidence whatever we face.

Jesus said, "If you love me, then you will do what I say." Isn't that something? So we know rather or not we love God based upon our obedience to Him. Then we can truly say that we are being led, driven, controlled, by the Spirit of God and then we know that we are His sons. That scripture alone allows us to know that everyone who comes to "church" does not belong to God. Because everybody doesn't allow himself to be led, driven, controlled by the Spirit of God. But we can if we submit to him.

In **THIRD PLACE**, The Word and Obedience. Reading the Word; Studying the Word; Meditating on the Word; Hearing the Word; Confessing the Word; and then Obeying the Word. All these things place us in a position and prepares us to be in place. Rather that is in the church, the marketplace, or home... God will begin to work in our lives and bring to fruition what he desires for our lives.

Don't miss out this year. Position yourself, Prepare yourself, and allow God to be all that He said He would be to you this year. This is the year of **RESTORATIVE MIRACLES**. God is willing and able to give back to you all that the enemy has stolen from you. Don't be discouraged, don't be dismayed, God will take care of you.

Lastly, if you don't have a church home. Ask God to show you where you need to attend and get in a **Bible Believing Church** A church that preaches and teaches the **Word of God** and admonishes you to bring your Bible and look into it. Eat it and drink and sleep it. We need to know the Word in these days. God Bless you this 2007!

# The New Man of Steel

George Battle has been a hard working man all his life. He combined his drive with purpose and direction down roads that have been least traveled. George started working in the steel industry as a pioneer, there was no Blacks employed at Buffalo Tank when he started in 1972 with the company that was founded in 1953. After three short years, George was promoted to management where he stayed until the company closed in 1992. He then was hired as the Assistant Plant Manager for Phoenix Products for 10 years until he purchased his very own plant.

Arc-Rite, located in Palatka, Florida was started in 2003 when George Battle purchased a 25 year old structural machine shop and turned it into a fabrication structural shop. Specializing in heavy and complicated steel fabrications pertaining to fuel tanks, water tanks, and waste water treatment systems, Arc-Rite has grown from first year receipts of \$400,000 - \$600,000 a year, to \$2.5 million last year, and now on track to do \$3 million this year.

“The steel industry can be a very lucrative career for Blacks. The doors are wide open, however few are lead through them. I think it is because of the fact that Florida is not a big steel producer as is some northern states and few of us know men in the industry,” George states. “Anyone inter-

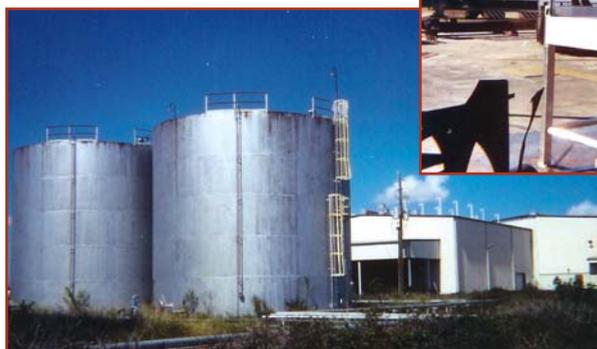


**GEORGE BATTLE**

ested in the steel industry and take a welding class at a junior college or trade school and earn \$20.00 an hour easily. I go the extra mile to encourage and hire more Black to become welders,” he adds.

George Battle may be the first Black owner of a steel company in the state of Florida, but it is not his first - first. Growing up in Jacksonville, he was one of the first Black Firemen at the first Black Fire Station. Challenged by the city that if they got a location and building, the city would supply the fire equipment, Mary Singleton donated the land and someone else a trailer, and George Battle along with Sinclair Wilcox, Grover Hagan, Captain Mackey, and Captain Gibson became Jacksonville’s first Black Firemen at the first Black Fire Station – Station 36.

“I have done nothing and cannot do anything without the blessings of the Lord. I am thankful that He has been blessing me,” George explains. Arc-Rite has grown to now be able to provide turn-key products from the design and engineering phase all the way up to the installation of the finished product. His customers expect and appreciate his quality work performed on all types of metals at competitive prices.



# Called Out From An Evil World

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

Greetings dear brothers and sisters of the faith! I have a message that I believe will not only bless you, but will encourage you to continue your walk of faith. When I first ministered this message it was approximately 15 years ago at the Duval County Jail. At the end of the message I held an altar call and there were many inmates that came forward for prayer. It really surprised me, in the fact that at the beginning of the service the inmates were trying to flex their muscle, if you know what I mean. Now, I do ask that you read the scriptures so that the message can be revealed to you as the Holy Spirit reveals Christ to you.

## Leviticus 18 (New Living Translation)

- 1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
  - 2 "Say this to your people, the Israelites: I, the LORD, am your God.
  - 3 So do not act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life.
  - 4 You must obey all my regulations and be careful to keep my laws, for I, the LORD, am your God.
  - 5 If you obey my laws and regulations, you will find life through them. I am the LORD.
- Now if you are not familiar with Leviticus 18, you are in for a treat. And the New Living translation makes it plain where we can all understand what God is saying. Before I discuss the main point coming from verse three, let's take a look at the rest of the chapter.
- 6 "You must never have sexual intercourse with a close relative, for I am the LORD.
  - 7 Do not violate your father by having sexual intercourse with your mother. She is your mother; you must never have intercourse with her.
  - 8 Do not have sexual intercourse with any of your father's wives, for this would violate your father.
  - 9 "Do not have sexual intercourse with your sister or half sister, whether she is your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she was brought up in the same family or somewhere else.
  - 10 "Do not have sexual intercourse with your granddaughter, whether your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter; that would violate you.
  - 11 Do not have sexual intercourse with the daughter of any of your father's wives; she is your half sister.
  - 12 Do not have intercourse with your aunt, your father's sister, because she is your father's close relative.
  - 13 Do not have sexual intercourse with your aunt, your mother's sister, because she is your mother's close relative.
  - 14 And do not violate your uncle, your father's brother, by having sexual intercourse with his wife; she also is your aunt.



15 Do not have sexual intercourse with your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife.

16 Do not have intercourse with your brother's wife; this would violate your brother.

17 "Do not have sexual intercourse with both a woman and her daughter or marry both a woman and her granddaughter, whether her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter. They are close relatives, and to do this would be a horrible wickedness.

18 "Do not marry a woman and her sister because they will be rivals. But if your wife dies, then it is all right to marry her sister.

19 "Do not violate a woman by having sexual intercourse with her during her period of menstrual impurity.

20 "Do not defile yourself by having sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife.

21 "Do not give any of your children as a sacrifice to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

22 "Do not practice homosexuality; it is a detestable sin.

23 "A man must never defile himself by having sexual intercourse with an animal, and a woman must never present herself to a male animal in order to have intercourse with it; this is a terrible perversion.

24 "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the people I am expelling from the Promised Land have defiled themselves.

25 As a result, the entire land has become defiled. That is why I am punishing the people who live there, and the land will soon vomit them out.

26 You must strictly obey all of my laws and regulations, and you must not do any of these detestable things. This applies both to you who are Israelites by birth and to the foreigners living among you.

27 "All these detestable activities are practiced by the people of the land where I am taking you, and the land has become defiled.

28 Do not give the land a reason to vomit you out for defiling it, as it will vomit out the people who live there now.

29 Whoever does any of these detestable things will be cut off from the community of Israel.

30 So be careful to obey my laws, and do not practice any of these detestable activities. Do not defile yourselves by doing any of them, for I, the LORD, am your God."

Okay, I know it was a bit much, but you must admit it was an interesting read. Okay let's revisit verse three one more time.

see LEON BING page 28

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## LEON BING continued from page 27

3 So do not act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life.

We see that God gives warning about acting like the people where they were coming from, and like the people where they are going to. I see God showing us that all of the world has this care free attitude about sexual relations, that the world has no limitation as to who they will lay with, even if it is family, the same sex, or animals. We know this to be true because here we are in the year 2007, and there is incest still going on. Men are sleeping with their children or any other relative that they can persuade or rape, homosexuality is already becoming acceptable everywhere we look. So then, what we see is that this is common place for those without God in their lives.

Now in Leviticus 18, God is calling for the Israelites to be separate from those of the world (the world as they knew it). But when we look at 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, we also see that God through the Apostle Paul is telling us the same thing, let's take a look:

14 Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can goodness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?

15 What harmony can there be between Christ and the Devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?

16 And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

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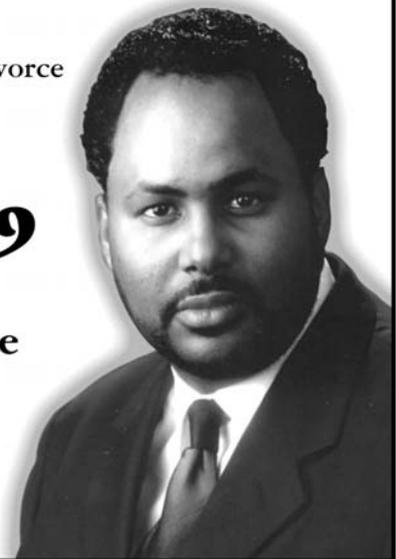
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17 Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. 18 And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." NLT

We are the church. The Greek word for church is ekklesia, "Called out ones." This let's us know that we cannot expect to fight this world about the way it chooses to live. We are the ones who have chosen to follow Christ, therefore we choose not to live like the world. Take a moment and look at this, we want to convince the government to stop the illicit sex that the media is forcing the world to see through various mediums. And at the same time government officials are being caught regularly in all sought of sexual misconducts. From local politicians all the way to the White House, men are being exposed.

Jesus tells us that His return will be as it was in the days of Noah. Well we should understand that the days of Noah were so bad that God was ready to kill every living creature on earth, all because the hearts of men were only evil continually. Well if things are going to get worst than they are today, Lord help us!

Finally, look at verse 27 and 30 and you will see the word practice, the world practices sin daily. It is hard for the church to live a holy lifestyle while we are in a sinful world. But if we choose to be separate from the world that means we must cleave to righteousness. It is not the world who has to change, but those who desire to follow Christ are the ones who must change. Many people are caught up trying to be morally good. God called us to total obedience - there is a difference!

May God bless you and your entire house, may He bless all that you set your hands to do!

# The Story of the Church of God in Christ

By Bishop Edward Robinson, Sr.  
Pastor, Southside Church of God in Christ

The Church of God in Christ is a church of the Lord Jesus Christ in which the word is preached, ordinances are administered and the doctrine of sanctification or holiness is emphasized and the doctrine of sanctification or holiness is emphasized as being essential to the salvation of mankind.

The church is commonly known as being Holiness or Pentecostal in nature because of the importance ascribed to the events which occurred on the Day of Pentecost, the 50th day after the Passover, or Easter as being necessary for all believers in Christ.

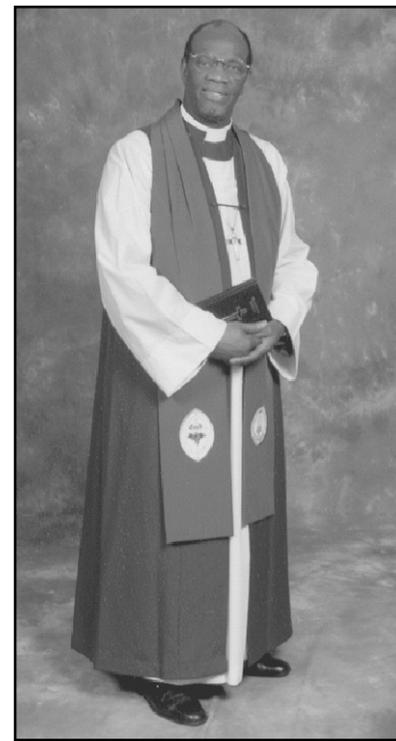
On the Day of Pentecost, the first day of the week, the Lord's Day, Supernatural manifestations descended in marvelous copiousness and power. The gift of the Spirit is the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus to clothe the 120 who waited in Jerusalem with power from on high (Acts 2:4).

COGIC is also considered to be a member of the great Protestant body though it did not directly evolve from the European or English reformation, but had its origin within the General Association of the Baptist Church.

Elder Charles Harrison Mason who later became the founder and organizer of the Church of God in Christ, was born September 8, 1866 on a prior farm near Memphis, Tennessee. His father and mother, Jerry and Eliza Mason, were members of a Missionary Baptist church, having been converted during the dark crisis of American Slavery.

In 1897, the name "The Church of God in Christ", was revealed to Elder Mason while he was walking along a certain street in Little Rock, Arkansas. The following supported his revelation:  
I Thessalonians 2:14.

The turning point in Elder Mason's life came in March 1907. He journeyed to Los Angeles, California, to attend a great Pentecostal revival with Elder D.J. Jeter. Elder W.J. Seymour was preaching concerning Luke 24:49. Elder Mason became convinced that it was essential for him to experience the outpouring of the Holy Ghost.



**Bishop Edward Robinson, Sr.**  
**Florida Central Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction**

Upon his return home to Memphis, he began to proclaim to others about his new Pentecostal experience. A division, subsequently, became evident within the ranks of Elder Mason's contemporaries. Elder J.A. Jeter, the General Overseer, Elder C.P. Jones, and others regarded the new Holy Ghost experience of speaking in tongues as a delusion. Being unable to resolve their difference in doctrine, the General Assembly terminated by withdrawing the "right hand" of fellowship from C.H. Mason.

Elder Mason then called a conference in Memphis, Tennessee of all ministers who believed in receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:1-4. Those who responded to Elder Mason's urgent call were E.R. Driver, J. Bowe, R.R. Booker, R.E. Hart, W. Welsh, A.A. Blackwell, E.M.

Page, R.H.I. Clark, D.J. Young, James Brower, Daniel Spearman, and J.H. Boone. These men organized the First Pentecostal General Assembly of the "Church of God in Christ", Overseer C.H. Mason was then chosen unanimously as the General Overseer and Chief Apostle of the denomination.

Bishop C.H. Mason's demise was November 17, 1961 at the age of 95. After the death of the founder, the Bishop J.O. Patterson became the first elected presiding Bishop in the Church of God in Christ. During the period prior to Bishop J.O. Patterson election, Bishop O.T. Jones, Sr. served as Bishop Mason's successor. The remaining successors included; Bishop L.H. Ford, Bishop Chandler D. Owens, and the current presiding Bishop, Gilbert Earl. Patterson.

## The Church of God in Christ

### Florida Central Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

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March 13-16, 2007

Florida Central Second Jurisdiction announces its 2007 Spring Conference. Commemorating the Church of God in Christ centennial, this year's theme: Celebrating A Glorious Past; Embracing a Promising Future.

This year's conference will focus on such topics as:

- Networking development
- Empowerment
- Enlightenment

There must be a deliberate effort put forth in revisiting the church's traditional teachings and methods. Implementations of these basic principles are vital to the church's future success.

One challenge that faces the church today is, maintaining it's foundational principle in a changing culture. As believers we must be true to the faith of the bible, a faith that is founded upon the inspiration and revelation of Christ's apostle and prophets.

Spring Conference 2007 is a welcome opportunity for everyone to participate in fellowship, worship and enrichment.

## Conference Highlights

**Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>** Youth Explosion  
Celebrating our Future

**Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>** Women's Day Celebration  
9:00 a.m. Daughters of Destiny  
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Speaker: Mother Mildred Eason  
Jurisdiction Supervisor of Women

**Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>** Pastor Timothy Wright  
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**Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>** Official Night  
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The Church of God in Christ has continuously ranked as America's fastest growing denomination every year since 1982 (Maxwell, 1996, pg 22). It has consistently maintained an average gain of 600 congregations and 200,000 new members per year. Today, it is America's fifth largest denomination.

# The Power of One Positive **WORD**

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

**Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down.**

It took the remainder of the class period to finish the assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

**That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.**

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. “Really?” she heard whispered “I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!” and, “I didn’t know others liked me so much.” were most of the comments.

**No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn’t matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.**

A few years later, one of the students was killed in Iraq and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

**The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.**

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pall bearer came up to her. “Were you Mark’s math teacher?” he asked. She nodded: “yes.” Then he said: “Mark talked about you a lot.”

**After the funeral, most of Mark’s former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark’s mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.**

“We want to show you something,” his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. “They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.”

**Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark’s classmates had said about him.**

“Thank you so much for doing that,” Mark’s mother said. “As you can see, Mark treasured it.”

**All of Mark’s former classmates started to gather around.**

**Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, “I still have my list.**

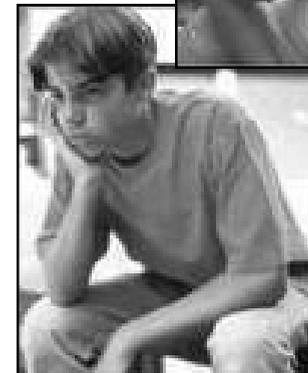
**It’s in the top drawer of my desk at home.”**

Chuck’s wife said, “Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.”

**“I have mine too,” Marilyn said. “It’s in my diary.”**

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group “I carry this with me at all times,” Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: “I think we all saved our lists.”

**That’s when the teacher finally realized the magnitude of that little assignment, one simple day, to a small small group of students that needed to know they are valued.**



# Culture of Failure

## The Lack of a Methodology Leadership.

By Doc Scott  
Jacksonville, Florida

Culture of Failure; African American Leadership stuck on stupidity, self-indulgence, materialism, mistrust and bribery is undermining African Americans equality, family stability and prosperity in America.

In 2 Timothy, Chapter 3, we find - The dangers of the last days:

*1 You may be quite sure that in the last days there will be some difficult times. 2 People will be self-centered and avaricious, boastful, arrogant and rude; disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious; 3 heartless and intractable; they will be slanderers, profligates, savages and enemies of everything that is good; 4 they will be treacherous and reckless and demented by pride, preferring their own pleasure to God. 5 They will keep up the outward appearance of religion but will have rejected the inner power of it. Keep away from people like that. 6 Of the same kind, too, are those men who insinuate themselves into families in order to get influence over silly women who are obsessed with their sins and follow one craze after another, 7 always seeking learning, but unable ever to come to knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres defied Moses, \*[In Jewish tradition (but not the Bible) the leaders of the Egyptian magicians, cf. Ex 7:11] so these men defy the truth, their minds corrupt and their faith spurious. 9 But they will not be able to go on much longer: their folly, like that of the other two, must become obvious to everybody.*

African American Leaderships are leading African Americans at large over the edge of the cliff of mis-education and mis-direction into the abyss of failure with there eyes wide open.

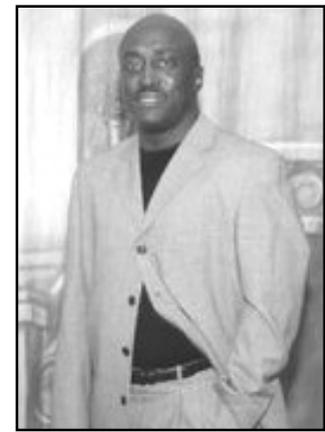
I attended the "Martin L. King III Tour of Poverty" Luncheon (Realizing the Dream, Inc, The charity overseen by Martin Luther King III, eldest son of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and co-founded by former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young)

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Doc Scott

another study of African Americans continue failure to understand that equality and generation prosperity is about re-investing in self not handouts from the government or white supremacist's.

"History shows that it does not matter who is in power... those who have not learned to do for themselves and have to depend solely on others never obtain any more rights or privileges in the end than they did in the beginning." — Dr. Carter G. Woodson

What disappointing to the few intellectual African Americans and me in this city is the fact that if MLK III really want to know about poverty he should just cruise through inner city Atlanta. At the luncheon numerous African American leaders were presents from Congresswoman Corrine Brown, State Representative Audrey Gibson and Tony Hill, the Mayor, School Board Members, and Council Members. The elite groups were there but no strategic plan of action with timelines especially from MLK III or the African Americans community. The hustle game continue with the top ten problems list left on the wall. I never seen anyone collect the top ten list left on the wall. The Top Ten list still on the wall from the March for Life "Stop the Violence" coalition. "The most important lesson learned from the totality of conversation, was the awesome absence of coherence in current Black politics and leadership."

Roland G. Fryer Jr. is 27 years old and he is an assistant professor of economics at Harvard, and he is black. So here is Fryer's final anomaly: he is a man who revels in his blackness and yet also says he believes, as Du Bois believed, that black underachievement cannot entirely be laid at the feet of discrimination. Fryer has a huge appetite for advocacy but a far larger appetite for science, and as a scientist he won't exclude any possibilities, including black behaviors, from the menu of factors that contribute to the black condition.

"Black Leaders...or Leading Blacks?" "Accountability is precisely what much of so-called Black leadership rejects." An indictment of a 'Black leadership' that lost its moorings when the Black movement was allowed to atrophy - a failure of epic proportions."

It's a shame that we continue to let people play with our heads. Black folks studying Black folks give me a break. I can't believe that the intellectual or assume intellectual African Americans in Jacksonville perpetuated this insanity. The roadmap to decreasing poverty for African Americans in this city, the nation, and the world consists of these four components:

1. A Family Building Consciousness ( Church and the Community)
2. Proactive Education (Thinking and Problem Solving Skills)
3. Wealth Building by Controlling Consumption
4. Health Prevention (Health Symposium – Quarterly)

We (African Americans) have the resources to decrease poverty by 30 percent within five years in the African American community. The Roadmap is the solution for African Americans in this city and the country.

# CANCER & AFRICAN AMERICANS

## How Can We Avoid Being The Next Victim?

By Makeisha Lee, Health and Nutrition Consultant  
[www.CleanseFormula.com](http://www.CleanseFormula.com) and  
[www.GuideToCleansing.com](http://www.GuideToCleansing.com)

According to surveys conducted by health professionals who work with the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer (sponsored by the Morehouse School of Medicine and the National Cancer Institute), many African Americans are not even aware of the major warning signs of cancer, thus making them more likely to die from it.

In addition to this, they are less likely to participate in screening programs capable of detecting early curable cancers. For instance, fewer black women - as compared with white women - have an annual pap smear, and as a result more black women die of cervical cancer than whites.

So we know the statistics in respects to how cancer disproportionately affects our community, but what can we do to avoid it in the first place?

Here's one very important precautionary measure to take: Many of us are wholly unaware that there are, in fact, cancer inducing toxins right in our homes found in common products we use daily. Certain cosmetics, soaps, shampoos, bubble baths, lotions, dish-washing detergent and more contain ingredients that are cancer-causing. An example of one such ingredient is DEA or diethanolamine which is found in over 600 home and personal care products. It is only one of an estimated 125 ingredients proven to cause cancer.

Dr. Samuel Epstein, author of The Safe Shopper's Bible, and the founder of the American Coalition to Prevent Cancer, is considered to be the world's leading authority on toxicology. He believes that DEA categorically causes cancer.

Consider this: propylene glycol is the main ingredient in antifreeze, but if you were to go thru your cabinets and look at your toothpaste, underarm deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotions, soaps, there you may find propylene glycol and another ingredient called sodium lauryl sulfate. You will find it in baby wipes which is why children are getting cancer at a higher rate than ever before.

In addition to causing cancer, propylene glycol also causes dermatitis, kidney damage and liver abnormalities. The major factor is that it doesn't leave your body; it just stays in the tissues and continues to build up, causing more and more damage down the road.

Sodium lauryl sulfate has the same effect on staying in the body. Not only that, it can change the genetic structure of the cell, therefore inducing mutations of the cells. This is a toxic substance that irritates the skin, damages the immune system, and impairs ability for hair to grow. Yet, you find it in foods you eat, lotions, soaps and deodorants, etc.

This is why we are sick at astounding rates! We are putting more poisons in our body than ever before in history. We must avoid these chemicals as much as possible. These problems will come as a result of continuously applying these on our skin, and being constantly absorbed into our bodies. We have to think of the long term with a focus on prevention of cancer and other serious health conditions.

So if you want to be healthy and avoid being the next person with some form of cancer, you must clean these toxins from your body and be more conscious of purchasing products that do not contain harmful chemicals. Read your labels as there are a variety of products sold in health food stores that have "no lauryl sulfates". Remember the skin is the largest organ of the body, and you are what you eat!

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

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Response To:

# Let's Put an End to Black History Month

By Esther M Simmons  
Daytona Beach, Florida

I am writing to address a concern of people who feel Black History Month is not fair or needed in America. I agree. It should not be celebrated for one month because it should have always been part of American History. Afro American are just as much a part of America's History as all races. It is sad that we ( USA) have not got it together in all this time. We still have those who are either jealous hearted, immature or uninformed . These people feel a need to protest something good for our country Black History Month.

Could it be America need to make amends to a race of people who were long abused , misused and overlooked? It can only be good for a nation to remember its past so as never to make the same mistakes again. No race should have had to endure the hardships of the black man in America. It should be painful for all races to remember what happen then. Psychologist tell us it is good to look at ones past history never forgetting how we hold a status as being the Beautiful for Spacious Clouds. Or how we Stand as One Nation under God with Liberty and Justice for all. Yes our History in America should just be called American History.



**Esther M. Simmons**

There were no studies in history about Afro Americans referred to than as Negro Americans. I did not learn of great Americans until after leaving High School. The first time I learned of great people such as Dr. Mary Bethune, Ms Harriet Tubman, Mr. McCoy, Dr. Drew etc., made me sad and glad all at the same time. Perhaps people who think Afro American History should not be celebrated need to learn about America's whole history before they complain about any celebration in honor of a country and its people. It is time that we in America stand as one nation under God.

I write in agreement with the people who say they do not want to be made to have their children write special reports during February (Black history month). Yes we should celebrate history every month with reports being part of the curriculum for all students at any given grade level. Make sure we are all included black, yellow, red, brown , tan, olive, pink and white people.

I am in 50 plus. I grew up in Milwaukee Wisconsin, attended public school.



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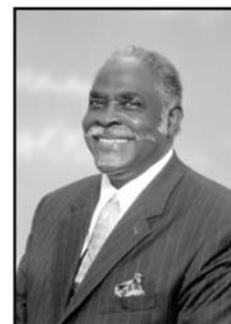
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*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Psalm 121*

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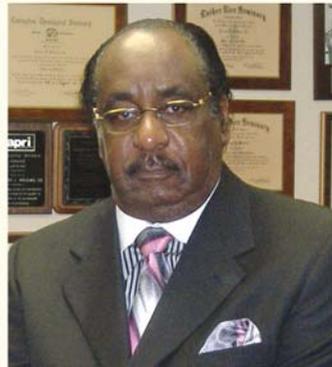
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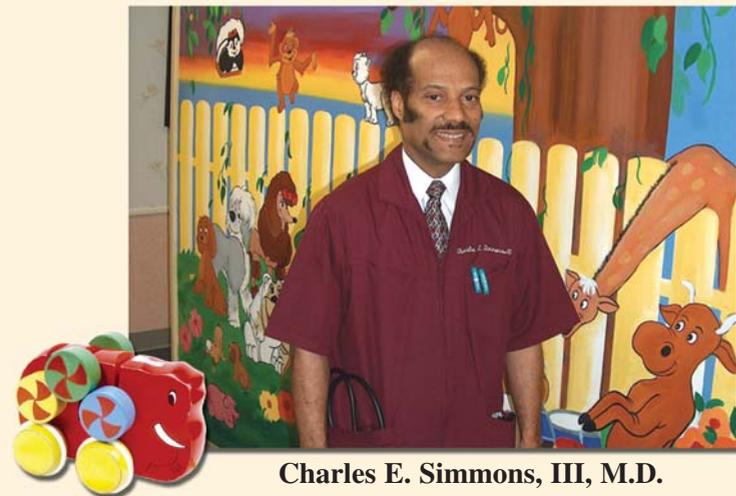


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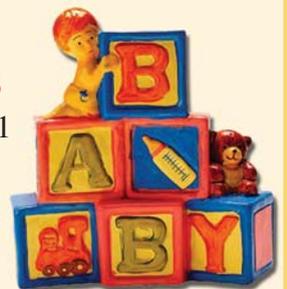
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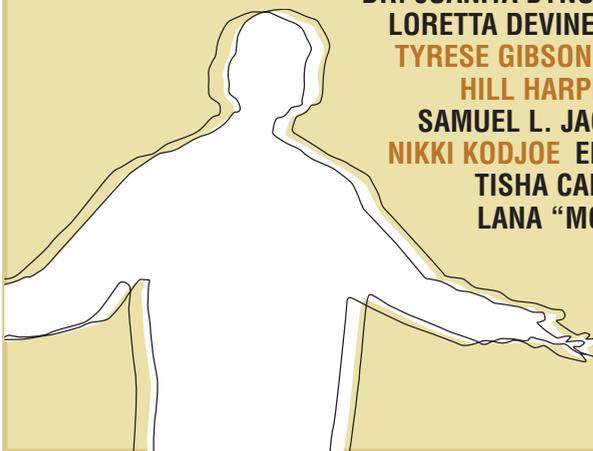
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# Kulcha Gospel Korner



**Lisa Canton, President  
Kulcha Gospel, International**

## GOSPEL EVENTS

### JAMAICAN HOLY GHOST PARTY

*Caribbean Gospel Feast 2006*, which was held on Dec. 16th in Ft Myers, FL, and on Dec. 17th in Royal Palm Beach, FL, was produced by Rosemarie Mitchell's, Caribbean Gospel Alliance & Good Vibes Productions. This event featured ex-secular Jamaican Dancehall megastars turned born again Music Ministers of the Gospel such as: *Stitchie, Shelly Thunder, Dobby Dobson, Minister Howard Reynolds* aka "Goddy Goddy", and *Dr. Norris Weir*; also ministering in song were *Joan Myers* (ex-member of the *Grace Thrillers*) who blessed this event with her Evangelical ministering, *Kerron Ennis* (2006 Marlin Award winner), *Frankyemae Daley* and *Wingy Danejah* (2006 Marlin Nominees). Also spotlighted was a new "Gospel Defender" named *Matthew Goldin*. Ministry Through Anointed Music (MTAM) Productions kicked off this Holy Ghost Party! Yours truly served as co-host of both events; (Dec.



**Left to Right: Joan Myers, Stitchie, Minister Shelly Thunder, Minister Goddy Goddy, Dobby Dobson, & Dr. Norris Weir**

*Photo Courtesy of KULCHA GOSPEL*

16th hosted with *Hopeton Fox*; and Dec. 17th hosted with *Princess K*, radio host for "Mystik Radio" WFLR 1400AM, Fort Lauderdale) this event brought forth the anointing of God and salvation to souls!

### GOSPEL MUSIC SYMPOSIUM IN THE BAHAMAS

"Bridging the Gap Globally" a gospel music industry symposium will be held in Grand Bahama

Island, Bahamas, in March 21-24, 2007. Under the theme, "Bridging the Gap Globally", this gathering aims to establish a platform for gospel music promoters, producers, record label representatives and artists to discuss leading issues in gospel music.

Among this year's workshop topics:

- **Taking The Leap of Faith: Launching A Career in Gospel Music**
- **Overcoming the Issues of Piracy**
- **How to Effectively Produce and Promote Gospel Music Products**
- **Keys to Successful Music Distribution**
- **Reaching Your Target Audience**
- **Quality vs. Quantity**

Confirmed panelists include: *Gerard Placide*, JAVAN Music Productions; *Vernice Watson*, President, The Artist Company; *Al Hobbs*, Promoter; *Fred Ferguson*, BMOT; *Veda Brown*, Black Gospel Promo; *Derek Stubbs*, Promoter; *Kevin Harris*, CEO of the Marlin Awards, *Lisa Canton*, KULCHA GOSPEL, and many more.

praised with me vigorously to my absolute amazement and surprise! Truthfully, I thought they would



**On a ship to Seoul, Korea, Osmond Collins teaches the Korean Saints a cool Reggae Gospel Skank!**

*Photo Courtesy of Osmond Collins Ministries*

## MISSION EVENTS

### MISSIONS EVENT TURNS INTO REGGAE GOSPEL EVENT IN SOUTH KOREA

In January 2007, Caribbean Gospel Artist *Osmond Collins* journeyed to South Korea for a *Prayer March of Unity* between North & South Korea. This event was coordinated by U.S. based *Bright Morning Star Ministry* and South Korean based *Huing Song United Methodist Church* was one of the several Korean ministries that hosted Minister Collins.

**COLLINS:** "I appreciated that these new friends are non-English speakers and they tried so hard to communicate with me in English. It made me understand that it is not easy to receive music outside of your own language and I was so blessed when the people responded positively to my songs. They danced and



**Collins standing among the Korean Missionaries & Prayer Warriors!**

*Photo Courtesy of Osmond Collins Ministries*

reject Osmond Collins music. Who would think that people from Korea would want to listen to reggae gospel? Boy was I wrong! When I went up, I was to sing one song. Instead the sound of "encore, encore, encore!" was all I heard after I sang Walk The Walk and, well, the rest was history. My effort now is, with



**Collins ministering in Korea.**

*Photo Courtesy of Osmond Collins Ministries*

see **KULCHA GOSPEL** page 40



**Shewanda Riley**

# Loving In The Red Zone

## Follow the Right Arrow

By Shewanda Riley

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. – Galatians 6:1*

A few weeks ago, I was talking with fellow author Michelle Stimpson about how we Christians fail to respond when we see others struggling with character issues. We agreed that so many Christians see friends, co-workers and loved ones struggling with “sins” but choose not to do anything to get the person back on the right path.

As we continued talking about it, she shared how an experience she had at the gym illustrated an intriguing aspect of human nature. At her gym, the walking track changes signs every so often. This means that even though you may go on Monday and the arrow is pointing left, if you return on Friday, the arrow is now facing the opposite direction. Not really sure why the gym does it, but it’s their policy. Because some people are so used to the arrow being in one direction, they follow that same path out of habit...and without realizing that it is wrong.

She stated that some people are clearly on the wrong path. “The arrow on the wall always tells which way to go but, inevitably, the new members never know which way to go. People just let them keep on going the wrong way even though it might mean they’ll collide with runners on the track as they round the corners with limited visibility.” Stimpson added, “I think that it’s my responsibility to let them know where to look for the direction while many others simply let them keep going the wrong way for several times around the track (looking like oddballs and endangering us all!) instead of stepping in to help.”

I thought her story was so powerful because we often let others continue with unhealthy behaviors and attitudes knowing that they are headed in the wrong direction. We know that they aren’t thinking and acting right... and can potentially hurt themselves and others through their actions. Sometimes it’s out of jealousy that we say nothing because we secretly want them to fail. In other instances, we choose

not to say anything because we may be struggling with the same issue ourselves. We are secretly hoping that our “stuff” doesn’t come out to embarrass us.

It’s not about judging anyone for their wrong doing. However, God’s word does ask us to gently correct and at the same time show kindness to others. How do you do that? Ephesians 4:15-16 says, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”

*Shewanda Riley is the author of the Essence best-seller “Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose after a Relationship ends.” She can be reached at [lovehangover@juno.com](mailto:lovehangover@juno.com) or [www.shewandariley.com](http://www.shewandariley.com).*



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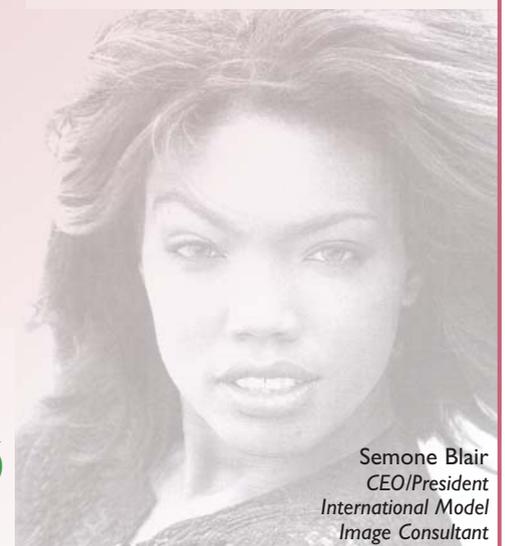
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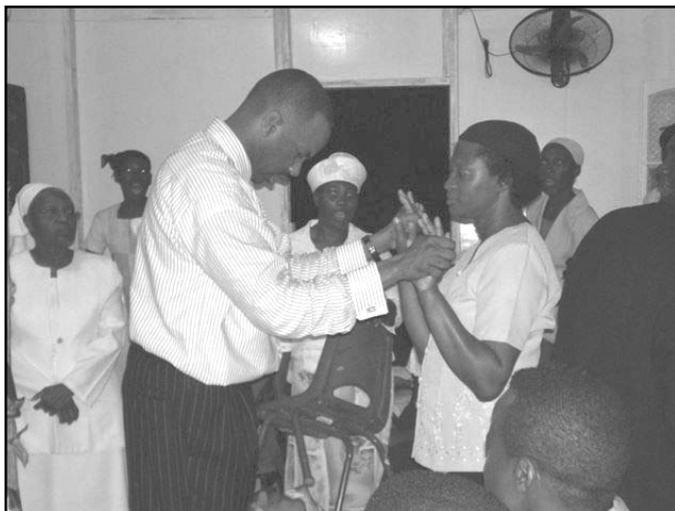
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### KULCHA GOSPEL continued from page 38

God's help, to translate the songs for this new found audience so they can truly appreciate the songs that the Lord breathed into my spirit to sing. The main purpose of my journey ironically was not to sing songs yet it turned out that God opened that door wide. I had gone to join two missionaries and multiple churches across the nation to do a prayer march from the tip of the country all the way up to the border of North and South Korea. Our purpose was to unite the country and to pray for peace because of the threatening bomb by the North Korean President. One of the most memorable moments for me on this mission event was while we were at the border, we prayed for peace with South Korean soldiers because many of them get killed at the border by the North Korean army. We are confident that our prayers are not for nothing and we shall see results! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

### GIVING THE DEVIL A BLACK EYE IN MONTEGO BAY



**Pastor Carroll praying for the infilling of the Holy Ghost in Montego Bay, Jamaica.** *Photo Courtesy of New Creations Deliverance Ministries Inc.*

Pastor Charles Carroll, Senior Pastor of New Creations Deliverance Ministries Inc., Glen Burnie, MD, 21061, traveled in December to Jamaica for a missions event assisting District Elder Vincent McKenzie, at the Flower Hill Bibleway Church and the Spot Valley Bibleway Church, Montego Bay, Jamaica. Pastor Carroll states "In the picture below, I am praying for this young lady to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. We were touching and agreeing for divine favor for her & her family! The meeting was standing room only, people walked for miles to get to this meeting, and the attendance was over 150 to 200 people every night! God supernaturally moved in a very special way and many souls were healed and set free from bondage!"

*For more info on all events listed above send an email to [kulchagospel@hotmail.com](mailto:kulchagospel@hotmail.com)*

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# VIRGINIA APOLOGIZES FOR SLAVERY, NOW CONGRESS SHOULD TOO

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson  
Guest Columnist

When Ohio Congressman Tony Hall introduced two resolutions in 1997 and 2000 asking Congress to officially apologize for slavery, he was blasted from pillar to post. Irate whites called the resolution wasteful and racist. Many blacks ridiculed it as much too little and much too late. But the slavery issue refused to go away. Virginia is the latest to deal with it when both houses unanimously passed a resolution apologizing for slavery. The resolution was mild, innocuous, and ultimately toothless, but at least it acknowledged the monstrous wrong of slavery.

Now Congress should follow Virginia's lead and apologize for slavery. And it's not just a matter of doing the morally right thing. The U.S. government not just a handful of evil Southern planters encoded slavery in the Constitution, and protected and nourished it for a century. Traders, insurance companies, bankers, shippers, and landowners, made billions off of it. Their ill-gotten profits fueled America's industrial and agricultural might. For decades after slavery's end, white trade unions excluded blacks and confined them to the dirtiest, poorest paying jobs.

While it's true that many whites and non-white immigrants came to America after the Civil War they were not subjected to the decades of relentless racial terror and legal segregation, as were blacks. Through the decades of slavery and Jim Crow segregation, African-Americans were transformed into the poster group for racial deviancy. The image of blacks as lazy, crime and violence prone, irresponsible, and sexual predators has stoked white fears and hostility and served as the standard rationale for more than 4,000 documented lynchings, as well as the countless racial assaults, and acts of hate crime violence.

Though some blacks earn more and live better than ever today, and have gotten boosts from welfare, social and education programs, civil rights legislation, and affirmative action programs, that does not mean that America has shaken the hideous legacy of slavery. The Urban League in its annual State of Black America reports yearly finds that young blacks are far likelier than whites to be imprisoned, serve longer terms, and are more likely to receive the death penalty even when their crimes are similar.

Blacks continue to have the highest rates of poverty, infant mortality, violence victimization rates, and health care disparities than any other group in America. They are still more likely to live in segregated neighborhoods, be refused business and home loans, their children attend failed public schools than any other group, and are more likely to be racially profiled on America's urban streets.

Also, there is nothing new about state and federal governments issuing apologies and payments for past wrongs committed against African-Americans. The U.S. government admitted it was legally liable in 1997 to pay the black survivors and family members of the two-decade long syphilis experiment begun in the 1930's by the U.S. Public Health



Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Service that turned black patients into human guinea pigs. The survivors got \$10 million from the government and an apology from President Clinton. They were the victims of a blatant medical atrocity conducted with the full knowledge and approval of the U.S. government.

The state legislature in Florida in 1994 agreed to make payments to the survivors and relatives of those who lost their lives and property when a white mob destroyed the all-black town of Rosewood in 1923. This was a specific act of mob carnage that was tacitly condoned by some public officials and law enforcement officers. Florida was liable for the violence and was duty bound to apologize and pay. The Oklahoma state legislature has agreed at least in principle that reparations and apology should be made to the survivors of the dozens of blacks killed, and the hundreds more that had their homes and businesses destroyed by white mobs with the com-

plicity of law enforcement in the Tulsa massacre of 1921. There's even a bill by Michigan Congressman John Conyers that has kicked around Congress since 1989 would establish a commission to study the impact of slavery and the feasibility of paying reparations to blacks.

The ugly truth is that a mainstay of America's continuing racial divide is its harsh and continuing mistreatment of poor blacks. This can be directly traced to the persistent and pernicious legacy of slavery. Virginia took a light stab at confronting the state's hideous racial past. Congress should do even better by apologizing for slavery, and putting teeth behind the apology by passing the Conyers bill. If the commission deems that more needs to be done to help end discrimination and black poverty that's a byproduct of the legacy of slavery, it should do that too. Virginia did the right thing on this too. It created a scholarship fund for blacks whose schools were closed during the state's massive resistance campaign to integration from the mid 1950s to the mid 1960s. But it all starts with the apology. If Virginia can apologize so should Congress.

BlackNews.com columnist Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a political analyst and social issues commentator, and the author of *The Emerging Black GOP Majority* (Middle Passage Press, September 2006), a hard-hitting look at Bush and The GOP's court of black voters. For order information, see [www.blackgopbook.com](http://www.blackgopbook.com)



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## PROCRASTINATION KILLS AFRICAN AMERICAN DREAMS

By Dante Lee  
[www.HowToThinkBig.com](http://www.HowToThinkBig.com)

It seems like every Black person I know is always talking about their business ideas. Six months will pass, and they're still talking. A year goes by, and...nothing! Being 25 years old and the CEO of a successful company, people are always asking me what my secret is. My answer is always the same - "I don't procrastinate."

Why do people procrastinate though? Is it because we're lazy? Not necessarily. The truth is, most people procrastinate because they are too busy. They are too occupied with other matters, that may or may not be important. Either way, they just can't seem to make time to pursue their goals. Well, pursuing your goals is not easy because you may be working on it for years before you reap the results. However, the idea is to be progressive.

If you want to start a business and you are a very busy (or lazy) person, you need to put in just a little bit of work each day. This is better than doing nothing at all. By steadily moving forward, no matter how slow, you will eventually get things accomplished. Remember that time goes on with or without you. If you spend 5 years doing a little at a time, imagine what you will have accomplished.

For those who are thinking that 5 years is a long time, consider a college graduate. Most college graduates work hard for 4-5 years before they reap any results. By taking just a few classes at a time, they put in a little bit of work each day - which inches them closer to their goal. Eventually, they reach that goal!

**Here are some helpful tips on how to avoid habits that lead to procrastination:**

- 1) Write your goals down on paper.
- 2) Outline your goals and checkpoints on a calendar, and stick to it.
- 3) Learn to feel guilty when you tell others about your goals, but do nothing about them.
- 4) Be patient about your goals (many give up after just 1-2 months)
- 5) Learn to stop complaining. Use that same energy and time to pursue your goals.
- 6) Measure your progress (even if its small), so that you can be inspired to keep going.

Dante Lee is the 25-year old African-American CEO and president of Diversity City Media, a multicultural marketing and public relations firm. He is also the author of "How To Think Big...When You're Small". For more details, visit [www.howtothinkbig.com](http://www.howtothinkbig.com)

# Suffering God

## Quotations to stir heart and mind.

**HE WAS DESPISED** and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity. ... Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

*Isaiah 53:3-5 (NRSV)*

**THERE IS GOOD** biblical evidence that God not only suffered in Christ, but that God in Christ suffers with his people still. ... It is wonderful that we may share in Christ's sufferings; it is more wonderful still that he shares in ours.

*John R. W. Stott, The Cross of Christ*

**HAS NOT GOD** in Jesus Christ become radically open to the life of the world and become vulnerable to human sin and suffering? In the light of the gospel story, God is not impassible, but passionate, suffering love. If God is love, then receptivity, vulnerability, and suffering are not strange to God's being. God is free to love and thus free to experience the suffering of the world.

*Daniel L. Migliore, The Power of God*

**UNLESS GOD** is on the balance and throws his weight as a counterbalance, we shall sink to the bottom of the scale. If it is not true that God died for us, but only a man died, we are lost. But if God's death and God lie dead in the opposite scale, then his side goes down and we go upward like a light or empty pan. But he could not have sat in the pan unless he became a man like us, so that it could be said: God dead, God's passion, God's blood, God's death.

*Martin Luther, quoted in the Formula of Concord*

IT IS A GOOD THING to learn early that God and suffering are not opposites but rather one and the same thing and necessarily so; for me, the idea that God himself suffers is far and away the most convincing piece of Christian doctrine.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison*

**GOD** not only participates in our suffering, but also makes our suffering into his own and takes death into his life.

*Jurgen Moltmann, in Theology Today*

**A THEOLOGY** that embraces the idea that God cannot suffer has to answer the question: Can God love? Abraham Heschel rightly said that the essence of Hebraic prophetic faith is that God takes the people of his covenantal love so seriously that he suffers for their actions.

*Dennis Ngien, in Christianity Today*

**GRANT, O LORD,** that in your wounds I may find my safety, in your stripes my cure, in your pain my peace, in your Cross my victory, in your Resurrection my triumph, and a crown of righteousness in the glories of your eternal kingdom.

*Jeremy Taylor, The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*

# Cell Phones

By Ruth Johnson Ward  
Orange County School Educator  
Orlando, Florida

I cannot believe how Americans have made it in our society today before cell phones? The addiction of having that small metal or plastic device stuck out the side of the ear is purely epidemic. This epidemic is so wide spread that it has attached itself from the youngest to the oldest in our society. This epidemic is so powerful that it is the greatest enabler for dysfunctions, abuse, distraction, and laziness.

Bell himself designed the telephone simple enough to use but, modern technology has taken ring tones to a new level. Customers can now customize the ring tones to any song, sound and beep, which is one of the most appealing factors for new users.

Kids today have been empowered by their parents to have at their disposal a telephone that beeps bongs and gongs too early in life. These kids cannot even remember to grab their homework off the table, or even bring pencil and paper to school. These are basic tools that are used everyday in a classroom yet, many of them come to school unprepared. There is no excuse for children to come to school without the necessary tools.

Let us keep in mind that this is a new Millennium of children, who feel that they are just as important as their instructors. This cycle



Ruth Johnson Ward

starts as early as first grade no paper, no pencil and school has just begun for them. There are children as early as first grade now have the privilege of

having their on personal cell phone in school, which should be unacceptable. These kids have the privilege of using a device that offers them more rewards than they have earned.

First, they haven't had the chance to prove themselves as being responsible enough to not lose their lunch money. Being a child in today's society is difficult enough besides being introduce to a totally new environment. Everybody and everything is new and different, and that in itself is an adjustment. Learning how to play and interact with new people, who are different than themselves, takes time. Often this measurement of growth and development takes the entire school year. Having another distraction such as, a cell phone makes it a very difficult task for a teacher.

The new Millennium kids know their cell phone numbers before they know their home address, and date of birth. Important information as this is often left up to the teachers to teach a child that carries a cell phone. As young as they are it is difficult enough without the additional challenges parents sometimes overlook.

Secondly, getting up early in the mornings is difficult enough, but besides getting dressed remembering to grab the cell phone off the charger. Now that they have the most important element for today's task off they go. As they walk on there merry way they are talking on the phones; totally absorbed in conversation all the way to the schools front door. This is really amazing because, that friend sits in the row next to them in class.

What's even worse about this situation; if you were to ask them to spell the word "cell phone" many of them would not even know how.

Granted we live in a world of changing times, and technology provides better methods of communication more interesting and faster. We as people need to give our children time to be a child, allow them to grow up first, and teach them that they don't need to be as fast as technology. Instead, they should be taught that they are "technology".

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# NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND HAS FLUNKED

New Haven, CT (BlackNews.com) - The Commission on No Child Left Behind does not tell America what it really needs to know: Is the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) working? If it isn't working, will it succeed by the 2014 deadline? The answers to both of these questions, unfortunately, are no.

Beyond NCLB, the title of the Commission's report issued last month, would be more accurately titled Bolstering NCLB. The report is a defense of the Act against its critics. It is filled with anecdotes about NCLB success stories, and its recommendations are structured within—not beyond—the framework of the existing law. Because Beyond NCLB is aimed at shoring up the Act, the important questions are not asked or answered.

The commissioners state, "there is growing evidence that NCLB is producing some results where it counts: in improved student achievement." But the test results included in the report show that student scores increased more before NCLB was implemented in 2002, not after it.

This finding raises the possibility that NCLB might be inhibiting student achievement instead of increasing it. An evaluation of NCLB by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University concludes that so far NCLB has not significantly improved test scores or reduced racial achievement gaps.

Given NCLB's underwhelming performance, is 100 percent proficiency on exams by 2014 attainable? The answer to this question appears in a startling table on page 69 of the report which the commissioners do not discuss. The table shows how many states are expected to reach 100 percent proficiency by the deadline. For elementary school students in reading, only seven out of the twenty-one states analyzed are expected to make it. These are the highest results listed in the table. For elementary school students in math and for middle school students in both reading and math, the prognosis is worse. There is no way that we will achieve 100 percent proficiency for all students by 2014.

Many people who care about improving American education want to save NCLB. It is rare for an administration to do more than merely talk about improving education, and never before has the country focused on the real problem of the "soft bigotry of low expectations." Many people probably believe that it would be a shame to lose this unique opportunity for national educational reform. But what is the point of saving legislation that is not working and that is fundamentally flawed?

The problem with NCLB is that out of the smorgasbord of educational reforms, the Bush Administration selected the ones which suit its conservative ideology best, not the ones that educational researchers have shown to be most likely to succeed and produce the biggest achievement gains.

NCLB's heart is an accountability-based reform, but this type of reform has a weak track record. A review of accountability reforms published in the American Journal of Education last year concluded that NCLB's chances were "neutral at best." Why is such a monumental educational initiative centered on one of the least promising policies?



An effective national educational reform program should begin by expanding pre-kindergarten programs like the successful one now operating in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This program has produced significant gains for Hispanic and black children. There is a large body of research showing the benefits of quality early childhood education.

The commissioners agree and state that "half of the white-African American achievement gap in 12th grade can be explained by the gaps

in achievement in 1st grade." NCLB, however, does little in the area of early childhood education. Because the commissioners are trapped within the NCLB framework, they too marginalize the issue of early childhood education and relegate their discussion of it to one-third of the last chapter of their report.

Given that perhaps 50 percent of racial achievement gaps are due to

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# YOU AINT NEVER GONNA MAKE IT, LOOKIN THE WAY YOU DO! (WHY MOST BLACK BUSINESSES FAIL)

In a nutshell, businesses fail because visually, they don't look successful. It's like a self-fulfilling prophecy, if you look like you aren't doing well, your business won't do well because people assume you aren't doing well. "Confusing as that may seem, people want to feel good about what they are buying from you," says Sonya A. Lowery, Author of *The Secret Language of Business Cards (And What Your Brochure Is Saying Behind Your Back)* and that "Good Feeling" begins with your company's looks.

"If your idea of a professional image is a business card and brochure you have created yourself, then you can definitely count yourself among the businesses that will be in trouble." Lowery makes no apologies for her blunt stance. "There is already a 50% failure rate among new businesses before their second year and a 90% chance of failure by year five. It's a war: your business against other businesses. The one that attracts the eye of a customer wins, simple as that." From Lowery's point of view, you don't get to say you're an expert when you don't look like one. It's like meeting a really interesting person who has neglected to brush their teeth, comb their hair, and bathe; no one really cares about what they have to offer because they just can't seem to get past the sight of them.

Black businesses are already operating at a disadvantage. People assume that the quality of a product or service from a Black business

**Sonya A. Lowery**  
*Author, The Secret  
Language of  
Business Cards  
(And what your  
brochure is saying  
behind your back)*



is going to be inferior, and of course that is not true. There is poor quality and bad attitudes in businesses

run by all ethnicities, but the main difference is that with Black businesses, people won't even walk in the door. And it's not because people know that it's Black owned, it's because even from the outside, people can see that there has been little attention given to detail. That lack of detail is apparent with hanging banners instead of professional signage, handwritten signs in the windows and on the walls, or worse, marketing material that looks as if a child created it. What's important to know is that all businesses must have certain items in place before they even consider opening their doors and that means putting together a real marketing and graphic design budget, something most Black businesses just don't do.

As stated in *The Secret Language of Business Cards*, every business must have a professional logo - CLIP-ART IS NOT A LOGO! They must have professionally designed business cards and marketing materials printed by a professional printing company, NOT AN OFFICE SUPPLY STORE! And every business must have a clean, well presented website, not something your cousin Ray Ray put together. Above all, every one of these pieces must look like they belong to a single company. That means there should be a common theme of shared colors, pictures and imagery. With all of these pieces in place, you are creating a "Brand".

Most businesses disregard the magnitude of having their company branded. But ask yourself this...Do you remember any company that wasn't branded? Do you remember ever being given a handmade brochure? What was the name of the company? What did the literature say? Most people won't remember because they didn't take the time to read it. Without a brand, your company is not worth remembering. People won't remember who you are or what you sell. If they can't remember, they won't call for your services; it's as simple as that. A "professional brand" introduces potential consumers to your business, so you had better have one.

Lowery is available for interviews, speaking engagements and is promoting her new book *The Secret Language of Business Cards (And what your brochure is saying behind your back)*, a novice's guide to corporate branding - available on her website [www.TheSecretLanguage.com](http://www.TheSecretLanguage.com)

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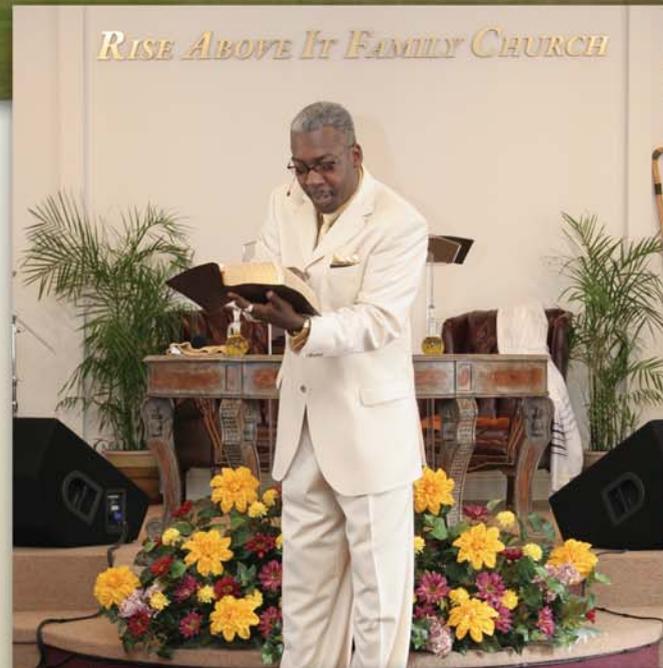
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# Publisher's Editorial



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



## THE PASSION OF CHRIST Not A Christian Movie

The first of this month we saw Christians flock to the big-screen as if the stage curtain was drawn back to reveal the platform for the second coming of Christ. Has the giant manipulator of sex, violence, immorality, and vile customs and traditional of men turned a new leaf? If not, what changed? Can saltwater flow from a fresh river or freshwater from a salt river? Was it that Hollywood posed a dare? I bet we can make you Christians look, and look we did, coming in droves to see a movie bearing our Savior's title.

What we saw was a Hollywood beat-down that makes the Rodney King's beating look like a child's game of tag. From its beginning to end, one stroke of violence to another. I pitied anyone who brought a child under the age of 16 as they were unexpectedly exposed to the brutality of the Anglo-Saxon Roman Soldiers whose flesh tearing tactics were so dramatic that all was forced to look away from time-to-time. Is it any wonder that all that people were able to carry from the movie was the brutal beating? No passion, no salvation, and no good-news gospel, just a brutal beating.

The act of crucifixion was designed to be a cruel example to all of the consequences that follows those who disobey. Subconsciously, this movie may serve as a deterrence to those who are considering a commitment or devotion to a calling of service to Christ that may in some way be construed and criticized by society. The movie even supplied the warning Jesus gave us "The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15: 20) From all the words of encouragement and comfort Jesus gave his disciples in John chapter 14, 15, & 16, only this scripture from the passages was brought forth in the movie.

What shocked me the most from the movie, however, was the cameo role and appearance of Satan. You didn't hear any talk of the co-starring role Satan played that would have won him a supporting actor award. When Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane to his Father, there appeared an image that apparently was answering Jesus' prayer word for word...we later learned that was Satan. When taking Jesus into custody, Jesus was beaten every step of the way and at one point knocked off a twenty foot bridge, caught by his chains just feet away from hitting the ground, suspended in air inches from Judas who had been hiding under the same bridge. Jesus starred in Judas' eyes for the entire moment before they pulled Him up to the bridge. After that moment, Satan in a ghostlike spirit circled around Judas.

Then after Judas tried to correct his mistake by returning the 30 pieces of silver, he sat outside the temple wall when a group of children came and taunted him with their faces changing back and forth to horrific demons. This same group of children chased Judas out of town haunting him and apparently driving him to commit suicide. This was the most dramatic implication of Satan, whereas Jesus has always used children as example of innocence, purity, and the kingdom of God, Satan portrays them as the newest edition to his slate of evil, maybe as evident by our world today.

Then, as Jesus is marched to Calvary, Satan walks the journey step by step as a supervisor of a project he is constructing. Then on the cross, as the bad thief rebukes Jesus, a raven perches on his cross and plucks the thief eyes out. Now ravens have symbolically been portrayed as evil the opposite of a dove representing good and peace. Was the action on part of the raven Satan's attempt to portray himself as an avenger of evil? Then as Jesus took his last breath on the cross, Satan walked through the crowd carrying a baby with the baby stroking the face of Satan then turning to the camera to show a horrific smirk of satisfaction. Mind me, none of these appearances or occurrences are supported or referenced by the Bible. Where did they come from? What are their meanings?

God in His wisdom apparently felt it not necessary for us to experience first hand the brutality of crucifixion. God felt it sufficient that we only know that:

Jesus was betrayed by a disciple

Jesus was taken as a thief in the night

Jesus was marched from judgment hall to judgment hall

Jesus was convicted before a mocked jury

Jesus was beaten from sun up to sun down

Jesus never said a mumbling word

Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, and on the third day he rose from the dead and He sitteth on the right hand of the Father in Glory. Yes, Jesus was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. By His stripes we are healed. However, God has not required nor did He expect us to be burdened by the visual brutality of Jesus' beating. It was the fact that Jesus arose from death and that beating that we have eternal life, of which out of the 8,700 seconds of the movie, only 10 seconds were allocated to that fact.

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