BRC BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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The Overground RR!!

THE CONDUCTOR

VOLUME 4 NO. 2 | The Official Newspaper of the Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center, Inc. | SECOND QUARTER 2005

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Anointed Word Evangelistic Tabernacle
Ariel Bowen UMC
Believers' Bible Christian Church
Bellview AME Church
Ben Hill UMC
Bethel World Outreach Ministries
Beulah Missionary Baptist
Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Butler Street Christian Methodist Episcopal
Calvery United Methodist Church
Caring Believer's Bible Fellowship
Cascade UMC
Central Christian Church
Christ Compassion Christian Center
Christ of Passion Christian Center
Columbia Drive Baptist Church
Covenant Ministries
Crusade Dominion Church
Discipleship Ministries
Dodd-Sterling UMC
Eagles Wings Int'l Ministries
Elizabeth Baptist Church
Emmaus Road Missionary Baptist Church
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The Light of The World International M.
The True Light Baptist
Union Baptist Church
Victory Praise Cathedral
Vision of Faith UMC
Wheat Street Baptist Church
Woodward Baptist Church
Zion Hill Baptist Church

ABOVE ALL THINGS MINISTRY

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." - III John:2

The Call and the Response

Overground RR!! Conductor's Award

The Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center (BRC) awarded its first Overground RR!! Conductor's Award to Julieanna Richardson, founder of The HistoryMakers, during its 3rd Anniversary Gala held on April 2nd at the Georgia International Conventional Center. The entertainment-packed, spiritually-charged and standing room only event celebrated the third anniversary of the growing organization. Guests representative of Atlanta's notable Who's Who in government and business included the Honorable Shirley Franklin and Patsy Jo Hilliard, mayors respectively of the cities of Atlanta and East Point; State Representative the Honorable Tyrone Brooks; prominent and longtime Atlanta businessmen, Jesse Hill and Herman J. Russell, who also served as chair of the Honorary Host Committee.

The spiritual community was well represented with the likes of Rev. Darrell Ellingan of the Concerned Black Clergy, Rev. Olu Brown of Cascade United Methodist Church and Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley, who also served as Co-Chair of the Pastoral Host Committee. The elegant and eloquent Monica Kaufman of WSB-TV and the suave and sophisticated Larry Tinsley, host of V103 Sunday Morning Inspiration, served as Mistress and Master of Ceremony.

The Overground RR!! Conductor's Award was the highlight of the BRC's evening of excellence. H.J.A. Alexander, the president of the BRC, explained the significance of the award, which will be awarded each year to a person who is "not only successful in their own right, but a deliverer of others." Joining Alexander for the unveiling of the trophy, which was designed and handcrafted specifically for the BRC, was BRC Chairman Aaron Turpeau. Alexander was quick to point out that the BRC could have easily gone to a trophy shop and got a trophy but anything done by the BRC "must be done with a unique style which dramatizes the message of the BRC mission.," he said. "There simply did not exist a trophy that could represent the significance of the award." The award was designed through the collaborative efforts of BRC graphics genius Larry Newton and entertainer Faye Raye, who also served as the Gala producer and director.

The Overground RR!! Conductor's Award depicts the dominant image of a train traveling from the base of a rock formation, breaking through from underground. This symbolic imagery signifies that this is the "same train" that traveled on the Underground Railroad

See Conductor's Award, page 8

B R C A • L • L • I • A • N • C • E • S

African Christian Clergy Network International - Atlanta Black Agenda - Atlanta Quest
A Miracle N Progress, Inc - BeSomeone - Ckids Kreate Mobile Fund-Raiser - Concerned Black Clergy -
Creation Deliverance Center, Inc. - Daniel's Dream for Childrens Awareness - FACA
Friends of Sweet Auburn - GABEO - Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance - LAMA, Inc. - NAACP - Onyx Coalition
Prodigal Sons & Daughters Ministry - Sharing Way Inc. SKIP, Inc. - The Anointed Sisters Calling, Inc.
The Owens Center For Excellence - 100 Black Men of Atlanta - 100 Black Women of Atlanta

from the desk of the Executive Director

Are you disconnected or are you connected? Those of you who were in attendance at this year's 3rd Annual Gala are familiar with this now infamous questions raised by a dynamic young minister, Rev. Olu Brown, whose supercharged message of hope brought the crowded Georgia International Convention Center to its feet. The question is one of which each of us as black people, black entrepreneurs and black church members should ponder. If you are a member of the BRC, your answer should be a resounding YES! Through the BRC, members are connected to other members through our directory, our quarterly newspaper, our improving website, our churches, affiliates, and our Referral Center. BRC's network of resources gives you an opportunity to market your business and stay connected to other businesses who share the BRC vision - to increase revenues and gain a greater portion of the black economy. Rev. Brown spoke about Nehemiah rebuilding the walls to his city and how this great feat was accomplished, but only because Nehemiah gathered some help along the way - some Nehemiah partners. Together they accomplished what others felt was an impossible goal - they rebuilt the wall. I agree with Rev. Brown's analogy of the BRC to Nehemiah. We can rebuild the walls of the black community long torn down by slavery and economic inequality. We can rebuild these walls that were once the catalyst for the civil rights movement. Through economic empowerment and effective partnerships **WE CAN BE CONNECTED AGAIN!** This is the appointed time for our people to evaluate our lives and seek to understand our purpose. We are all accountable for using our God-given talents and abilities in the manner that best glorifies God.

The BRC is here to help. If you are already a member, bring somebody else in. If you are an unconnected member, make a commitment today and renew your membership and once again enjoy the benefits BRC offers. If you know of a church not listed as a member, call the pastor and tell them of the great things that are about to happen and encourage them to get on the wall with us as we reconnect, rebuild, and reenergize the black community. Together we can boost the power of the black dollar and reinforce the message that there are some good black businesses out here with credible services and superior goods and products.

The BRC train is on a mission and a fast track to success. Don't get left at the station holding your bags. Get on board the Overground RR!!

Judy T. Brownlee
Executive Director BRC

Byrd-Davis joins staff of BRC as new Communications Director

Moving full speed ahead on the Overground Railroad!, the Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center is pleased to announce the addition of Ms. Veverly Byrd-Davis to the staff as Communications Director. Ms. Davis, a native of Atlanta, GA, will assist the BRC in directing all aspects of communications as the organization moves forward to provide better services and resources to its members and the community. Her duties with the BRC will include managing the website, all BRC publications and internal and external communications.

Ms. Davis is a graduate of North Fulton H.S. in Atlanta, where she served as Editor of the high school newspaper. Pursuing her dream in journalism, she later enrolled at Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University, where she worked on the College Yearbook as Sports Editor and the Panther Newspaper Staff as Editor-in-Chief. During her matriculation, Byrd-Davis interned at the AJC as a general assignment reporter, writing some of the earlier stories on Atlanta's Missing and Murdered Children. She is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, and was two-time scholarship recipient of the National Football League, a scholarship winner of the National Association of Media Women and received the Mayme Williams Journalism Award from the South Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Byrd-Davis was a general assignment reporter at the Boca News in Boca Raton, FL. She is a former Public Information Officer of Clark College and Assistant Publications Editor at MARTA. She is an accomplished writer having received collegiate and professional journalism awards from the Georgia Press Association, the Atlanta Black Journalists, and the Florida Press Association. Byrd-Davis has extensive professional experience in media relations, technical writing, publications and graphic design.

BRC Executive Director Judy T. Brownlee said that she is excited about the addition to her staff. "Veverly brings with her a wealth of knowledge and we are looking forward to using her skills and experience to enhance this growing organization," she said. "We have been on an accelerated course since the Gala and God is providing us with the resources and manpower to take the BRC to the next level."

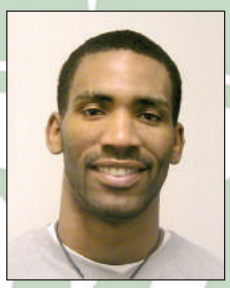
Byrd-Davis said that the decision to join the BRC was based on divine intervention and feeling the vision set forth by BRC President H.J.A. Alexander. "There is a season and a time for everything under the heavens," Byrd-Davis said. "God placed me in position to assist the BRC at a very crucial time. As a reward for my faithfulness to that cause, God opened a window of opportunity. Once I spoke with Herald about his plans for the BRC, I not only felt his passion but I could see his vision. It is indeed an honor to board the Overground RR!! at such a time as this. I hope that I can help he and Judy (Brownlee) position the BRC in such a way that we impact black businesses, churches and the community both spiritually and economically."

Byrd-Davis is a member of Love Life Christian Fellowship Church, under the pastorship of Rev. Grace C. Washington, whom she credits with keeping her life Christ-centered and spiritually grounded.

Hank Stewart
Deputy Director

Veverly Byrd-Davis
Communications Director

Gundi Mants
Database Manager



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THE POWER TO PRODUCE WEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH SPIRIT-BASED COLLABORATION

Creating Economic Power in Our Community • Business Directory
Jobs in the Community • Consumer Satisfaction • Church Centers for Business Referrals
Business/Consumer Accountability Membership Benefits • Quarterly Newsletter
• Referral Service • Arbitration of Disputes

This Train is Bound for Glory . . .

Welcome to the BRC City

by Swain Watters

As I stood watching the Ticket Agent and the Conductor assisting people entering the train station, I was prompted by the expression of joyous anticipation on each passenger's face to ponder the following: What motivated these people, this collective body of incredible resources, this vast expanse of diverse talents, skills and professional passions to get a ticket to board the Overground Railroad?

Some guests had heard about the Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center's mission of economic empowerment and wanted to join. Others attended to celebrate the truth about how the BRC had positively impacted their lives and their businesses since joining! Some came in support of someone else or for a wonderful evening of fellowship and inspiration. Still others came just to see BRC City, the city they had heard about on the radio and from friends.

Asking people why they were aboard spurred their excitement even more. Robyn, of Liquid Media, was there to inform people of the services offered by their company and to acquire the goods and services that she needed and used.

Since connecting with the BRC Robyn has had her car windshield repaired, found a new dentist, and joined a church - all through affiliations of the BRC.

Indeed, the passengers aboard this train made a remarkable difference. Their resplendent attire was in step with their remarkable sense of purpose. They radiated with a consciousness of self-determination that Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard affirmed as a primary practice that everyone should engage. In her welcome statement, she said that the programs that have been devised and implemented by the BRC in the Metropolitan Atlanta areas have tremendously increased the market share of the Black community.

It was easy to see that the attraction to BRC City went beyond the warm iridescent glow crowning its skyline. More than a promise of the future, it was a reality of now. None of the businesses and churches participating in the BRC City Expo spoke of something that could happen, should happen or was going to happen. These entrepreneurs were walking a talk about now; expanding networks, doing business with each other on a personal and corporate level, and strengthening our community, transaction by transaction, business by business.

The challenge of continuing this growth was expressed by Capital City Bank President George Andrews. Capital City's proven track record of supporting the community was evidenced by the numerous expressions of thanks given to Mr. Andrews by people in attendance. In discussion about how much does it take to galvanize the spirit of more of the community to the point of action of supporting each others. "When will they get it?" Mr. Andrews' point is well taken as even with more than 1,000 people in attendance, one empty seat potentially represented one less turn in our community of $601 billion (nationwide) buying power. However, as the bank executive noted, the people aboard the Overground RR!! do get it. Herman Russell gets it. Mayor Shirley Franklin and Tyrone Brooks get it. Burks Jewelers, The Herb Garden, Annandale Water, Ballethnic Dance Company, Mark of Distinction, Believer's Bible Academy and hundreds of others get it. They all understand the power that is in our own pockets.

Walking the streets of BRC City was exciting because everything you needed could be found there. It was one of the best one-stop shopping venues in the world. You could consult a financial planner, get a new mortgage, buy your dream house or make-

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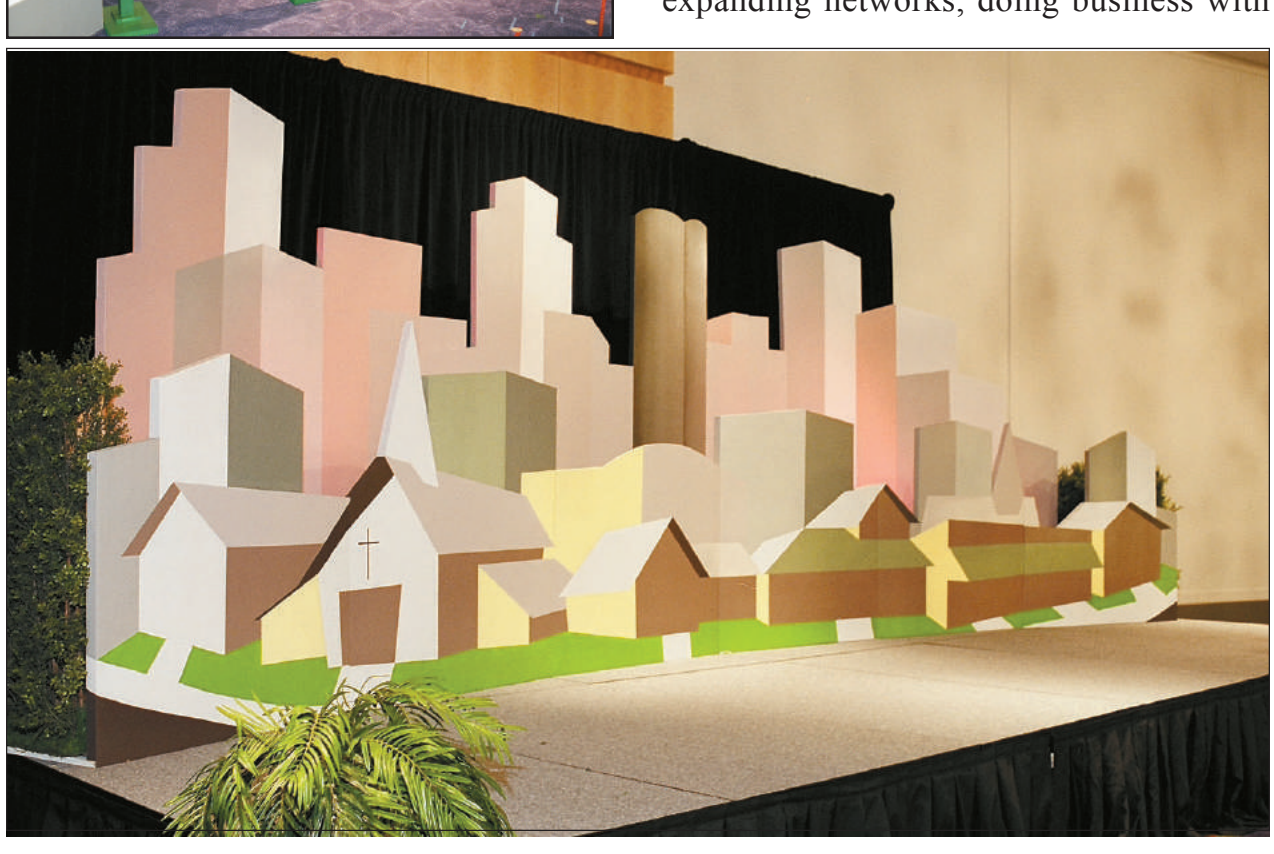

Celebs, elected officials, clergy and businesses celebrate BRC 3rd Annual Gala

By Maynard Eaton

Ever since the advent of integration, it has been a lamentable dilemma that African Americans – unlike other ethnic groups — have routinely and continually failed to do business with each other. The problem and potential solutions have been debated for years. Now, there appears to be an answer to the angst – a concept that is catching on here in Atlanta that may prove to be a model for Black America.

It's the Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center that has come to be known by three simple, yet powerful letters, BRC. The nonprofit group is headed by political activist Aaron Turpeau and attorney H. J. A. Alexander.

"Herald is a very strategic and a very deliberate organizer," observes civil rights veteran and Atlanta State Representative Tyrone Brooks. "Being an independent attorney, having his own resources he can do this very carefully and very strategically. He's been working on this concept for a very long time. This is going to work; it's going to grow because he's done it the right way. He's the kind of guy who will stay on top of it."

(Top left) Mistress and Master of Ceremony Monica Kaufman and Larry Tinsley; (Top right) BRC Chairman Aaron Turpeau and BRC President HJA Alexander; (Bottom right) HJA Alexander, Julieanna Richardson, Herman Russell and Aaron Turpeau.

Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard wrote "Your economic development efforts of involving churches and businesses is one of the most progressive movements in our history."

Three years ago Alexander and Turpeau launched an-all out effort to keep black dollars in the black community. It was not unprecedented – to be sure the idea is not new – but the concept was novel because it was simple and sane. The BRC would work in conjunction with black churches – the rock of the black community – as a means of recycling dollars that all too often spin out of the African American community before they complete a half revolution.

"After the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and integration we spread out so a lot of us became disconnected," explains Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. "There are a whole lot of new people in Atlanta who don't know the historical businesses, and they only know those businesses down the street from them. Even with my children who are native born, they have to be guided in their appreciation for the value of supporting businesses in the African American community. And, the best place to make that connection is in the church."

"The objective is not a new one, but it is a new concept in terms of utilizing the churches in a formalized method to minister to their business members and their consumers in being an active part in building the economy on an ongoing basis in the black community," adds Alexander, the BRC president.

This year's April 2nd, 3rd Anniversary Celebration was an overwhelming success — drawing some 1,000, people including a wealth of well known elected officials, celebrities, clergy and business owners. The BRC even designed a special trophy for their 2005 Overground RR!! Conductor's Award. The recipient was Julieanna Richardson, the founder of The HistoryMakers, a nonprofit educational video production enterprise.

The 3rd Annual BRC Gala featured vendors as part of the BRC City. Faye Raye entertained the crowd as a saxophonist serenaded the guests prior to the program. (Bottom right) BRC Marketing Manager Curtis Burnette, Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard, BRC Executive Director Judy Brownlee and Asa Hilliard.

"The BRC has really taken off," said Mayor Shirley Franklin. "You can see today that the hall is packed.

I think sharing information, networking, raising the awareness of the black businesses that are in our midst is bound to have a positive impact on our community and on our children."

"It's a great day because we got a crowd out," added Turpeau, the BRC chairman. "People are

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Julieanna Richardson, griot of the Black community, becomes BRC *HistoryMaker*

by Maynard Eaton

(Top) Julieanna Richardson accepts the first BRC Overground Railroad!! Conductor Award. (Left) Herman Russell gives remarks about the honoree as Rev. Gerald Durley greets her. BRC Chairman Aaron Turpeau and BRC President HJA Alexander look on.

Award ceremonies – be they the Grammies, The Emmy's, BET or NAACP Image Awards, you name it – are almost commonplace in our culture. But perhaps this year's most unique and original salute and honor may well have been the Atlanta Black Agenda's Business Resource Center's (BRC) 3rd Anniversary's singular and substantive tribute to the incomparable and inspiring Julieanna Richardson.

"I was terribly moved and felt terribly honored," recalls Richardson who recently moved an office to Atlanta on Auburn Avenue.

Ms. Richardson is founder and impresario of *The HistoryMakers*, a nonprofit educational video production enterprise destined to build the largest archive of 20th and 21st century African American history. History will record that the remarkable Ms. Richardson, *The HistoryMakers'* creative spirit and spunk, made history herself as the first ever recipient of the BRC's originally-crafted and designed special trophy, The Overground RR!! Conductor's Award. It was a sizzling and sensational milestone for the BRC and its heavy-hitter honoree.

"I have been honored before, but I have never been honored in this way and it really brought tears to my eyes," she says gleefully. "The program was lovely. The award itself is lovely and what it symbolizes. I wasn't given just a sort of little cookie-cutter award. It was an award that was designed from scratch. And the meaning of the award was so important because in the past we had to be an underground railroad, but today we can do it upfront."

Ms. Richardson is still beaming with pride and appreciation over the recognition; still fondly relishing that special moment.

"I came here having just come from San Francisco trying to pitch the project to open up that market," she explains. "And, I came there in my typical – I've got this many things to do mode. And to sit back and see what they had done to honor me, I was terribly moved. I cried. I played (the video) again last night, I've played it several times sort of reliving the moment," she laughed joyously.

Ms. Richardson said what makes her historic award so significant and heartwarming is that she

"I have been honored before, but I have never been honored in this way and it really brought tears to my eyes,"

feels a kinship with the BRC's enterprise of Black economic empowerment.

"My group, the *HistoryMakers*, and the BRC have been around almost the same period of time, and I felt that we were simpatico," she says during an exclusive interview with The Conductor. "We are both very significant in terms of what the accomplishment of both of our missions would mean in the black community. On our end we are looking at recording this fantastic history that we have so that we can take our rightful place in history. And in terms of the Black Resource Center the thing that is so significant is that if we can believe in ourselves enough to do business with each other that would be significant also. Because time and time and time again, we see money leaving our community or just stopping in for a second before it goes back to the majority community."

Is the Overground RR!! Conductor's Award a singular honor bestowed to you from your people; or because of the surprise or because of respective missions, she was asked by this reporter?

"I think all three," she replied. "Especially in the early years people did not understand what we were doing, archives sound old and dusty. And for it to be recognized in that way is something significant and in a city that is so important to African American history like Atlanta, I was just overwhelmed." She adds, "Both organizations are really involved in changing our thinking, and that's a difficult thing. You have to recondition the black community. It's thinking its ok to have a history – it's a great history. And, that's the same thing, it's ok to shop with black people – nothing bad is going to happen to you."

Ms. Richardson's goal with *The History Makers* is to build the largest archive of the 21st century African American

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2005 Overground RR!! Conductor's Award

Rev. Olu Brown: The BRC is Here to Reconnect Us

by Gundi Mants

On April 2, 2005, Rev. Olu Brown, associate pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church, delivered a message that would change the heart beat of the black community forever.

His senior pastor, Rev. Walter Kimbrough, must have been under divine inspiration when he assigned his young associate to work with the newly born BRC. Rev. Brown was asked to speak regarding the BRC dollar at the 3rd Anniversary Gala celebration. But no one knew that he would not only speak, but his supercharged message of hope would change lives. The 27-year-old native of Lufkin, TX was obviously called to Atlanta for such a time as this - to help champion the cause of the BRC and energize the movement in the black community.

THE MESSAGE

Poised in front of the BRC backdrop that featured the airbrushed collage of Harriett Tubman, Marcus Garvey, Frederick Douglas and many others involved in the struggle,

"In the midst of this war has arisen a great champion called the BRC to "connect hopelessness with hope, ideas with reality, with a word that says we can make the dollar circulate in the black community."

Rev. Brown painted the picture of the enslaved family being sold on the auction block - one by one taken away "to unknown destinations to work out the rest of their lives in servitude. . . never again to be connected to the people who connected them to life."

This was the message of "disconnection" to which he asked the audience. "Are we, as a people, still disconnected or are we connected?"

His voice resonated through the center. "As a people we are still disconnected. We are in the midst of a war of economics, a war of the black dollar circulating in the black community; of churches spreading the news and letting consumers know that there are credible and reputable African American businesses that can meet you at your point of need."

Rev. Brown declared the "good news" to the Gala attendees that, in the midst of this war, has arisen a great champion called the BRC to "connect hopelessness with hope, ideas with reality, with a word that says we can make the dollar circulate in the black community . . . we are in a war but we've got a great warrior called the BRC."

Rev. Brown sees the BRC as a networking and relationship component of that vision.

"The BRC's job is to create partnerships between churches and business owners," says Rev. Brown. He told the Gala gathering that churches can help champion the BRC's cause by making their congregations aware of the black-owned businesses who are operating under ownership that is accountable. In addition, "churches can inform our communities of the quality products, excellent customer service and the safe, clean environments that these businesses offer," he said.

Rev. Brown exclaimed, "The BRC will help develop the voice that says, we want more, we deserve more and we deserve better." He went on to

". . . a new revolution is taking place in the African American community with the BRC leading the way."

say, "I am in awe at the growth within the BRC and the continued progress in raising awareness in the community."

Rev. Brown spoke of a parallel between the scripture of Nehemiah and The BRC. When exploring the text, Rev. Brown explained that Nehemiah had a mission to rebuild the wall that had come down around his people and to security their community. The BRC has the same mission and like Nehemiah has realized

"The BRC will help develop the voice that says, we want more, we deserve more and we deserve better."

that it takes all of us working together to accomplish this revitalization. Rev. Brown told the audience that "a new revolution is taking place in the African American community with the BRC leading the way." He issued a challenge urging businesses and churches alike to become a part of the revolution.

Consider the fact that God must have made a special effort to shield Rev. Brown's message from any outside influence. Because of an apparent "mix-up," he did not know until a few hours before the Gala that he was on the program. The BRC staff had mentioned that he might be needed, but it was not his understanding that his involvement was clarified.

That Saturday afternoon, he called the BRC to see about getting a replacement for a ticket which had been misplaced. It was then that he learned he was to speak. The BRC had a suggested script, but it was too late to get it to Rev. Brown. Pacing behind the stage, he communed with God. After he spoke, it was clear that the misunderstanding and the lost ticket were not accident, but providence!

THE MESSENGER

Upon entering Rev. Brown's office on the second floor of Cascade United Methodist Church, it is quite clear that the man, who spoke so passionately at the Gala, is truly a man of character. The first thing visible in his humbly decorated office is a black and white photo of he and his wife, Farrah, who was pregnant with their daughter, Daya. The love he shares for his family is evident.

A painting on the Rev. Brown's wall of a silver-haired, black man and woman was almost lifelike. When asked about the painting, he said the two people in this painting reminded him of his great uncle and grandmother, two people instrumental in helping to raise and instill in him good work ethics and integrity. His loving family exposed him to religion at an early age, giving him a foundation on which to build his character. His mother, responsible for his Nigerian name, "Olujima," which means God, gave him to me, is credited with having provided a quality life with meager financial resources. He describes her as being a woman of God, a definite driving force in his life, and a mentor. Rev. Brown's father is also a minister.

Rev. Brown, a graduate of the Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX, with a degree in Elementary Education, specializing in reading, also has a Masters of Divinity degree from the Gammon Theological

Seminary of the Inter- denominational Theological Center (ITC) here in Atlanta. Under Rev. Kimbrough's tutelage, he has proven to be of great asset to the Cascade Community. During Wednesday Night Live Services at Cascade UMC, where he nurtures the congregation with deep, thought-provoking entreaties.

Rev. Brown has a love of poetry that he began reading and reciting at an early age. This soon escalated to writing speeches, and later led him to speaking in church. It was at age 14 or 15 that the family moved to a congregation led by a pastor who wanted to provide youth with an opportunity for leadership. Being the speaker that he was, Rev. Brown began assisting the minister on Sunday mornings doing "the things I enjoyed doing" by praying and reading scripture. It was then that he realized that there was a calling on his life.

Rev. Brown recalls the death of his grandfather as being a traumatic experience that thrust him into the ministry. A senior in high school, having never preached before, he deeply desired and was allowed to preach his grandfather's eulogy. While doing so, Rev. Brown said, "I wanted to tell young people how to get to heaven". It was the culmination of accepting his calling on which he reflected, "God has been calling me and preparing me all of my life."

Surely, Rev. Olu Brown was used of God at the Gala. He gave the call. What will be your response?

Conductor's Award

continued from front page

spearheaded by such conductors as Harriett Tubman, who delivered our people from physical slavery.

The column signifies the period of time that has passed since the train transported passengers underground to the present. "The train is a train of many cars, signifying the millions of passengers which it has and continues to transport," Alexander continued.

The train climbs to the top of the column and arrives on the Conductor's cap, which crowns the trophy column. Train tracks merge into the bill of the cap. The Conductor's cap represents the work of the award recipient. Alexander explained tot he capacity-filled Convention Center that the recipient "will always reflect the spirit of Harriett Tubman" and always be a "deliverer of our people."

Amid tears of joy and a special video tribute depicting her biography, Julieanna Richardson was joined on stage by Herman Russell and Rev. Gerald Durley, as Alexander and Turpeau presented her with the first BRC Overground RR!! Conductor's Award

The Gala exploded with an arousing challenge by Rev. Olu Brown who called the BRC a "great champion" who can make the black dollar circulate in the black community by "connecting black people to black people . . . connecting churches with businesses, businesses with consumers."

BRC City

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over your current castle. You could rid your home of the tiniest crawling pests, decorate it anew, contract a moving company, and get good water delivered to your door. You could advertise your business, put money in the bank, entertain clients at a fine restaurant, confer with your political leadership, receive spiritual uplifting, and take care of your body on the inside and on the outside from head to toe. Whatever your need, it could be met by an experienced, reputable, trusted business member of the BRC. More importantly, there is the accountability to the organization to the community to maintain the highest standards of performance and customer service. If your need is simply to find that something to keep you going, faith and hope are overly abundant in BRC City.

So those who came to hear more of The Atlanta Black Agenda heard about the 67 businesses and 200 churches that are fueling the Overground RR!!. The visionaries that came to speak about the tracks to economic freedom told of our rich past that is inextricably tied to a gleaming future. And all of the ministers, business owners, civic leaders, young people, and trailblazers, got a glimpse a new city - the BRC City.

2005 Gala

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getting the message about circulating the black dollar. It's working now."

"This represents a new level of acceptance and understanding and commitment by the churches," Alexander concluded. "It has now taken hold and this has now grown beyond just the ideas of few people but a movement of a people."

From a very small beginning, the BRC has grown into an empowering force in its three short years of operation. More than 75 churches and 207 businesses are now embracing the BRC movement.

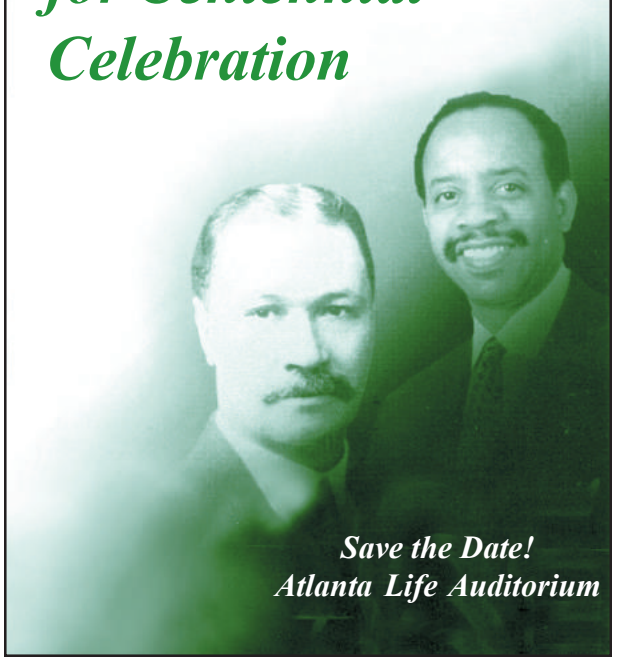
"It is a matter of expressing to the people that just because blacks are selling it that doesn't mean it is not going to be as cold as the whites when they sell it, it's not going to be as good of a quality," said Rev. Eric Jackson, pastor of Greater Heights Christian Church. "In fact, I believe it so much that when I needed some work in my own home I used the BRC businesses first. I want to be one that not only talks about it, but one that does it and supports it. You have to know the way, show the way and go the way."

"All of us are making a commitment and saying let's go (to the BRC) first before we go outside," echoed Dr. Gerald Durley, pastor of Providence Baptist Church. "We also said if you go to Maynard Eaton & Associates, for example, and Maynard Eaton has a bad staff person – don't dog Maynard Eaton come back to the BRC and let them talk and work it out. That's the difference that I see now."

But even those who fervently support the BRC are perplexed as to why it has taken black folk so long to pool their resources and turn their money over in their community like other ethnic groups do so effectively and routinely?

"That's been one of the greatest dilemmas of all-time," admits Rep. Brooks, president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials. "But we have begun to understand that if we want to help ourselves we've got to do it for each other, and no one else is going to do it for us. I think we are beginning to understand that, and you are going to see more and more African Americans spending money with each other, supporting each other and really contributing to each other in many ways in which we haven't done before. It's about buying into the concept of unity."

BRC to host Atlanta Life Financial Group 100 Minutes of Jazz August 5, 2005 for Centennial Celebration



Richardson

continued from page 3

history. The significance of that is there's only been one occurrence in the history of the United States where there has been a massive attempt to record our experience as told by the first voice and that was with the slave narratives. A lot of people don't know that between the years of 1936 and 1938 there were 2,300 former slaves interviewed.

Ms. Richardson's hope is to have the archive as a living, breathing example of living history. She is essentially taking traditional oral history and combining it with state-of-the-art technology. The vision is to create a visual archive that will be available in libraries, museums, schools around the country so people will be able to access the collection. She told the BRC 3rd Anniversary audience that prayerfully *The History Makers* will be able to be a central part of the African American museum on the Washington, D.C. Mall that Congressman John Lewis is working on.

"We're no longer a thought; we are the largest in the country – 1100 interviews," she says proudly. "We've outdistanced the collection of the Shomberg Library in New York and the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum. Both of those organizations we are collaborating with. And we believe to an extreme level about the power of joint collaboration. That is what is at the center of our mission. We believe that everything has to be a function of collaboration especially in building an archive like this because you need people to direct you and guide you. Historians are relying on us.

And, she adds thoughtfully that metro Atlanta's African American community is relying on the continued success of the BRC.

Voter ID Law Turning Back the Clock on Voting Rights

Guest Commentary by State Representative Tyrone Brooks

Our Reasons for Opposition to Senate Bill 84 and House Bill 244 (Voter ID Bills), and other proposals throughout the United States that are venturing down this regressive path.

Currently Georgia allows the following 17 forms of ID developed in conjunction with the U. S. Justice Department, and allows a voter to cast a provisional ballot if they have none of those on election day. The presumption is currently in favor of voting, with vote fraud prevention coming on the back end by way of checking voters' signatures.

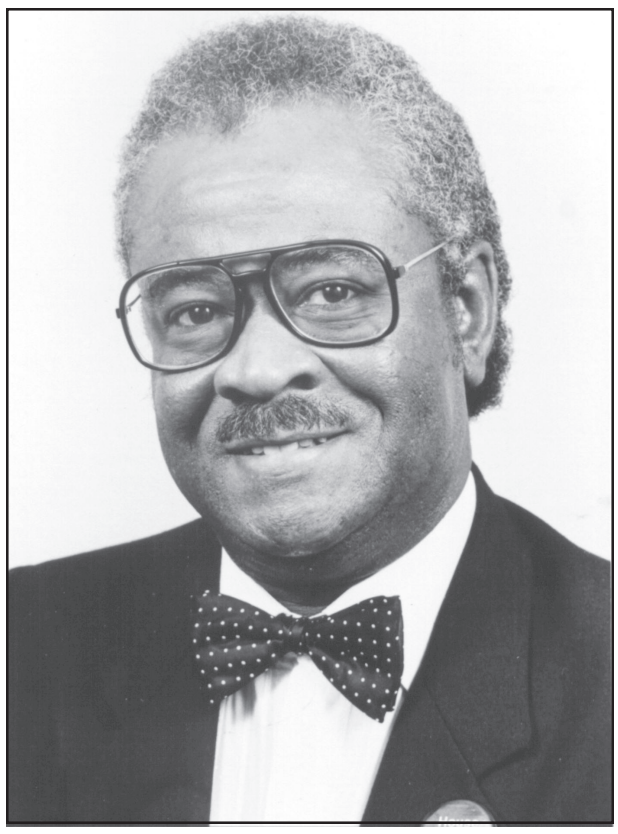
(1) A valid Georgia driver's license;
(2) A valid identification card issued by a branch, department, agency, or entity of the State of Georgia, any other state, or the United States authorized by law to issue personal identification;
(3) A valid United States passport;
(4) A valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the elector and issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government, this state, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of this state;
(5) A valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the elector and issued by any employer of the elector in the ordinary course of such employer's business;
(6) A valid student identification card containing a photograph of the elector from any public or private college, university, or postgraduate technical or professional school located within the state of Georgia;
(7) A valid Georgia license to carry a pistol or revolver;
(8) A valid pilot's license issued by the Federal Aviation Administration or other authorized agency of the United States;
(9) A valid United States military identification card;
(10) A certified copy of the elector's birth certificate;
(11) A valid social security card;
(12) A certified naturalization documentation; or
(13) A certified copy of court records showing adoption, name, or sex change;
(14) A copy of a utility bill;
(15) A bank statement (will be kept confidential);
(16) A government check or payment with name and address; or
(17) A government document that shows the name and address of the elector.

Senate Bill 84 reduces required ID from 17 to four:

- A Valid Georgia Driver's License
- A Valid Georgia ID Card
- A Valid Military ID Card
- A Valid United States Passport

If citizens do not have any one of these four forms of ID, they will not be allowed to vote.

- Georgia has 159 counties, currently there are not more than 50 locations in this state which offer official state ID. This creates a problem of accessibility for senior citizens and many of the state's poor who depend on public transportation to reach the locations. In many counties in South Georgia there are no locations where Georgia photo IDs are issued.
- There is no provision in the legislation to open more locations accessible to each community.
- When people finally find a location to get a state ID, the state is not going to just take their word for who they are. This constitutes people having to get other ID (most likely a birth certificate) to take with them. If they do not have a birth certificate in their possession they have to go through the inconvenience of getting one from vital statistics which may not be in their area.
- Authors of the Voter ID Bill could not give one instance of voter fraud in the state when asked while presenting the bill. It is well known that most voter fraud emanates from absentee ballots. The current Republican majority have expanded the provisions regarding those.
- The state will accept IDs from students in public (state colleges and universities), but valid IDs from students at private colleges and universities will not be accepted. College photo ID is college photo ID, whether from a public or private college. To accept one and not the other constitutes a form of discrimination.
- Valid employee photo ID is not acceptable.
- Not many poor and elderly people possess a passport. Driver's licenses of many elderly citizens have been taken away from them by their children to keep them from driving, but they still want and have a right to vote.
- Under this bill, voting is being treated as a privilege, but it is a right. We should not be passing legislation that will present impediments to voting. Voting should be encouraged.



Representative Tyrone Brooks is the President of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials. Visit the GABEO at www.gabeo.org.

- Under this new legislation provisional ballots are restricted. It seems as if the authors of this legislation were reaching for every pre-1965 impediment except the literacy test.
- This is probably one of the most regressive pieces of voter rights legislation since the Jim Crow era. It is definitely currently the country's most restrictive voter ID bill. I fear that this proposal and the struggle to renew and authorize the Voting Rights Act may just be the beginning of the 2nd Reconstruction.
- GABEO, ACLU, NAACP, SCLC, Rainbow/PUSH, GCPA and many other organizations will file objections with the United States Department of Justice and litigation in the federal court to stop this measure from being enacted into law.

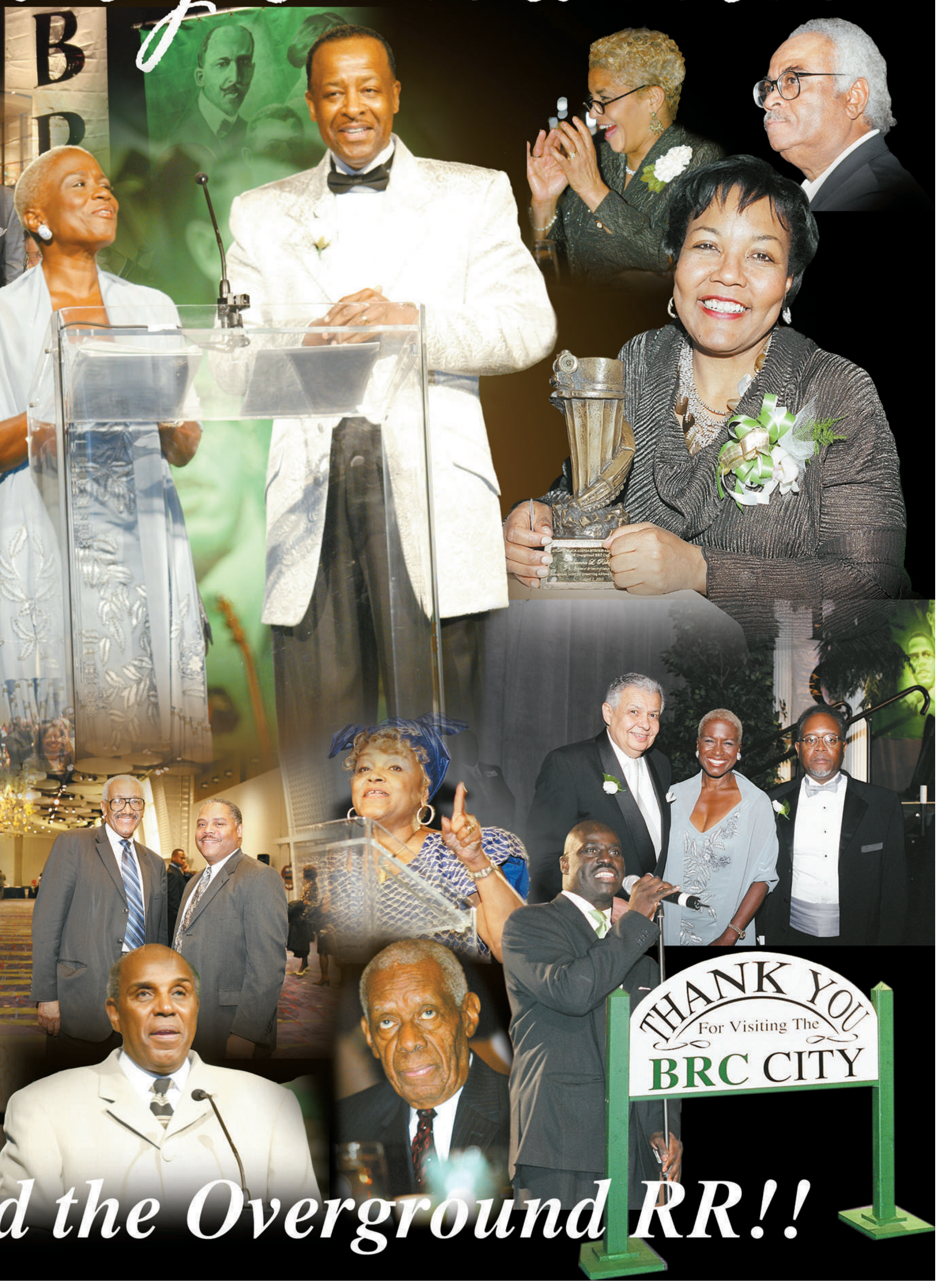
What's so amazingly frightening about these attacks on our voting rights and access to the ballot is that so many in this country seem to have forgotten or just plainly refuse to acknowledge that we've (African-Americans) only been able to cast ballots (free of intimidation and harassment) for 40 years. And some people seem to think we have "reached parity or arrived."

Remember African-Americans comprise 30 percent of Georgia's population, but we are only six percent of elected officials (including judges) and less than two percent nationally. But African-Americans are over 70 percent of the inmates in jails and prisons. If we continue the struggle, we will overcome.

BRC Anniversa

All Aboard

ary Celebration



d the Overground RR!!

The Conductor Distribution locations

100 Black Men
100 Black Women
2nd Mount Olive Baptist Church
A Nuday Communication Center
African Braids & Beauty Supply
African Spectrum Bookstore
Afro Books West End Mall
Al-Farooq Masjid of Atlanta
Angie's Beauty Supply
Anointed Word Evangelistic Tab.
Apex Museum
Atlanta Business League
Atlanta Detailers
Atlanta Life Insurance Company
Atlanta Meat & Fish Market
Authentic Jamaican Cuisine
B E Orthodontics Inc
Barlow's Barber Shop
Beauty City
Believers Bible Christian Church
Best Pager & Cellular
Big Daddy's
Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist church
Big OOMP Record Store
Bussey Florist & Gifts
Called to Conqueril Bookstore
Capricorn Construction
Cascade Family Skating Rink
Cascade Tires
Central Christian Church
Central Library
Changing Your World Books & Music
Chapel Of Christian Love B.C.
Clark Atl. Univers Henderson Student Center
Classic StylesBeauty Salon
Cleveland Ave.Community Barber Beauty
College Park C.M.E Church
Community Church Of God
Concerned Black Clergy
Davon Master Barber
Delta Sigma Theta
Dream Reality, Inc.
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Emma Darnell Center
Epworth Towers
Ethnic Braids
FAACA
Fabulous Touch
First Bapt. Church Of Stewardship
First Quality Health Care, Inc.
Flipper Temple AME Church
Friendship Baptist Church
Glenda's Fraternal & Ch. Supplies
Grace Covenant Baptist Church
Greater Piney Grove Baptist Ch.
Greenbriar Flea Market
Hair A La Parisienne
Hot Chocolate Hair Designers
Jackson Memorial Baptist Church
Jamaican Jerk Soul Food
Joe's Cleaner's
La Rue's Hair Studio
LeSure Dupre'
Lottie Watkins Enterprises
Mac's Insurance Angency
Marco'sBarber & Beauty Salon
Medu Bookstore (GreenbrairMall)
Melvin's Hair Care System
Metro-Atl. Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
Mitchell Bros. Salon
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
Mrs. Bea's Kitchen
Mt Ephraim Baptist Church
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
NAACP-Dekalb
NAACP-Metro Atlanta
New Birth Missionary Baptist Ch.
New Jack Fashions & Varity Shop
New Life
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
Ousley United Methodist Church
Owens Family Soul Food Rest.
Poplar Springs Baptist Church
Psalms 90:17 Anointed Hands
Q-Time Restaurant & Drive Thru
Quick Food Stop
Reaching For Christ Ministries
Root International Salon
Rose of Sharon Church Supplies
Run & Shoot
Salem Baptist Church
Scott's Tailoring Shop
Shine Of The Black Madonna Bookstore
Skate Town South
Soul Source Books & Café'
Soul Vegetarian Restaurant
S. W. Paint & Decorating Center
Sparkle Hand Wash & Detailing
Spelman College Bookstore
Supreme Fish Delight
T.L. Rucker Barber Shop
Taliah Waajid
The Beautiful Restaurant
This Is It
Total Grace
Trinity AME Church
Turner Chapel
U.$. Dollar Plus
Up Next Barbershop
Victory Praise Cathedral
Vision of Faith UMC
V's Customs, Inc.
Walter Woods Hair Salon
Cosmeto.
West End Academy
West End Baptist Church
West End Church Of Christ
West End Mall
Wheat Street Baptist Church
Whitaker Real Estate
Wings Express
Woods Memorial Baptist Church
World Class Fitness Center (Lee Haney)
X-Press Cuts Barber, Beauty, & Nail

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***From the Ship to the Clip:* BRC Salon Profile**

Hair a La Parisienne

by Rose Wyatt

Hair a La Parisienne is a hair, barbering, nail and retail salon located at 1862 Washington Road, nestled in the quickly redeveloping city of East Point, where both the mayor and the fire chief are African American females. The owner, Verlene Brown, says that she is sure that this is God's choice location for her. She managed to purchase the building against tremendous odds and continues to grow with additional property acquisition over the years.

"Finding this building and the contractual arrangements were a divine blessing. I was actually on my way to look in another area, when I discovered my current location," Ms. Brown said.

Ms. Brown and La Parisienne have spawned other salons by having mentored and trained a number of cosmetologists. For many years the core of the staff was family members, who have since opened their own thriving salon. In a business where there is tremendous staff turnover, most of the current staff have clocked years at Hair a La Parisienne. Ms. Brown is a well respected and astute businesswoman and a server of her church, family and the business community.

The salon's client base is comprised of mothers, educators, students, professionals, politicians, business leaders and the retired. Men, women and children; ages three to 88, enjoy the professional services and the relaxing and clean environment that Ms. Brown has worked so hard to provide and maintain. She stated that "the young bring joy to the atmosphere of the salon, and the mature, bring wisdom and peace."

Even in light of all that has been written here, Ms. Brown is saddened by the state of the African American-owned beauty salon. She says the Black beauty and barbershop is suffering from the loss of economic control the respected position as a pillar in the community. "We have lost our legacy to other nationalities, at the service level and certainly at the manufacturing of supplies and distribution levels," she says. The independent black beauty supply store is now nearly nonexistent.

Proud of our pioneers, such as Madame C. J. Walker, Ms. Brown is committed to high standards of customer service and professionalism. She said she refuses to allow the "bling; bling mind set and the degradation of the black female's image and other peoples' expectations of us to rob us of our professional culture."

Verlene Brown, owner of Hair La Parisienne

When asked about solutions to this loss, Ms. Brown said that cosmetologists must refocus and get back to the basics of biblical business principles. More specifically, she said, they must use all their gifts and talents to increase the business for the good of the family and community or the result will be a loss of those gifts and talents, she said. "We must require proper training of the operators in many braiding shops and beauty salons. We must buy black when possible, and continue our education. We must put aside our creative differences and come together with open hearts, minds and pockets. It is, collaborative investment and reinvestment that will bear real (estate) fruit, spiritual growth and respect for one another," she said.

"We will have to be accountable to God for the use of our gifts and talents. If we don't get on track, what we leave behind will confuse those behind us. They won't recognize integrity, family values or morals. We can begin by taking an introspective look at ourselves, who we are and the things we do and believe," she continued.

Ms. Brown was attracted to the BRC and the Overground RR!!, "because it is bonding churches, businesses and the community in a glorious networking fashion." All Aboard!!

From the Ship to the Clip is a new feature profiling BRC members in the salon and barbering industry. Encourage your fellow stylists and barbers to join the BRC. Let us know what exciting things your businesses are doing by calling 404.346.0808.

Strick Software breathes life into your business through video and the Internet

by Karen J. Kirkland

Benjamin S. Strickland is a true Renaissance Man. He has parlayed various facets of illustrious careers in finance, education, and software development into two successful business endeavors. He is the owner and CEO of Strick Software, Inc. and an independent affiliate of VM Direct, a video communications company on the brink of explosive growth and opportunity. Hello World, the world's only video portal, is where the suite of VM Direct's Web-based applications derive.

An Atlanta native, Mr. Strickland is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). He served as the Accounting Department Chairperson at Morris Brown College as well as teaching accounting courses at Clark Atlanta University, of which he is an alumnus. It was during this time that he became interested in developing software. A leap of faith 10 years ago led him into this area to launch Strick Software, Inc. by developing customized accounting solutions for clients such as BellSouth, Hewlett Packard (HP), IBM, and some local churches.

In keeping abreast of emerging technology, his interest in video technology was piqued. Mr. Strickland quickly reached the conclusion that video technology could be integrated into virtually any type of business, his focus shifted and he decided to become an affiliate of VM Direct.

Perhaps two key factors greatly influenced his decision to take part in this technological revolution: mind-boggling research and VM Direct's leadership, who are referred to as their "Dream Team."

VM Direct's flagship product is its video email program, *HelloMail*. Forrester Research results show that approximately 45 billion email messages are exchanged each day. That number is expected to increase to 60 billion by year's end as well as Forrester's prediction of an increase in video presence on the Internet this year.

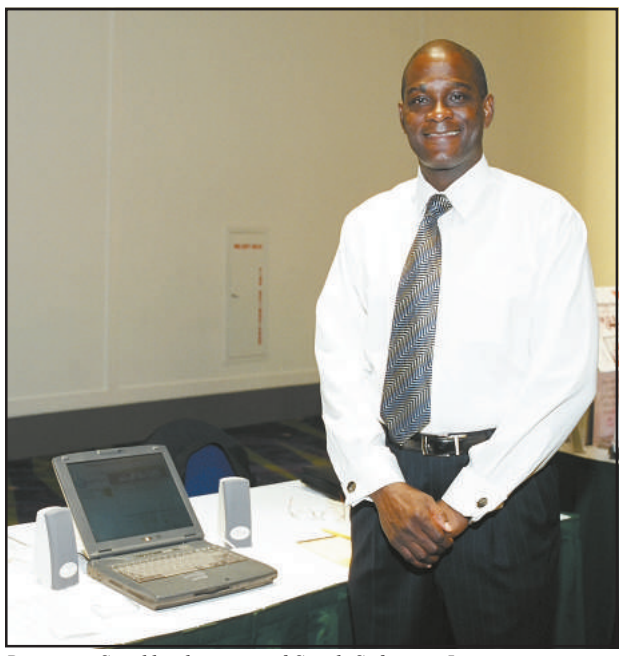
While many business people are inundated with countless daily e-mails to wade through, reading a high volume of these text messages can become overwhelming. Mr. Strickland states "Research indicates that people who see a video retain 50% more information than merely reading." Just imagine reading a text email from your supervisor or manager. Now, imagine seeing the message delivered by your manager or supervisor on video, showing unmistakable expression that would hardly be misconstrued.

VM Direct is seven years old. The Dream Team consists of founder, Craig Ellins, who created the Home Shopping Networks), Amy Black, President, and Richard Kall, Chairman of the Board, who has enjoyed a successful career in network marketing. VM Direct currently operates in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Plans are in place for expansion to the UK in June.

Mr. Strickland is excited about the seemingly endless possibilities of VM Direct. He states that the company's major slogan, "Connecting people and changing lives through video communication" is a great testament of things to come. Thoughts of this becoming our new medium of communication evoke memories of episodes of the then futuristic The Jetsons cartoon series where Mr. Spaceley pushed a button and barked his latest demands to George, or his lovely wife, Jane would appear and give dear George a list of things to get at the store on his way home from the office.

Mr. Strickland stated, "Video just does a better job of communicating. It shows both emotion and expression, as well as the ability to talk and be seen. This can be used for advertising, branding your business, just saying hello, teaching and training, broadcast a special event, and even for entertainment purposes."

His enthusiasm is contagious when he gives a rundown of the company's suite of applications. He also is emphatic in letting potential users know that there's not a lot of equipment or expertise needed to use the VM Direct suite of applications. Requirements are at least a Pentium II computer with the Windows XP operating system, speakers, microphone, a Webcam, Internet Explorer 6.0, Windows Media Player 9.0, and an internet connection. Because of speed and efficiency, a broadband connection works best. Currently, broadcast capabilities are unavailable for Macintosh computers.



Benjamin Strickland, owner of Strick Software, Inc.

VM Direct's suite of applications includes:

HelloMail: This is the company's flagship product, a complete, video email program that allows you to send and receive video e-mail, for both business and personal use. Grandmothers who feel that they don't see their grandchildren who live across the country nearly enough can experience an even greater feeling of the next best thing to being there when they get a video "Happy Birthday" greeting from the grandkids. Imagine viewing a presentation on your desktop computer that you didn't have to brave a brutal drive halfway across town to attend.

Hello Live: This is your private television station, broadcast live from the Internet. This service allows you to broadcast a live event . It can be broadcast in public mode, private mode, or even set up as pay-per-view.

Hello Instant Messenger: This service is literally a videophone. Users are able to type text messages to each other with the only cost being their Internet connection.

Video on Demand: This service allows the user to store videos for use, according to the user and/or customer needs. The user is able to view the videos at their convenience.

KallMe: This service from VM Direct is ideal for sales people and other companies who want to be available to customers or clients at all times. A KallMe icon would appear on the user's screen. When the user clicks the icon, they will be prompted to enter their phone number and the system will automatically call your contact. This is essentially a Web-based, toll-free number. New services in development include **Hello Blog**, a video Web Blog that will be available in June, as well as the capability to send video to cell phones.

To say that Mr. Strickland is excited about the possibilities and opportunities of VM Direct is an understatement. Perhaps the philosophy he lives by says it best: "Pursue your dreams with a passion or take them to your grave!" This Renaissance man is indeed passionate about Strick Software's progress. For more information, visit http://www.vmdinfostorm.com/stricksoft or http://www.helloworld.com/stricksoft This video portal is a one stop dashboard for Hello World. Contact Mr. Strickland at (404) 273-9634 or by email at bsstgrickland@helloworld.com.

PROTECTING THE TEMPLE

Spreading The Gospel

By Henrietta Turnquest

1 Corinthians 3:16-17.."Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? In any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: For the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

WHO'S IN THE KITCHEN?

What's going on ? Wake up everybody!!! These words may have been the titles of popular tunes in the 70's and 80's, but we need to hear them again loud and clear. We are having a crisis in the kitchen.

During a casual office conversation, I was appalled to hear that people are no longer cooking at home. I did a quick and informal survey and found that the kitchen was generally not the center of the home as it had been when I was growing up. Cooking was often a family event with each child taking part in preparation, serving and cleanup. Sadly, most takeout meals today are prepared by folks we don't know. Further, we don't know when the meals were prepared and what is in them.

My concern was further heighten when I saw the movie "Super size Me". This is the story of a perfectly healthy young man, who ate mostly home-cooked meals at least twice a day, deciding to eat McDonald's three times a day for 30 days. As strange as this may seem, many of us eat fast food every day at least twice a day. Before he started on the cross-country McDonald's saga, he was examined by three different physicians and found to be in excellent health. During the experiment, his vital signs were taken on a regular basis. We watched as he gained weight, his blood pressure went up and the general status of his health declined to the point where his physicians begged him to stop eating McDonald's three times a day. However, he was committed to completing the project.

Side effects of the constant fast food diet included decreased sex drive and performance, rapid weight gain and general lethargy. It was amazing seeing a healthy man become a shadow of his former self. During his cross-country journey, he interviewed fast food connoisseurs about their habits. Many said that they did not have time to cook or eat healthy food. The movie's star ended his month of fast-food having developed serious health conditions that took months to reverse.

Finally, in the film we were invited to witness an operation to reduce the stomach of an extremely obese man. It was not a pretty picture. That was enough for me to really pay more attention to what I was eating and make an extra effort to cook and eat at home. 'Super size Me' is a must see movie and should be seen in a group with a discussion after the movie.

My point is that we must realize the damage we are doing to ourselves and our families when we constantly eat out. Healthy foods can be prepared in minutes with a little planning. For instance, the crock pot is one of my favorite kitchen utensils. By putting ingredients in the pot and turning it on before leaving the house in the morning, dinner is ready when you come home. A salad can also be prepared before leaving home and left in the fridge.

Many of us prepare huge meals on the weekend and eat leftovers at least until Tuesday. This is better than eating out, but does not supply the real nutrition our families need. Because of the lack of nutrition in our food, nutritional supplements are a must.

Next time I will give some rules of food combining and healthful, fast and easy recipes to counter the fast-food epidemic.

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Morning Worship - 11:00 AM
1st & 3rd Sundays - 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM
Wed. Bible Study - 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM

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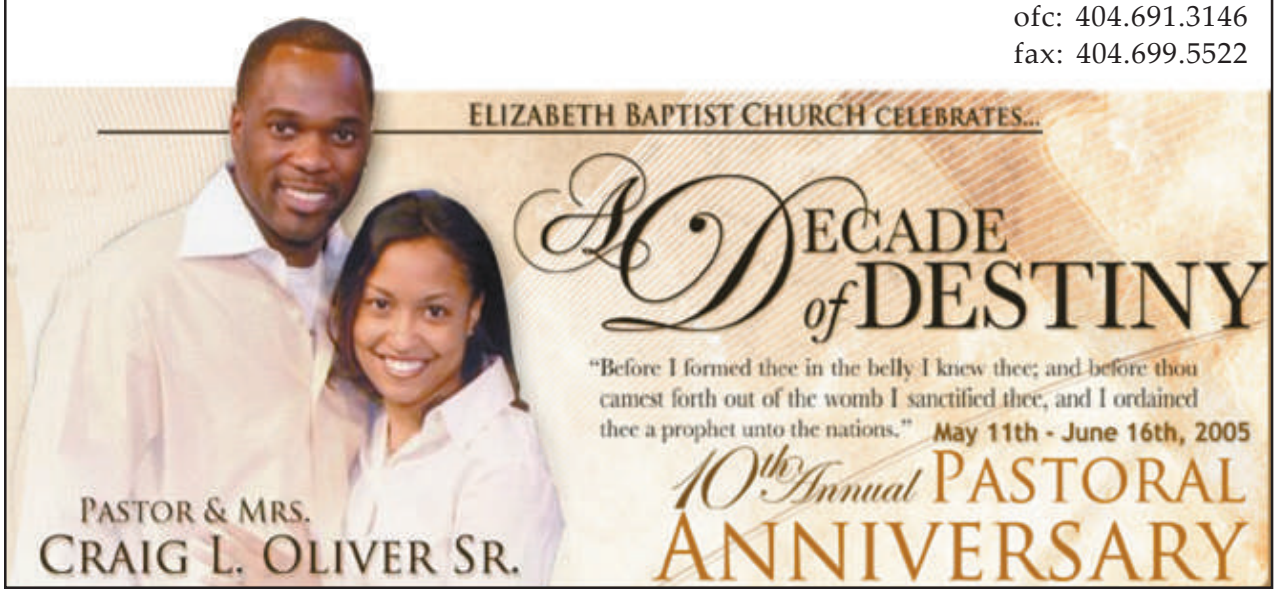

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Church Anniversary
July 29th

Young Adult Day
August 29th

Pastor's Anniversary
September 26th

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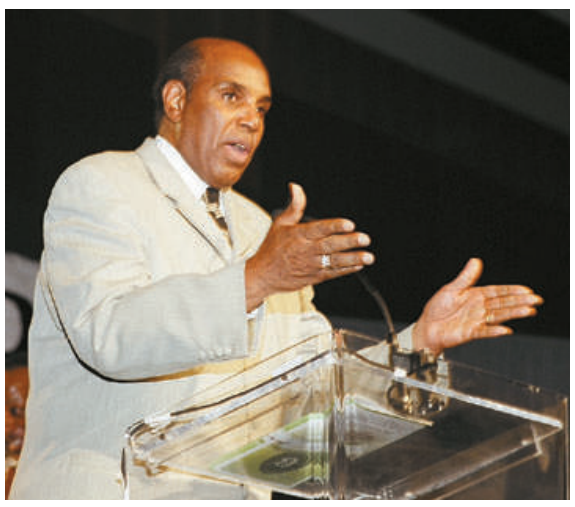

DR. GERALD L. DURLEY
Senior Pastor

8:00 A.M.	Early Worship Service
9:00 A.M.	Breakfast
9:15 A.M.	Sunday School
9:30 A.M.	New Members Class
10:40 A.M.	Worship Service

HJA Alexander To Speak

Overground RR!! rolls into Headland Heights for BRC Sunday

by Swain Watters

The Overground RR!! will be rolling again on Sunday, June 12 at 11:00 a.m. The boarding station this time is Headland Heights United Methodist Church on Dodson Drive in East Point. Herald J. A. Alexander, the visionary of Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center (BRC) will bring the inspirational message on that morning. *Empowering People for God's Agenda* is the theme that has been adopted for this first BRC Sunday at Headland.

Rev. Emile Ennis, Senior Pastor, emphasizes the ministries at Headland are focused on taking care of the whole person: "Therefore, when we address physical needs; we must deal with economics." Rev. Ennis went on to make some key points about the upcoming special day.

"It is not a business expo on a Sunday. It is a worship celebration where we are giving thanks to God that our community has so many viable, reliable and essential businesses that are owned and operated by the people who live in the community; our neighbors, our friends and our church members.

People need to know these businesses. We invite everyone to come. We want the business owners to bring themselves and information about their businesses so that people can see the reality of how we are in control of our own destiny. Look at all of the effective ministries that are working in the churches across the Black community. Now, envision how much more gets done with added resources of an economically strong community."

HJA Alexander
BRC President
Guest Speaker

BRC Sunday promises to be a day of celebration, inspiration and liberation. You may contact the church for more information on how you can participate in BRC Sunday or the BRC at 404-346-0808.

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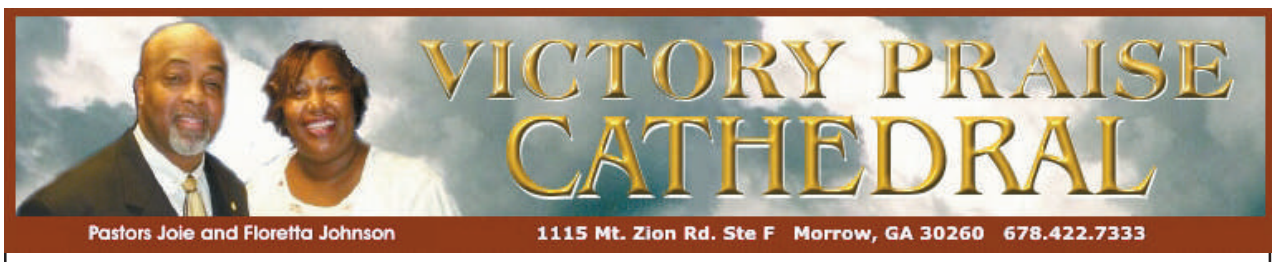

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The Cascade Development Committee is anxious to hear from you! Everyone is invited to share invaluable suggestions and comments regarding the development and design of our new Christian community. Please take this opportunity to complete the survey at www.tunspan.com/cascadeumc

15th Habitat for Humanity House
It's not too late to volunteer and help build the Cascade-Glenn Habitat for Humanity House. No experience is required, just a willingness to work. Sign-up in the church office. Construction will continue on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Scheduled work dates: Saturday, May 7 - Painting, trim and soffits. Saturday, May 14 - Painting, trim and soffits. Saturday, May 21 - Landscaping and House Dedication.

Veteran's Ministry
The Veteran's Ministry will meet the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in room 214. All Veterans are invited to attend our next meeting on May 5. For more information, contact Press McCallum at 770-461-5579.

Cascade Bowlers
Come join the fun and fellowship with our Cascade members and friends in the Cascade Adult Bowlers League at Union City Lanes. For more information, contact Ronnie Ludaway at 770-996-7611 or Alfred Garner at 770-907-4910.

Spanish I & II Classes
Led by Debbie Fung-A-Wing and Rita Richardson, the repeat session for Beginner Spanish I will begin end of May or early June. Please email Debbie Fung-A-Wing at fungawing@prodigy.net or more details on this class. Beginner Spanish Levels I & II will be offered again in the fall beginning Wednesday, September 14.

The BRC is here to help get your church news out to the general public and other BRC members. Send your event announcements, and news of interest, to the Conductor at churchnews@brcatl.com.

BRC UPCOMING EVENTS

BRC Sunday at Headland Heights UMC
Sunday, June 12, 2005 • 11:00 a.m.

BRC Biz Forum
Thursday, June 23, 2005 • 12:15 p.m.

1st Annual Breast Cancer Walk
Saturday, July 16, 2005 • 8 a.m.

Hank Stewart 4th Annual White Linen
Saturday, July 16, 2005 • 6 p.m.

BRC 2nd Annual Family Golf Tournament
Saturday, November 5, 2005 • 10 a.m.

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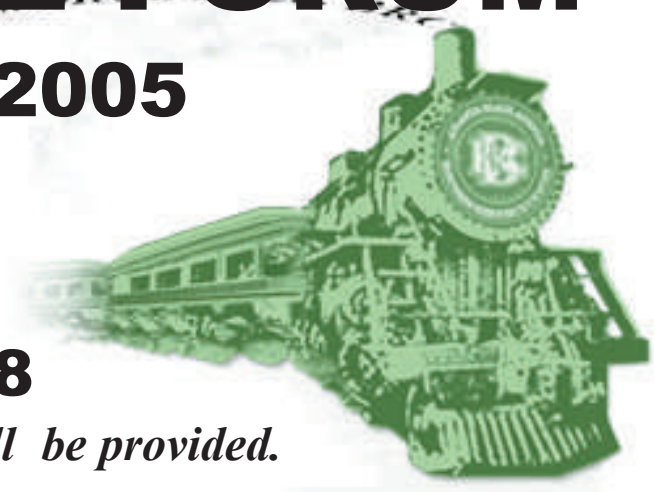

Sparks E-newsletter Coming Soon!

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The following businesses are members of the Atlanta Black Agenda Business Resource Center Inc. The BRC Business Directory is your community guide to utilizing members of the Black community dedicated to recycling the Black dollar back in our community. Each business listed has agreed to legally binding arbitration should there be a problem with their product or service. Binding arbitration does not apply to torts or banking members.

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