## The ORR WORSHIP CENTERS

Anointed Word Evangelistic Tabernacle Anointed Vision of Hope Antioch AME Church

Antioch AME Chur Ariel Bowen UMC

The Ark of Salvation
The B.J. Holland Institute of Ministry
Believers' Bible Christian Church
Ben Hill Christian Church
Ben Hill UMC

Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. Beulah Missionary Baptist Church Big Bethel AME

Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church Boatrock Baptist Church

Butler Street Christian Methodist Episcopal Camy Arnett Ministries

Calvary Baptist Church
Calvary United Methodist Church

Calvary United Methodist Church
Cascade United Methodist Church
Chapel of Christian Love
Christian Fellowship Baptist Church
Chosen Generation C.O.G.I.C.
Clarkston First Baptist Church
Columbia Drive United Methodist Church
Community Church of God
Covenant Ministries
DaySpring International Ministries, Inc.
Dodd-Sterling UMC

Ebenezer Baptist Church Elizabeth Baptist Church Emmaus Road Missionary Baptist Church

Enon Church
Evangelistic New Life Worship Center
First AME Church

First Iconium Baptist Church
First Victory Baptist Church
Friendship Community Church
Grace Community Fellowship Church
Greater Heights Christian Church
Greater Mount Carmel AME
Greater Mountain Baptist Church

Greater New Life Baptist Church Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church Greenforest Community Baptist Church

Headland Heights UMC Highly Favored Ministries Hillside International Truth Center, Inc.

Holsey Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Hopewell MBC Impact! Doing Church Differently

International Christian Fellowship
Jackson Memorial Baptist Church
Journey of Faith Church
Kingdom of God Evangelistic
Outreach Ministry
Liberty International Ministries

Life Changing Ministries
Life Line Church
Light of the World Christian Tabernacle
Lindsay Street Baptist Church
Love Circle Truth Center

Love Life Christian Fellowship Church Midway Missionary Church Miracles, Miracles and More Miracles Mission On The Move

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Muhammed's Mosque No. 15 New Beginnings Ministries New Fountain Worldwide Ministries

New Jerusalem Baptist Church New Jerusalem Worship Center International

Omega Holiness Church
Poplar Springs Baptist Church
Powerhouse of Deliverance Cathedral
Power of Faith Deliverance Ministry
Providence Missionary Baptist Church
Pure Praise Ministry

Ray Of Hope Christian Church Redemptive Life Christian Fellowship Church Rehoboth Christian Center International Restoration Tabernacle, Inc.

Salem Bible Church
Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church
St James Missionary Baptist Church

St. John Missionary Baptist Church

St. Mark AME Church

St. Mark Lutheran Church St. Philip AME Church

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church The True Light Baptist Church Trinity Tabernacle Baptist Church

Trinity Tabernacle Baptist Church West End Seventh-Day Adventist Wheat Street Baptist Church Woods Memorial Baptist Church

Word of Faith Love Center
Word of God Ministries
World Covenant Christian Center

Zion Hill Baptist Church

# The Call and the ——Response

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 I:2

## IT'S TIME TO GET UP!!!

#### 2ND ANNUAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

INSPIRED BY THE PAST, PREPARED FOR THE PRESENT, EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE!!!







(Visit Marching2March.org to see videos of the 2013 BBM/M2M Opening Day highlights, the powerful Opening Ceremony keynote message from Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Parker; Harriett Tubman's descendant Geraldine Copes-Daniels endorsing the OvergrounRR!!® movement and singing "Go Down Moses"; along with Derrick Boazman as he emceed the Opening Ceremony).

h!! What a month this has been!! Our dear ancestral mother Harriett Tubman would have been overjoyed to have witnessed the activities of Black Business Month/Marching2March 2013.

Last year the Pastors, who are Church Station Conductors of the OvergroundRR!!® (see pages 16-18), led the city in celebrating the 1st Black Business Month. It was the first definitive step on what we all know will be a long journey to delivering our people to economic freedom.

This year, during the 2nd Annual Black Business Month, the ORR!!® Pastors took us to new heights. Black Business Month signs appeared throughout the



Listen to 2 ½ minute audio of edited excerpts at Marching2March.org

city. As they did before, they pointed the community to the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 3, 1968 mere hours before he would lose his life. On that fateful night, Dr. King called for all of our people to practice a concept we now refer to as, "Kitchen Table Affirmative Action." The speech that contained this profound call for action is most famous for the contents of the final stanza wherein he proclaims, "I've Been To The Mountaintop!" (Listen to the video at Marching2March.org).

Of course, that part of the speech is climactically moving and inspiring. However, we have failed to pay attention to the very explicit instructions he also gave to us as a people. Specifically, he directed us to change the economic landscape of the Black community.

Over the years, we have indulged in the emotional inspiration of the message - and rightfully so. But in the midst of our indulgence, it appears that we have overlooked the life-changing directive he gave regarding the essential need to build up and support our own businesses.

Forty years later, much like the people of God who wandered in the wilderness for forty years and then finally emerged and awakened, the inspirational pastors of The OvergroundRR!!® are telling us to listen to Martin:

Continued on page 2

#### **Community Income Spending Comparison**

Ethnicity	Population	Amt Spent (billions)	Bus. Revenues (billions)	Percent of Amount
Blacks	39,472,041	\$ 910	\$ 136	15%
Hispanics	48,232,635	\$ 978	\$ 350	36%
Asians	14,506,692	\$ 509	\$ 506	99%
Whites	244,493,339	\$ 9,125	\$ 24,061	263%

Source: The Selig Center of the University of Georgia 2008. This study is conducted every 10 years.

#### ORR!!® A·L·L·I·A·N·C·E·S

100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. • 100 Black Women of Atlanta • African American Philharmonic Orchestra • All Empowered Inc.

American Kidney Services • Americolor Opera Alliance • Atlanta Be Someone • Atlanta Business League • Atlanta Urban League
City of Atlanta, Minority Business Opportunities • Cleveland Ave Roy L. Yancy, Sr. Public Library • Community Teen Coalition, Inc.

Concerned Black Clergy • FACAA • Fulton County Workforce Development • Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce • GABEO
Girl Scout Troop 9216 • Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance • Habesha Inc. • House of Restoration, Inc. • Investment Atlanta, Inc.

Making The Transition, Inc. • MACEO's Kids Foundation • Metropolitan Atlanta Violence Prevention Partnership (MAVPP)

NAACP of Georgia National Action Network • Ropheka Rock of the World, Inc. • Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center

SCLC • Show and Prove Youth Organization • Soul Food Museum • The B-Aware Foundation • The Spirit of Sweet Auburn

Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture • United Negro College Fund • University Community Academy • WAIN.TV

THE CONDUCTOR 2nd Qtr. 2013

www.overgroundrr.com

#### Official Publication of the Overground RR!!®

#### **Letter From the Chairman**



#### OK, Young **Blacks** are Smart

Agron Turneau

agree that young Blacks are smart and their generation even got a President of these United States. Without going into a long litany of how they got so smart or all the work of others before, there are two big questions: 1. Why are so many of their generation in jail, on drugs, unemployed, hopeless, dropouts, and just poor. (Who Cares?) 2. Why is the Black Community losing ground, attention and respect, compared to other groups, while many individuals independently grow? (Is the community irreverent?)

I am not going to try to answer these questions because my answers are old and the young generation must answer for their children. If anyone thinks that another Race of people will rescue their Black children or that individuals will somehow improve our school systems, or others will loan Black businesses money, or others will care for the masses, or others will address the current issues of equality they are in for a rude awakening. Never have and never will. Others will help those who help themselves. That is why we must somehow not reach back for the good old days and methods, but jump forward together with an intergenerational Black Agenda. An Agenda that:

- Creates a consensus-building process that leads to coalitions
- Develops a pro-active agenda reflective of the diverse interest with the Atlanta African American community
- · Formulates specific plans and strategies to address social, political, and economic issues facing our community
- · Implements pro-active agendas and specific actions plans or identify implementing organizations
- Provides interactive processes to communicate with our members and with other coalitions, networks and alliances that are committed to selfdetermination and empowerment
- Creates a positive impact on both present and future generations of Atlantans

Let's write an agenda.

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. . . Never stop and forget that collectively -- that means all of us together - collectively we are richer than all the nations in the world, with the exception of nine. Did you ever think about that? After you leave the United States, Soviet Russia, Great Britain, West Germany, France, and I could name the others, the American Negro collectively is richer than most nations of the world. We have an annual income of more than thirty billion dollars a year, which is more than all of the exports of the United States, and more than the national budget of Canada. Did you know that? That's power right there, if we know how to pool it.

... But not only that, we've got to strengthen black institutions. I call upon you to take your money out of the banks downtown and deposit your money in Tri-State Bank. We want a "bank-in" movement in Memphis. Go by the savings and loan association. I'm not asking you something that we don't do ourselves at SCLC. Judge Hooks and others will tell you that we have an account here in the savings and loan association from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. We are telling you



Allen Entrepreneurial Institute International Conference Center

to follow what we are doing. Put your money there.

You have six or seven black insurance companies here in the city of Memphis. Take out your insurance there. We want to have an "insurance-in." Now these are some practical things that we can do. We begin the process of building a greater economic base...

(Emphasis in original) Martin Luther King, Jr., I've Been to the Mountaintop speech delivered 3 April 1968 (Listen to the 2 ½ minute audio of edited excerpts at Marching2march.org).

Following Dr. King's instructions we now have the ORR!!® Business Directory (see pages 13-15) to find businesses owned by members of our own community. It has become the central business directory in the Atlanta Black community found in The Conductor newspaper which has grown to have the third largest circulation per issue in the State of Georgia. Additionally, the ORR!!® Business

Directory can also be found on the website, www.overgroundrr.com. It has grown to have more than 1 million hits per year.

Yes...the Pastors of this great movement pointed us to the victories over the chained and Jim Crow terroristic slavery of our past. During this Black Business Month, our leaders pointed out that when Dr. King on April 3, 1968 directed us to start supporting our own businesses, Black spending was more than \$30 billion dollars a year. Now, as shown in the chart on the front page, it is \$910 billion dollars.

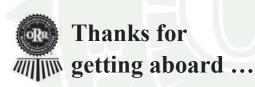
On March 1, 2013, the clarion voice of Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Parker, Sr. Pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church, rang the liberty bells in our hearts and souls during BBM/M2M's Opening Ceremony at Morehouse School of Medicine. Truly GOD used this mighty servant. The Opening Ceremony concluded a full day of extraordinarily valuable seminars and networking sessions which equipped ORR!!® members with new information and

Continued on page 5

## The ORR!!® welcomes new members...

#### Churches

Antioch AME Church Calvary Baptist Church New Jerusalem Worship Center Pure Praise Ministry Rehoboth Christian Center Int'l Restoration Tabernacle, Inc. Word of Faith Love Center



#### **Businesses**

AccuClean, Inc. Mack's Fitness Center Research One Wheels and Tires by Bailey

#### **Alliances**

American Kidney Services House of Restoration Metropolitan Atlanta Violence Prevention Partnership (MAVPP)

#### **Memorial Tribute**



On January 11, 2013, Rev. Charles McLean, an "original" member of the Gospelaires of Dayton, Ohio and a former member of the Gospel Keynotes was laid to rest. He will be remembered as one of the greatest falsetto singers in quartet music, especially on the hit song, "There will be rest for the weary." He left the music stage to preach the gospel and now will "walk around heaven all day".

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Connecting Churches, Businesses and the **Black Community for Unity and Prosperity** 

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#### For more information contact: The Overground RR!!®

(404) 346-0808 www.OvergroundRR.com www.Marching2March.org

#### THE POWER TO PRODUCE WEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY IS 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 • Email Newsletter • Referral Service • Arbitration of Disputes

## ORR!!® Pulpit

www.overgroundrr.com

## Overground RR!!® Pulpit



Host Pastor
Pastor Emeritus, Providence MBC
Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Durley

Rev. Dr. Gloria W. Wright, Pastor of DaySpring International Ministries, Inc. is a true soldier for God and a teacher/minister of civil and human rights. May you be empowered by the passionate words of Apostle Dr. Gloria W. Wright.



Guest Pastor Apostle Dr. Gloria W. Wright DaySpring International Ministries, Inc.

Thank you ORR!! for "The Conductor". I am grateful and humbled to have been asked to be featured as a Pulpit guest. May the excerpts from this message inspire all readers. Moreover, may it empower you – whether you are in a "small" church or a "mega" church. God is bigger than any church.

## Store Front or Mega Church: "Get Right or Get Left"

"I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.

I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."

Revelation 3:8



he seven churches described in Revelation 2-3 are seven literal churches at the time that John the Apostle was writing the Book of Revelation. Though they were literal churches in that time, there is also spiritual significance for churches and believers today. My assignment is to teach on one of the last four churches which is the church called Philadelphia.

The word Philadelphia means "brotherly love". This one, small church had favor with God. More than the others, Philadelphia was one of two churches with which God was pleased. Why is that, you may ask? The Scripture, Verse 8 of the 3rd Chapter of Revelation tells us that John revealed that Philadelphia had little power and little strength, but Philadelphia kept God's Word. Philadelphia was small and had no wealth and no prestige, but Philadelphia did not deny God's name; Philadelphia was discouraged because it had not grown, but Christ knew of Philadelphia's deeds and the heart of Philadelphia.

Christ said to Philadelphia and pastors of small churches in Verse 8, I know all the things you do, and I have opened doors for you that no one can shut. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my Word and did not deny me. We don't know what it meant yesterday, but today...I believe that God can open doors that have been shut and shut doors that need to be shut because of my faith. Has God ever opened a door for you that was shut? Has God ever shut a door that did not need to be opened?

Someone said that Philadelphia represented a time period of revival, Philadelphia was one of four churches that was warned about the coming of the Lord. I say to you my brothers and sisters, no one knows the day nor the hour when Jesus will come, but my Bible tells me that he is coming for a church without spot or wrinkle...I believe...do you believe? Do you trust in the God of Yesterday, the God of Today and the God of Forever? I DO!

I pastor a small church. Nevertheless, we serve a big God and we will be obedient, devoted, and faithful...until Jesus comes, we want to get it right...

So my Beloved...Get Right or Get Left!

## Heroes and Sheroes of the Church



#### First Gentleman

Daniel W. Wright, Jr. has been a member of *Faith African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* (Rev. Jawwad J. Love, Pastor) for 11 years where he is a class leader. Although his wife, Dr. Gloria Ward Wright and he pray together to broaden and deepen the family structure, they worship in separate Christian congregations. Mr. Wright is a life member of the NAACP, past president of the Georgia Association of Educators, and a Deputy Registrar with the Fulton County Board of Elections. He stated, "My life is an influence on every life mine touches whether I realize it or not. I am responsible and accountable for that influence."



#### Mother

Mother Iven Wright is a member of *St. Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church* where Rev. Dr. William D. Watley is the Senior Pastor. Since joining St. Phillip's 24 years ago, she has become a Charter Member, Attendance Recorder, Health Reporter and Bible Study presenter to name a few. As an active member of the Nettie Lewis Moore Women's Missionary Society (Unit 6), in 2001 she was awarded "Woman of the Year". God has sustained her through the years, and has brought her from "a mighty long way". From the "Big Apple" to the "Georgia Peach" and He is not through with her yet!!



#### Church Coordinator

As Church Coordinator for **Zion Hill Baptist Church** under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Parker, **James DeBouse** is situated in a unique position to serve the Lord. His passion for helping others is his way of administering spiritual justice. Through volunteerism he empowers others to find their place in ministry by helping congregants discover, develop and use their God given gifts to serve. Like many others at Zion Hill, he is encouraged to live outside the box of what he can do in order to tap into what God wants him to do. Since joining Zion Hill 9 years ago, he has tapped into new passions and developed new skills sets. His "servants' heart" answered the call, "Here I Am".



#### Usher

**Rita Holt-Smith** is the Lead for Team Hospitality at *Impact* under the direction of Pastor Olu Brown. Since 2007 she has enjoyed being a servant leader and embraces the philosophy of "extreme hospitality" at Impact. It is a part of Impact's DNA - beginning in the parking lot and extends throughout the worship experience. We know first impressions mean a lot, especially for those who are seeking God or a spiritual home; therefore, we are a church devoted to creating innovative and unique experiences. Our motto is "Doing Church Differently" "Come and See"!



#### Auxiliary

Civil Rights veteran **Bobby Adams** is a member of *Life Line Church* under the leadership of Rev. Mark A. Couch. Marching back in the day through the streets of Alabama, Mississippi, Washington, D.C. and others, he has always been a believer of doing the right thing. Some of the right things for him are providing food and clothing for homeless shelters as well as donating financial support for transportation to and from workplaces. As a servant in the Men's Ministry, he helps to empower Men to do God's work. Understanding how boys need to be groomed to become Men, he advocates for troubled boys, opening his ears to hear their cries and working with others to get those needs met.



#### Outreach Leader

"Go Get My Children" is what God said to Warrior Coryell and that is exactly what she is doing as Outreach Leader of BYOBB Media Ministries, Inc! She is under the leadership of Apostle Camy Arnett of Camy Arnett Ministries where their outreach ministry gives the glory to God for who He is and what He does, wherever He sends them. Mrs. Coryell says, "Her job is to obey". She knows evangelism is God's heart and that it is the purpose for which she was birthed into the kingdom and she does not take it lightly.

AGES is the section of The Conductor that is directed towards highlighting Arts, Gospel, Entertainment and Sports activities and events taking place within the African-American community; and specifically featured or presented within the Metropolitan Atlanta area. To learn how your church, business or organization can get involved, please contact The Overground RR!!® office at 404-346-0808.

## **Arts**



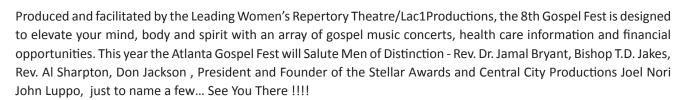
## Sweet Auburn Festival - Where the Food is GOOD and the Music is GREAT

MAY 4-5, 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

The Sweet Auburn Music Fest (S.A.M.F) is a multi-genre music festival featuring three distinct forms of music R&B, Hip-Hop & Gospel, but is inclusive of all. Whether you are a patron or a participant, you will celebrate the Experience of being a part of a festival of Food, Fun and Music. "Where the Food is Good and the Music is Great all the time." **Music** - An Art form whose medium is sound and silence, by combining vocal and or instrumental sounds to produce pitch, rhythm, dynamics of timbre and texture to produce Harmony. It is the Universal language that connects all cultural of people. **Festival** - A festival is an event, unusually and ordinarily, staged by a local community which centers on and celebrated some unique aspect of that community through the event. Call 678.861.7263 for more information.

## Gospel

## Atlanta Gospel Fest Music & Healthcare Festival July 26, & 27 2013 | Georgia International Convention Center | College Park, GA





## **Entertainment**



Gladys Knight

Performing at Wolf Creek Amphitheater Friday, May 3, 2013 - 8:00 PM

Lawn tickets \$45 | Reserved seats \$75
Premium Reserved seats \$85 | VIP Tables \$125

Wolf Creek Amphitheater 3025 Merk Road Southwest Atlanta, GA 30349

www.wolfcreekamphitheater.com

#### **36th Annual Jazz Festival**

Audiences will enjoy a wide spectrum of styles from traditional straight-ahead, Latin jazz and swing to jazz flavored with neo-soul, hip-hop, R&B and world music. As technology brings us closer, musicians are collaborating from all corners of the globe and we're entering a new age of jazz. Join us as we present some of todays' most vibrant and innovative jazz artists including Cécile McLorin Salvant, Dominick Farinacci, Meshell Ndegeocello, José James, Tia Fuller, Aruán Ortiz, Gretchen Parlato, and Rudresh Mahanthappa.

Come experience three exhilarating days of FREE music over Memorial Day Weekend (May 25-27) in historic Piedmont Park.

Piedmont Park

10th Street Northeast and Charles Allen Drive Northeast
Atlanta, GA 30309

Cost: FREE

404.546.6820

www.atlantafestivals.com



## **Sports**

#### The Angel McCoughtry Dream Foundation

Dreams for Angel McCoughtry (Guard/Forward) of the Atlanta Dream women's basketball team go beyond the court. The Angel McCoughtry Dream Foundation is passionate about teaching and empowering young girls to recognize their dreams. Team Angel Basketball Camp helps young girls learn good character, increase self-confidence and discover valuable life skills through trainings based on the fundamentals of sportsmanship, competition and respect. All of which will facilitate physical, mental and spiritual maturity. Join her team this summer.



Contact her foundation at P.O. Box 291 | Fairburn, GA 30213 Phone: 1-443-691-1676 | Email: McCoughtry@msn.com for more information.





## **Black Business Month -**Marching2March

(website: www.Marching2March.org)

## A Message from The Chief Convener

## Faith & Credit



Rev. Timothy McDonald, III

"Your credit score is a three-digit number derived from detailed information about your credit history, and it can be one of your most valuable assets, or your greatest liability."

s an African American Pastor, I am often approached by members who have questions regarding their finances and their credit in particular. I am often asked, "Why do Black people have to pay so much more for the same services and items than our White brothers and sisters?"

I then have to explain to them the importance of CREDIT. Much of our lives, in fact too much of our lives and our ability to live is based on what is known as your CREDIT SCORE. The problem is many African Americans do not have a clue what their Credit Score is and how it affects their lives. Your credit score can literally cost you thousands of dollars per year, and this will affect your ability to financially support your children; to plan a vacation, taking your spouse out to dinner, and of course your ability to give your tithes and offerings to your church.

Your credit score is a three-digit number derived from detailed information about your credit history, and it can be one of your most valuable assets, or your greatest liability. It has to do with how you pay your bills and how much you owe. The Bible says, "with all thy getting, get understanding." The Bible also says, "the people will perish because of a lack of knowledge." Not knowing your credit score and your credit history can be detrimental to your financial future. Every Georgia Citizen is eligible for a FREE CREDIT REPORT from the

three reporting agencies each year. You need to know what is in your credit report because over 50% of all reports have errors. These errors can cost you and your family lots of money. You should visit annualcreditreport. **com** to get copies of your FREE credit reports each year, even if you have great credit.

Recently, one of my members was going to purchase a used automobile. Over the last two years the economy was down and a lot of people suffered. Many lost their jobs and bills got paid usually after the past due date. This affects your credit score. She was told that she could get a car alright, but due to her low credit score, she would be charged a very high interest rate. This higher interest rate over the course of the loan would end up costing her more than \$3,000. This is \$3,000 that could have been used for a number of other more pleasureful things, like taking a cruise, or a family trip to Disney World.

Allow me to share a few other things that your Credit Score affects. Your Credit Score has a direct impact on the interest rate that you will pay on any loan you apply for. For those purchasing a home, this can translate into tens of thousands of dollars over the course of the loan. A second impact is credit cards. Credit card debt is extremely high in the African American community and much of it is due to the higher interest that we are charged because of low credit scores.

This too translates into thousands of additional dollars over the course of paying down the card.

What many of us are not aware of is that even when you are applying for a job, it is not uncommon for an interviewer to pull your credit score right on the spot during the interview. All they need is your social security number and this may determine whether or not you get that job. Even renting an apartment is an opportunity for the landlord to pull up your credit score. Simply trying to turn on utility services is influenced by your credit score and will determine how much deposit you will have to pay.

Simply put, the higher your credit score the more money you SAVE; the lower your credit score the more money you PAY. The more money you save, the more money you have to enjoy. The Bible says you shall have life and you shall have it more abundantly. Being under the weight of debt and bills is not the abundant life. Paying more for goods and services because you have a low credit score is not the abundant life. It is time for you to take control of your credit history and your credit score.

The OvergroundRR!! and Concerned Black Clergy are working to **TEACH OUR DOLLARS SOME \$CENTS.** When we are in control, we can support Black businesses and strengthen our communities.

Continued from page 2

contacts which will definitely enrich their businesses.

On March 9th, the 2nd Annual BBM/ M2M Golf Tournament was a rousing success. 10 teams, totaling 40 golfers represented ORR!!® churches and businesses enjoyed the Browns Mill Golf Course. And while the golfers pursued their sport, the ORR!!® BBM/ M2M Family Fun Festival gave nongolfers plenty to do. It is a wonderful event to bring all of the churches, businesses and the entire community together.

2013 BBM/M2M continued on March 19, 2013 with The Atlanta Business League's 6th Annual Congress on the State of Black Business, SPENDING BLACK AND PUTTING BACK at the incredible (and I mean incredible) Allen Entrepreneurial Institute International Conference Center.



Leona

Barr-Davenport

Leona Barr-Davenport, President & CEO, and its Public Policy committee chaired by Joseph Hudson, this Congress continued to focus the community, as Dr. King instructed, on the absolutely critical need to support our own

Under the leadership of

Joseph Hudson On Thursday, March 21, 2013, Rev. Frank C. Brown, President of

businesses.

the Concerned Black Clergy carried the movement forward at the BBM/M2M Spiritual Emphasis Citywide Worship service at the historic West Hunter Street Baptist Church whose senior pastor is Rev. Dr. Toussaint K. Hill. President Brown took us through scripture to the tomb of Lazarus. Preaching the life-giving gospel under the undeniable inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Rev. Brown invoked the words spoken by Jesus Christ to the dead, decaying, stinking remains of his beloved friend Lazarus.

Rev. Brown declared in paraphrase that just as Jesus told Lazarus "It is time to get up!!", so GOD is likewise telling the Black community, "It is time to get up!!" It is time to get up from the deathlike economic stupor to which we have grown accustomed. It is time to pump

the life-giving blood of our own dollars through the body of our own community. 2013 Black Business Month official activities concluded on March 30, 2013 with the well attended Youth Economic Empowerment class which was held at 1st Iconium Baptist Church.

We have truly been inspired by the past. By GOD's grace with the OvergroundRR!!®, we are prepared for the present. And as we all follow Dr. King's directions by practicing Kitchen Table Affirmative Action, we are excited about the future.

Won't you join us onboard the OvergroundRR!!®?

Official Publication of the Overground RR!!®

## The Overground RR!!® and Black Clergy of Atlanta Launch 2013 Black Business Month

Business and health workshops, networking and an opening ceremony featuring Harriet Tubman's descendants highlight this kick-off event at the Morehouse School of Medicine



he winter cold of Friday, March 1st, did not discourage hundreds of seasoned, new and aspiring business owners, church leaders, congregants and community members from attending the Black Business Month/ Marching2March Business and Health Summit and the BBM/M2M Opening Ceremony at the Morehouse School of Medicine. An event inspired by the Past, prepared for the Present and excited about the Future was filled with informative workshops on business management, sales and marketing, business finances, business tools and resources and health management. Understanding that it takes good health to run a good business, the Morehouse School of Medicine offered FREE health screenings for high cholesterol, high blood pressure and glucose.



Workshop Speaker R. Pamela Adams of BizLynks Consulting



Workshop Participants at Networking Luncheon



Workshop Speaker, William T. Parker, The Wealth Engineer



Delxino Wilson de Briano and wife of Tag Team Marketing





Saxophonist performs at reception



ORR!!" President H.J.A. Alexander and Vince Bailey

## Descendants of Harriett Tubman Endorse the OvergroundRR!!®

he evening began with a networking reception followed by a processional led by descendants of Harriet Tubman and local clergy. Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Parker of Zion Hill Baptist Church delivered a rousing message based on the theme "inspired by the Past, prepared for the Present and excited about the Future". His gospel-filled message of recycling the Black dollar for economic freedom in the



Rev. Cal Murrell, Rev. Frank Brown, Rev. Dr. Aaron Parker, Rev. Dr. Gloria Wright, Rev. Dr. Lacey Alford, Rev. Timothy McDonald, III, Rev. Albert Love, Geraldine Copes-Daniels and family, Derrick Boazman, Rev. Ricky Hammond, and ORR!!® President H.J.A. Alexander

Black community resonated so clearly that Master of Ceremony Derrick Boazman (1380 WAOK radio) wanted to immediately spend his dollars with a Black business before the ceremony ended. The great grand-niece of Harriet Tubman, Geraldine Copes-Daniels sung a rendition of "Go Down Moses", and James Bignon and the Deliverance Mass Choir provided inspirational, "foot-stomping" music.



Processional of Local Clergy and ORR!!® Executives



James Bignon and Deliverance Mass Choir



Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Aaron Parker



ORR!!® Membership and Marketing Director Nash Alexander, III and M.C. Derrick Boazman



## **Black Business Month / M2M**

www.overgroundrr.com

## 2nd Annual BBM/M2M Golf Tournament Attracts Competitive Golfers, Business Owners

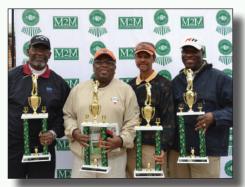
ithout fail, teams of four teed off at 10AM for the 2nd Annual Black Business Month Golf Tournament at the Browns Mill Golf Course in Atlanta. Participants in this game of 18 holes, competed for First, Second and Third Place trophies by having as few strokes as possible. Both men and women players were given additional prizes for the "Longest Drive" and "Closest to the Pin", as well as, raffle prizes.

Non-golfers of family and friends enjoyed Music Concierge, Othello Renfroe of Artistic Solutions in Design and learned about techniques for holistic health from Dr. Nancy J. Williams of First Fruit Natural Healing Home. What a way to spend a cold and windy Saturday in Atlanta!!





BBM/M2M 1st Place Team (Jahmuri)



BBM/M2M 2nd Place Team (VA Regional Office)



BBM/M2M 3rd Place Team (Jackson Memorial Baptist Church)



ORR!!" Membership and Marketing Director Nash Alexander, III with Trainmaster Sponsors Dr. Nancy Williams of First Fruit Natural Healing Home and Spiceda Davis of TaxPlus 365



Musical Concierge Othello Renfro, Jr.



Maurice Allen, Holder of the <u>Guinness Book of World</u> <u>Records'</u> Fastest Club Head Speed (161.92 MPH)





Cascade United Methodist Church

## 2013 Black Business Month Events Encourage Unity in Recycling Black Dollars

## "SPENDING BLACK AND PUTTING BACK"

The 6th Annual Congress on the State of Black Business, hosted by the Atlanta Business League brought in more than 150 attendees to discuss ways in which Black businesses and consumers can better impact the Black community. Featured speakers, Dr. Claud Anderson, President of PowerNomics Corporation of America, Inc., and Dr. Benjamin Chavis, President of Education Online Services Corporation revealed where Blacks were back in the day, were Blacks think they are today and what Blacks need to do in order to "spend Black and put back" in the Black community. Recommendations from the Congress will be used to affect change on the economic landscape of the Black community by increasing awareness of Black businesses to Black consumers.

#### **Mass Community Worship Service**

If you have ever needed recharging in the middle of the week, then you should have been under the roof of the West Hunter Street Baptist Church (Dr. Toussaint K. Hill, Jr., Pastor) on Thursday, March 21st for the Community Mass Worship Service. Rev. Frank C. Brown, Pastor at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church allowed the guidance of the Holy Spirit to tell those in attendance to get out of their lethargic states and walk the talk of economic prosperity for the Black Community.

#### **CBC Luncheon**

The ORR!! hosted a luncheon for the Concerned Black Clergy (CBC) on Thursday, March 28 where emphasis was placed on understanding the need for the creation of Black businesses that hire Black people. The CBC is comprised of clergy and laypersons who know the "gateway" to the Black Community is the Black Church. They also know that Black communities need to be free economically, but that FREEDOM is not FREE. Freedom for the Black Community is money turned over repeatedly throughout the Black Community. Money is FREEDOM that will lead to prosperity.

#### Youth Economic Empowerment Summit

"Inspired by the past, prepared for the present and excited about the future" are youth 12-21 from churches across metropolitan Atlanta who attended the Youth Economic Empowerment Summit on Saturday, March 30 at the First Iconium Baptist Church in Decatur. This is all because, in a character-building environment, Operation HOPE shared information on the basics of banking, credit and investments.

Operation HOPE gives people the dignity, resources and the opportunity to achieve a level of self-determination in their lives. Operation HOPE is "the private banker to the working poor, the underclass, and the struggling middle class," and the impact of their work is felt everywhere they operate. Their mission is 'silver rights,' or making free enterprise and capitalism work for all. Financial literacy is the tool, financial dignity is the goal and financial inclusion is the way. Most impressive, are the results they bring about!!





## **Mack's Fitness Center is an "Old-School" Gym Committed** to Educating the Community on Health and Fitness

"Your mindset is very important in

remaining committed and consistent

in health and fitness."

-year-old James "Mack" McClain, affectionately known as "Mack", learned early in life that fitness was his purpose. "I found out early on that health and fitness is my mission and my purpose," Mack said. Mack opened Mack's Fitness Center in 1982 after working as a City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation Director at Allen Temple Recreational Center, where he led exercise classes, supervised the weight room and conducted fitness and fashion shows. Mack is a long-time advocate of health and fitness and has been committed to his own personal fitness program for over 52 years. Mack's Fitness Center is dedicated to educating the community on health and fitness in an "old-school" gym environment.

you trust and who has the fitness expertise to help you design a program to fit your needs.

4) **DEVELOP** a good support system."

#### **Perfecting His Craft**

Mack is committed to enhancing his health and fitness knowledge by staying current on exercise trends. Each year, Mack attends continuing education workshops and seminars specializing in various exercises targeted toward specific groups including wheel-chairbound individuals, seniors, athletes and injury prevention, as well as various exercise modalities including Yoga,

member of the National Food and Nutrition Association and attends the annual meeting in Orlando, FL. "I want to stay current, so I attend the workshops and seminars to learn and share my new knowledge with my clients," said Mack. Mr. Radcliffe Bailey, a 75-year-old member of Mack's Fitness Center said, "When I first started with Mack, I couldn't walk or talk because I had suffered a stroke. But after working with Mack 4-5 times per week for over a year, I am walking and talking because he pushes me and keeps me going."

#### **Fitness and Fashion Shows**

Mack created and conducted his first

Tai Chi, and Pilates. Mack is also a Fitness and Fashion Show in 1970 as Director of Allen Temple Recreational Center. The first show was in response to the need for cultural diversity in the recreation program. The show included Karate demonstrations, a bodybuilding program, interpretive dance and singing. Once Mack opened his Fitness Center, he continued to organize the Fitness and Fashion show and has conducted the show for over 43 years. The show's primary purpose is to educate people about the importance of health and fitness, and also serve as a fundraiser.

#### "All-around" Fitness: Bodybuilding and Table Tennis Competitions

Mack is a strong believer in "all-around" fitness, and not locking yourself into just one aspect of fitness. "All-around" fitness includes physique sculpting, strength and power, hand-to-eye coordination, quickness, and dexterity. Mack has participated in several bodybuilding and table tennis competitions. He won his first bodybuilding contest in 1965 and has won over 100 contests in bodybuilding and table tennis combined. He was ranked #10 in table tennis in the southeast. He is most proud of winning the 2010 Mr. Georgia Competition in the 60+ age group, 1st place power lifting trophy and table tennis champion -- all in the same month.

#### **Community Outreach**

Mack is an avid supporter of the community. He educates the community on health and fitness at various church functions and special occasions. He also provides office space for Save Our Students (S.O.S.) Academy, Inc., a youth violence prevention and enrichment program organized to combat the rising tide of increased and deadly violence committed by and among elementary, middle and high school students. The academy was founded and organized by DeKalb County Juvenile Court Judge Ruby J. Thomas.

#### One Hour of Healing with Mack

Mack now offers a new one-on-one program called "One Hour of Healing with Mack". This program provides a way of handling physical, mental and emotional blockages. "My session will help you gain a deeper understanding of who you are, and also help you find your purpose in life," Mack said.

For more information on Mack's Fitness Center, contact Mack at 404-755-9455 or visit their website at www.macksfitnesscenter.com.



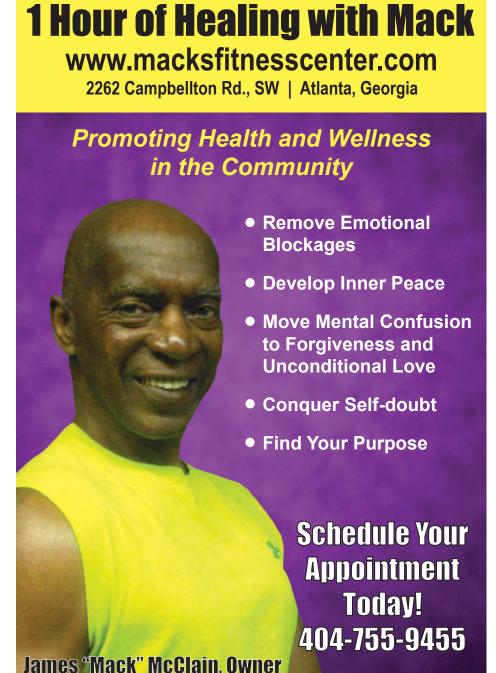
#### "Old-School" Gym Advantages

Mack's Fitness Center is an "oldschool" gym, complete with barbells, dumbbells and exercise machines. "The advantages my "old-school" gym offers are the simplicity of the equipment, personal attention and advice, and the friendly, family-oriented environment," says Mack. In addition to weights, Mack's also provides aerobics and senior citizens classes, bodybuilding instruction, power lifting techniques and post-injury rehabilitation.

Mack also provides his clients with one-on-one consultations resulting in customized workout routines to fit their individual goals. He teaches the client how to use the equipment, explains the targeted muscle groups, and provides safety tips. He also stresses the importance of changing dietary habits, increasing water intake and reducing stress levels to achieve their desired fitness goals.

"Your mindset is very important in remaining committed and consistent in health and fitness," Mack said. "In addition, you must:

- **BE** honest with yourself.
- **DO** a self-evaluation.
- **PARTNER** with someone



## **Business**



# CLEANING FOR THE FUTURE

t is amazing how a conversation with a sibling about "clean windows" in the 80's can turn into a business employing 75 individuals today. This ordinary household task and others is completed with extraordinary service by the skilled technicians of AccuClean, Inc. who know firsthand the power of a clean and healthy work environment.

In an attempt to satisfy a target market of businesses seeking a professional janitorial company with a plan and experience, Mr. Bob Williams established AccuClean, Inc. in 1999. While working a full-time job, he joined several business organizations to learn about business ownership and received free assistance from Georgia Tech to develop a business plan. Foregoing business advice and assistance from an attorney or accountant, Mr. Williams has let God use him to provide cost-effective detail cleaning for commercial businesses and churches.

Headquartered in Atlanta, AccuClean has one of the highest client retention rates in the Atlanta Janitorial Industry because their integrity is their sustenance. Mr. Williams believes in "doing everything he can to please all customers with the knowledge that all customers can not be pleased".

With an outstanding administration staff comprised of his son Brian as the Vice President of Operations, his daughter Tracy as Chief Financial Officer and their team of technicians, it is no surprise that in 2004, AccuClean was the recipient of the prestigious TOBY (The Office Building of the Year) Award from BOMA Atlanta. They have also been recognized in several regional



AccuClean Owner Bob Williams, (center) and son Brian, Vice President of Operations and daughter Tracy, Chief Financial Officer

## "The customer First, Last and Always", is the AccuClean service credo.

publications as the janitorial services changing the facility scene. "The customer First, Last and Always", is their service credo. Their mission statement is summed up in the AccuClean Formula for Value.

#### p+p+p(i)=v

#### "Personnel + Performance + **Profitability (Integrity) = Value"**

The key to value for AccuClean is a business that offers the highest caliber of personnel performing the best quality of work yielding profitability for their company and clients while operating with the Clients

#### Services

Guaranteeing the best cleaning possible, AccuClean conducts weekly and monthly detail graded inspections. Attention to detail when cleaning facilities is critical to their continued existence and it is important that management teams have clear and concise instructions to meet the service needs of the client consistently.

These services include:

- carpet care
- green cleaning
- hard surface floor care
- pressure washing
- furniture and upholstery cleaning

Many properties in Georgia depend on AccuClean to provide a professional, experienced, and welltrained staff to clean their facilities. Starting their list of clients is the

infamous World of Coke followed by the Atlanta University Center. Other clients include Bethel United Methodist Church, Fulton County, Northrop Gruman, FAA and many more.

#### **Facilities Served**

AccuClean has a history of focusing on the needs and concerns of their clients which continues to allow them to serve office buildings, educational facilities, churches, office parks, government, industrial and recreational facilities, and



museums. They provide green seal certified and environmentally friendly products to preserve and protect our environment.

AccuClean believes with the amount of square footage serviced in their market, their company can help impact the environment in a positive way. The Green Cleaning program implemented allows them to substitute traditional harmful products and equipment with environmentally friendly products and equipment giving the facilities they service a healthier and more productive workplace.

Most business professionals will tell you that the best results come from using the right tools for the job. AccuClean agrees and adds, "The best cleaning service requires the right tools and the right people doing the cleaning." If you want a janitorial business that is fully licensed, bonded and insured with over 45 years experience to meet your needs 24 hours a day without subcontracting, call AccuClean today at (404) 765-6477 or visit their website at www.accucleaninc.com.

## **The AccuClean Formula for Value:**

p+p+p(i)=v"Personnel + Performance + Profitability (Integrity) = Value"

## WHEELS and TIRES by BAILEY

ho would have known selling tires from the back of a pickup truck in the 70s would become an entrepreneur's dream

Serving Georgia residents and others for more than 30 years, located in the heart of Atlanta, Wheels and Tires by **Bailey** is at the forefront of the custom wheel business. Knowledgeable sales staff and certified technicians "aim to serve and please the public" Monday through Saturday.

Johnny Bailey, owner of Wheels and Tires by Bailey was born in Jenkins County, Georgia but spent his formative years in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida where he began work in the tire industry in the 60s. He returned to Georgia in 1970, settling in Atlanta, where he quickly recognized the need for a tire and wheels company in the inner city.

Cultivating clients from the back of his truck, Mr. Bailey grew the \$10,000 capital he needed to purchase his first sole proprietorship on Georgia Avenue in the historic Grant Park Community. After 24 years on Georgia Avenue, he opened a second business on Whitehall Street in the West End. By offering excellent products and service, Wheels and Tires by Bailey has provided tire service to individuals in every socioeconomic stratum. The business motto is "to get people in and out while doing the job right". They are ready to put the wheels you want on your vehicle.

Many drivers in the Atlanta metro trust Wheels and Tires by Bailey for wheel and tire packages up to 30 inches. If your vehicle has an 18" diameter wheel and you want a 22" wheel and tire combination, technicians will give you





Knowledgeable sales staff and certified technicians "aim to serve and please the public" Monday through Saturday

options to set your car apart from other cars. At Wheels and Tires by Bailey, it is all about you because their focus is personalized service for you. They strive to be your first choice for tire and wheel service.

Mr. Bailey is a devoted husband, father of 7, grandfather of 11 and great grandfather of 2 who used these business strategies to prosper:

- Location is critical (preferably a corner because the business needs to be seen easily)
- Buy old equipment and products before purchasing new
- In hard times reduce staff and do the work yourself

To stand out from the rest, check out Wheels and Tires by Bailey at 517 W Whitehall St SW, Atlanta, GA or call (404) 758-0012 or visit wheelsandtiresbybailey.com.

#### **Services Provided** by Wheels and Tires by Bailey:

- **Sales Consulting**
- **The Latest Styles**
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- Installation
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- **Worn Tire Analysis**
- **Air Shocks**
- **Minor Wheel Repair**



**Business** 

www.overgroundrr.com



## "Changing the Traditional Way We Do Church to Serving God's People"



The House of Restoration, Inc. is a Christian based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization targeting those who are spiritually, socially and economically lost and desire to make a change.

- Minister Gerald X. Jennings -

n 2003, a vision was deposited into and conceived by Minister Gerald X. Jennings. A vision to lift the veil off man's eyes so we may cease to live by worldly standards and start living by the Spirit of God which culminated into the formation of The House of Restoration, Inc. (H.O.R.I.). The House of Restoration, Inc. is a Christian based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization targeting those who are spiritually, socially and economically lost and desire to make a change. The H.O.R.I. mission is "to maximize every blessing that God has bestowed upon us so that our lives will be a testimony for the world and that the presence of Christ can be shown through our lives".

To increase the scope of the mission, seven years later in 2010 another ministry was founded under the H.O.R.I. umbrella -- the L.O.V.E. Outreach Ministry (Leading Other Vessels to Eternity). L.O.V.E. Outreach goes into local communities and shelters to feed the homeless, provide them with clothing and toiletries, and assist them in finding housing and/ or locating shelters for the evening. L.O.V.E. also provides assistance to anyone in need of locating rehabilitation programs and other programs that will provide them with a better quality of life.

This outreach ministry recently served beyond the walls of the Atlanta



community by crossing the state line to spread L.O.V.E. in South Carolina. Partnering with other faith-based and community organizations in that state to have "Unity in the Community", the ministry shared the word of God, fed the hungry, and provided clothes for those in need.



Transition House Opening Soon

The most important initiative for H.O.R.I., Inc. and L.O.V.E Outreach Ministry is ministering to people on a new way of living and having a life of purpose. To help accomplish this initiative, H.O.R.I. is currently renovating a home for use as a transition house. Upon completion, it will become a short-term, safe living environment for five women. While in transitional



Unity in the Community Avalon Park Apartments



Unity in the Community Altar Call



Unity in the Community Avalon Park Outreach



Unity in the Community Prayer Tent

housing, each resident will have the opportunity to enhance knowledge, skills and abilities that will help them:

- Increase their knowledge in Christian education
- Learn how to budget and manage money
- Learn techniques for job readiness
- Write a resume that gets noticed
- Develop advanced computer skills
- Sustain permanent housing, employment and finances
- Maintain a stable and productive life

H.O.R.I. Inc. is operated solely on private dollars. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, you may mail a check or money order to: The House of Restoration, Inc., P. O. Box 1190, Mableton, GA 30126. Questions about H.O.R.I. or L.O.V.E may be sent to loveoutreach1513@gmail.com.

H.O.R.I. thanks you in advance for your prayers and support.

To learn more about our business and community members, please visit www.overgroundrr.com

## **Business**





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The following businesses are members of the Overground RR!!® The ORR!!® Business Directory is your community guide to utilizing members of the Black community who are dedicated to recycling the Black dollar back into our communities. 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.

#### **Accounting**

McGee CPA Group, The 3180 Franklin St., Ste. A Avondale Estates GA 300024 www.mcgeecpagroup.com 404-292-8805

Tax Plus 365, Inc. 3730 Carmia Drive, Ste. 160 Atlanta, GA 30331 404-482-0272

#### Advertising

Lighthouse Promotions, LLC 116 Bethsea Rd., Ste. 104 Fayetteville GA 30214 770-461-9345 www.lighthouse-promo.com

New Hope Publishing, LLC 5055 Montcalm Drive, SW Atlanta GA 30331 404-629-0446

#### **Attorneys**

Alexander Law Firm Personal Inj., Wrongful Death 2160 High Point Tr. Atlanta GA 30331 404-346-0834 www.alexanderlawfirm.com

Andrews Law Firm LLC, The Real Estate 3421 Dogwood Dr. Hapeville GA 30354 770-968-7380

Donald P. Edwards, Law Office of Personal Inury, Med. Malpractice and Wrongful Death 170 Mitchell St. Atlanta GA 30303 404-526-8866 www.donaldpedwards.com

Foster Firm, The 1 Crown 1895 Phoenix Blvd. Suite110 Atlanta GA 30349 404-559-8325 www.thefosterfirmwins.com

Leroy R Johnson P.C & Assoc. Personal Inj., Criminal and Traffic Violation, Civil Litigation 3915 Cascade Rd SW, Ste 260 Atlanta GA 30331 404-691-1069

Bernadine Layne LLC Civil, Corp., Immigration 3523 Buford Hwy, Ste. 202 Atlanta GA 30329 404-231-1477

E. C. London & Associates 101 Marietta Street, NW Suite 3310 Atlanta GA 30301 404-688-6607 eclondon.com Martin Law Group, LLC, The 1935 Cliff Valley Way, Suite 117 Atlanta, GA 30329 404-248-4898 www.themartinlawgroup.com

Albert A. Mitchell, P.C.. 3079 Campbellton Rd, SW, Ste. 203 C&S Professional Building Atlanta, GA 30311 404-346-7009 www.aamlawyer.com

Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson,& Thompkins Med. Malpractice, Person Inj. & Comml Real Estate 3355 Main St. Atlanta GA 30337 404-688-4503 www.tkstlaw.com

Daryl Von Yokely, Law Office of 127 Peachtree St., Suite 1010 Atlanta GA 30303 404-876-5458 www.yokelylaw.com

#### Auto Body

V's Customs 3781 Campbellton Rd. Atlanta GA 30331 404-344-6687 www.vscustomsatl.com

#### Auto Sales

Legacy Chevrolet 3615 N. Manchester Expressway Columbus, GA 31909 706-322-8888

#### **Auto Services**

S&J Automotive Repair, LLC 7056 B Highway 85 Riverdale GA 30274 770-996-3698 sandjautorepair.com

College Park Tire & Auto 6169 Old National Hwy. College Park GA 30349 770-994-1761

Miracle Auto Glass Repair & Installations
118 Scott St.
Atlanta, GA 30314
678-886-7837
www.amiracleautoglass.com

#### Banking

Capitol City Bank & Trust 562 Lee St. Atlanta GA 30310 404-758-7519 www.capitolcitybank-atl.com

Citizen's Trust Bank 75 Piedmont Ave. Atlanta GA 30303 404-659-5959 www.ctbconnect.com

Continued on page 14

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NEW ORR!!® BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTING OPTIONS

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THE CONDUCTOR

# MAKE YOUR BUSINESS LISTING STAND OUT!



CONTACT MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING: Nash Alexander, III membership@overgroundrr.com 404-346-0808

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#### Statement / Services:

Connecting Business, Church and Community for Unity and Economic Freedom by providing awareness through business memberships, customized media partnership programs, 
The Conductor. Sparks e-Newsletter and www.marching2march.com.

Key Personnel: H.J.A.A. Alexander Aaron Turpeau

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#### **Cleaning Services**

AccuClean, Inc. 1053 Willingham Drive, Ste. C Atlanta, GA 30344 404-765-6477 www.accucleaninc.com

Total Approach Cleaning Service P.O. Box 89108 Atlanta GA 30312 www.tacclean.com

#### **Commercial Leasing**

Odd Fellows Buildings 236 Auburn Avenue, Ste. 103 Atlanta GA 30303 404-525-5027 theoddfellowsbuildings.com

#### Construction

Gaitor Construction Inc 800 Wendell Ct., Ste E Atlanta GA 30336 770-981-1588

Overall Construction & Inspection, Inc. 862 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Ste 203 Atlanta, Ga 30314 678-705-4185 www.overallcinc.com

#### Consultants

Bryant & Associates, LLC 4060 Peachtree Rd., D413 Atlanta GA 30319 404-869-6312 www.bryantandassociates.com

Dorsey Non-Profit Solution (Division of Dorsey Training) 2321 Columbia Woods Court Decatur, GA 30032 678-889-2967 www.dorseynonprofitsolutions.com

LegalShield 3340 Peachtree Rd., NE, Ste 2300 Atlanta, GA 30326 770-369-5263

#### Contractors

C.D. Moody Construction 6017 Redan Road Lithonia, Georgia 30058 770.482.7778 www.cdmoodyconstruction.com

H J Russell & Company 504 Fair Street, SW Atlanta GA 30313 404-330-1000 www.hjrussell.com

#### Counseling & Hypnotherapy

Aaron Turpeau, Ph.D 600 West Peachtree St Ste 1570 Atlanta GA 30308 678-522-6548 www.drturpeau.com

National Council on Domestic Violence Alisha Griffin Decatur, GA 404-729-0622

Serene Reflections 575 Juniper Street NE Atlanta GA 30308 404-892-2205 serenereflections.org

#### Court Reporters/Video

Atlanta Realtime Reporters, LTD 925 B Peachtree St, Ste 380 Atlanta GA 30309 770-908-9821

#### Childcare

Safe Haven Learning Center Akira Eiland 5595 Riverdale Rd, Ste A College Park, GA 30349 404-427-0560

#### **Dance**

Ballethnic Dance Company, Inc. 2587 Cheney St East Point GA 30344 404-762-1416 www.ballethnic.org

#### **Dentists**

BE Orthodontics Highland Grove Office Condominiums 3614 Highlands Parkway Smyrna GA 30082 770-432-6070 www.beorthodontics.com

Family & Childrens Dentistry 2440 Fairburn Road, Ste. 301 Atlanta GA 30331 404-349-7777 www.familyandchildrensdentistry.com

Alfred Wyatt DMD,P.C. 6230 Old National Hwy College Park GA 30349 770-994-7811

#### **Direct Mail & Design**

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#### **Dry Cleaner**

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#### Electrician

E. Ray Britton Electrical 158 Fairview Rd, Ste. C Elllenwood GA 30294 678-289-5522 www.erbelectrical.com

#### **Event Facility**

Cascade Club 2890 Continental Colony Pkwy Atlanta, GA 30331 404-344-6181 www.cascadeclubatlanta.com

Ivy Community Foundaton 3850 Stone Road, SW Atlanta, GA 30331 404-349-9682

#### **Event Planning**

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Added Pizzazz 7755 Hall Rd. Fairburn, GA 30213 770-322-3597 www.apartycompany.com

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#### **Financial Services**

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Willis Flowers 770-991-6460 www.willisflowers.com

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Donald Trimble Mortuary 1876 Second Ave. Decatur GA 30032 404-371-0772 www.donaldtrimblemortuary.com

Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home 1003 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. Atlanta GA 30310 404-758-1731 www.williewatkins.com

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Onyx Creative 2451 Hogan Rd. East Point GA 30344 404-936-0884

#### Green Development/ Solar Panels

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#### **Greeting Cards**

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The third quarter 2012 issues of The Conductor carried a story with the headline – How To Market Your Ministry. This article spoke about a recent publication devoted to assisting ministries – churches and pastors – on the subject of "Getting the Word Out: How to Market Your Ministry." I have agreed to publish a regular column in The Conductor to provide a few words of advice in the area of public relations and marketing.

## **Words of Advice for Marketing Your Ministry**

n my last column, I discussed a little bit about branding – creating Lyour tag line and your logo. I hope you were able to take this advice to heart and use it.

Here's more advice to help you "market your ministry."

Your Marketing Mix -- Based on appropriate research that effectively defines the vision and mission for your church, create a strategic marketing plan that reaches the demographics you have identified for meeting your goals. Your marketing mix might include advertising, promotional events, public relations, social media and community relations. To be more specific, your marketing mix might include a monthly newsletter (printed out to distribute in your church and/ or emailed out to your database), a social media blog, advertisng your events on the radio, a television broadcast of your Sunday sermons, street signs and flyers distributed in the neighborhood, and/or attending community meetings. Notice that I DID NOT SAY "WEBSITE."

"You have to let folks know where you are, who you are, and what you are doing..."

Because if you have a website, you will have to "market" the website so people will know that it is available and conveying information about your church/ministry.

Please don't believe the rumor that suggests "if you build a better church, they will come." Remember that people have many choices. You have to let folks know where you are, who you are, and what you are doing.

Carefully establish an annual budget to include all elements for your marketing mix -- marketing to your church membership (internal marketing) and your plans for church development – (external marketing / evangelism). Negotiate contracts for multiple periods of time with the

vendors such as radio and newspaper Ads; and schedule your marketing activities throughout the year. Use new technology as much as possible to save money. Check out a Blog for your church which is very easy to do – just blog a bit of your sermon.

Build in a way to measure the success, or failure, of each of the marketing activities. If it's not working, don't be hesitant to change.

The next column will discuss "tools of the trade."

This is Bunnie Jackson-Ransom helping you get the WORD out to market your ministry.

# American Kidney Services Forms Alliance with Overground RR!!®

The Prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Georgia and throughout the Southeast is Startling

he mission of American Kidney Services (AKS) is to provide support to charitable organizations that fight kidney disease.

## Georgia Statistics for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

The statistics for chronic kidney disease in Georgia are startling. The Georgia Medical Care Foundation has estimated that the state's mortality rate for this illness is 30 to 40 percent higher than the national average, making it the ninth leading cause of death for Georgia residents.

#### **Primary Causes of CKD**

The primary causes of chronic kidney disease include Type I or II diabetes (#1 cause), high blood pressure (#2 cause), and heart disease. These conditions generally develop in people who

The Georgia Department of Public Health estimates that the risk of African Americans developing Chronic Kidney Disease is approximately 270 percent higher than that of Caucasians...

are overweight, relatively sedentary, and who consume a diet high in cholesterol and fat. Traditional southern diets tend to be relatively high in fat, which may explain the prevalence of chronic kidney disease in Georgia and surrounding areas. The risk of developing kidney disease also varies by ethnicity and gender. The Georgia Department of Public Health estimates that the risk of African Americans developing CKD is approximately 270 percent higher than that of Caucasians, while men are 54 percent more likely to

develop the condition than females. There are a variety of ways that you can help to reduce the prevalence of kidney disease in Georgia. Try to practice a healthy lifestyle by eating a diet low in saturated fat and exercising regularly. You can also take advantage of free health screenings provided by the American Kidney Fund (AKF).

## **Kidney Health Screenings** in Atlanta

The American Kidney Fund offers free kidney health screenings,

nutrition and fitness presentations, and follow-up services (including medical referrals and public education materials). These services are provided at a variety of venues including churches, expositions and festivals, dialysis centers, community centers, colleges, and corporate offices. If your organization would like to schedule a free kidney health screening or free kidney education presentation in the Atlanta area, email Noni Walker or give her a call at 404-658-1422.

For more information on how your donations can make a difference, visit www.akspickup.org. For more information on Chronic Kidney Disease, visit www.kidneyfund.org.

Sources: www.akspickup.org and www.kidneyfund.org







## PARTNERING TO HELP KIDNEY PATIENTS

## **American Kidney Services becomes Corporate Level Sponsor of CBC**

- Donated clothing is sold to thrift stores and the proceeds support the American Kidney Fund
- 97 cents of every dollar goes directly to financially support kidney patients

"I don't know why any church wouldn't do this. It helps kidney patients; it's free; and AKS services the bin. So there is nothing for the church to do -and the church logo on the bin looks great!"

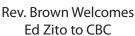
Rev. Timothy McDonald, III First Iconium Baptist Church

#### **Information about American Kidney Fund**

- **Consumers Digest** Top Three Charity
- Highest, Four-Star Rating—**Charity Navigator**
- A+ Charity—American Institute of Philanthropy
- Gold Star Charity—**Forbes Magazine**
- Provided **\$211,000,000 in Financial Aid** to Kidney Patients in 2011

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## **Zion Hill Baptist Church:** "Living to Love and Loving to Serve"

magine a place with just the right combination of historical hymns, praise and worship and deaconled devotions...a true merge of both contemporary and traditional all in one place. Imagine being a part of a family full of people who make it their mission to "Live to Love and Love to Serve" in every facet of life. Now, just try to imagine giving back to your community by working side by side in service with brothers and sisters you never knew you had in communities that are primed for growth. Now imagine you and your family walking through the doors and being greeted with a pleasantly smiling face saying, "Welcome to Zion Hill... Welcome Home."



Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Parker

Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Parker was installed as Pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in 1994. Having served as the church's former Youth Minister, he had both a heart for the people and a vision for the church's future. Within his first year as pastor of the historical church, God Dr. Parker is a member of the Concerned led the Mississippi preacher to hit the ground running, establishing the Care to Love Outreach Ministry, implementing four new music ministries including the Voices of Oluwa and Azizi Children's Choir, establishing the now nationallyrecognized Rites of Passage Program for youth ages 13-18 and designating what would be the church's declarative creed, "Living to Love and Loving to Serve". The following years resulted in history-making ministry after ministry to include more than 50 ministries designed to impact the world!

Now, with a rapidly growing congregation of over 3,000 members, Dr. Parker is leading the church to deepen its focus on service to the community through the church's expansive outreach ministries and its support of the Zion Hill Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization devoted to spiritual, economic, and educational enhancement of those in need. Dr. Parker is the visionary and shepherd of Zion Hill's "Rock Project," a \$20 million building program that completed the first of three phases in December of 2010 and relocated Zion Hill from the historical Southwest Atlanta community to a 43.5 acre site in South Fulton County at 6175 Campbellton Road.

In addition to serving as Pastor of Zion Hill, Dr. Parker is currently an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Morehouse College, where he has spent over 30 years molding and shaping daring youth into Morehouse Men. He is the author of several articles including "African Religion in African American Religion," "Revisiting the Concept of God in Light of the Thought of Henry Highland Garnet," "The Joy of Molding Morehouse Men," and "The African American Church: Major Role Player in the African American Struggle for Freedom."

Prior to accepting the pastorate of Zion Hill, Dr. Parker served as Pastor of Butler Street Baptist Church, Adjunct Professor of Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center, and Assistant to the Pastor of Grace Covenant Baptist Church.

Black Clergy of Atlanta, the Society for the Study of Black Religion, the American Academy of Religion, among other leadership positions.

The seventh of seven children born to the late Reverend P. F. Parker and the late Mrs. Amy C. Parker of Canton, Mississippi, Pastor Parker was a serious child who knew early that God had a plan for his life.

At the age of eight he accepted Jesus Christ into his life at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Canton, where his father served as pastor. At the age of eighteen, he heard and answered the call to minister. After completing elementary and secondary school in Canton, he attended Morehouse



Now, with a rapidly growing congregation of over 3,000 members, Dr. Parker is leading the church to deepen its focus on service to the community through the church's expansive outreach ministries...

College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received the Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in Philosophy and Religion. As a student at Morehouse, Doctor Parker received several academic awards. including induction into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. He furthered his formal education at Emory University, earning the Master of Arts Degree in Religion and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Systematic Theology.

Dr. Parker is married to Shelia Smith Parker, his high school sweetheart, and they are the parents of two children, Aaron Larry Parker, Jr. and Asha Parker Booth and a son-in-law, Rev. Paul Booth.

Dr. Parker helps individuals and families develop a life changing relationship with God that brings peace in the middle of the most ferocious storm and unspeakable joy early in the morning. He is most appropriately described not as a preacher, but as an educator who answered the divine call to preach. A man who has dedicated his life to sharpening his spiritual aptitude and expanding the theological proclivity of some of the nation's most accomplished pastors, preachers and teachers.

Zion Hill is home, a place where people feel welcome, accepted, appreciated and empowered to create an environment of "Living to Love and Loving to Serve". The power of God is seen in their actions and the presence of God is felt in their services. This church has a steadfast commitment that requires action for living a better Christian life. When you walk through the doors, you are almost immediately compelled to jump right in... whether it's singing in the choir, joining the outreach ministry, or bringing your children to youth activities, there is an energy there that makes you feel at home and ready to work.

Visit Zion Hill on any given Sunday for Worship Service at 8:00AM or 10:30AM at 6175 Campbellton Road • Atlanta, GA 30331 or visit their website for upcoming events and activities at www.zionhill. org. They will welcome you!!





#### Dr. Nancy J. Williams

CEO/Visionary of

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**Twanda Black of KISS 104.1 FM Radio** 

## **Business in the Black**

## Getting the Pastorate Ready for Retirement

re you ready for the final phase of your life? No! I don't mean death, I mean retirement! Only 69% of Americans are ready to retire- are you ready? I've been in the broadcast industry for nearly 30 years and I am now thinking of retirement: what will I do; how will I live; will I have enough money saved to live comfortably? I've read where people are working until they are 80 years old because they didn't prepare and couldn't afford to retire. At 80 I want to be traveling all over the world and enjoying my grandchildren, certainly not forcing myself to get up and go to someone's job!

Fortunately for me, my family and extended family, I have a wonderful financial advisor that I trust. Meet Cyrus Hancock, CEO of Hancock Wealth Management. Hancock is a member of National Life Insurance Company's President's Club and the Premier Producer Group since 2004 when he joined the company. He is also a consistent qualifier of the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) which recognizes the financial services industry's elite producers worldwide. Although, his credentials are important, they are no match for the fact that he is a Believer! That was my first criteria because we all know that our money is a close and personal issue! We need integrity in the Body of Christ!

Hancock has been in the wealth management industry for well over 15 years and his services include: retirement, income and estate planning, planned giving strategies and more. He is fully securities registered with Investors Capital Corporation. Although he services all walks of life in his business, I wanted to know specifically about Pastors since I have so many in my family and in my life.

Both Cyrus and I are licensed ministers and I asked him about some of the issues Pastors seem to have; for the most part retiring without enough money, and not leaving a legacy for spouse and children. Hancock has a heart for Pastors and offers these retirement must- haves for the savvy Pastor: "Being a minister doesn't help me in business, but being a Believer in Jesus Christ does. As a Believer, I have the mind set to treat all people with love.

Love doesn't harm -- it enhances!"

- Cyrus Hancock -
- **1.** Taxes The #1 hurdle/concern is the potential for higher tax liability
- **2. Risk-** Risk can be controlled, but if not planned for, it could devour your savings
- **3. Saving Money-**Saving in the wrong vehicles may create more issues such as an increase in tax liability, which can be eroded by inflation
- **4. Uncertainty-** Market uncertainties should be planned for through the design of your portfolio
- **5. Inactivity**-Taking time for a regular financial wellness check- up may be the difference in you retiring or not

Here are a few more needs for the savvy Pastor:

- **Disability Insurance** to protect the potential loss of income
- Life Insurance to provide income replacement and leave a legacy for spouse and heirs
- Comprehensive retirement strategy that will maximize savings, minimize risk and tax liability, and provide income for life

Hancock has services not only for Pastors but for everyone and says that it is never too late to plan for your retirement, even while you are in retirement! You don't have to be rich, but you must have a plan!

Whether professional or civic, Hancock gives back to the community in various ways: an active member of NAIFA (National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, 100 Black Men of Atlanta North Metro, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Founder of COARMM- Coalition of At Risk Minority Males in Marietta, he volunteers as a football coach and sits on the CEO Academy Advisory Board. He has authored financial articles for publications and is a dynamic speaker. He is endorsed by the UNCF as well as the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities with their planned giving programs.

I asked Hancock how being a minister helps him in business and he said, "Being a minister doesn't help me in business, but being a Believer in Jesus Christ does. As a Believer, I have the mind set to treat all people with love. Love doesn't harm -- it enhances!"

Pastor or not, it's time to get our finances in order, so that our latter years will be even better than our last!



Cyrus Hancock is a registered representative of Investors Capital Corporation. Securities offered through Investors Capital Corporation, Member FINRA/SIPC, 3330 Cumberland Blvd. Atlanta, GA, 1-888-530-1122. Hancock Wealth Management is independent of Investors Capital Corp.

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Official Publication of the Overground RR!!®

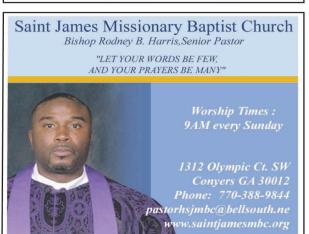
## Church

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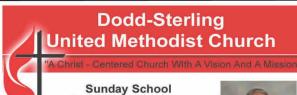












9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

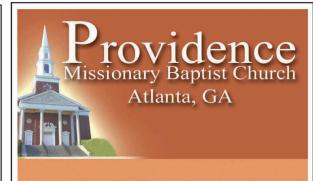
Sunday Worship Service
11:00 a.m.

Bible Study Wed. 7:00 p.m.

3272 Browns Mill Road • Atlanta, Georgia 30354-0838 Church office: 404.361.4135 • Church fax: 404.361.0884 email: info@doddsterling.org • www.doddsterling.org







#### **SERVICES**

Early Worship Service 8:00 AM

**Breakfast** 9:00 AM

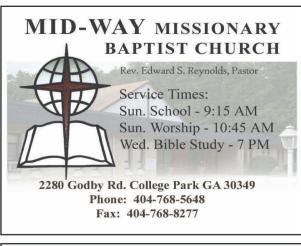
Sunday School

**New Members Class** 9:30 AM

Worship Service 10:40 AM

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Serving Metropolitan Atlanta for over 25 years

## No Guns in our Churches

s president of the Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta I am happy to stand in solidarity with other people of faith who oppose legislation where the state is attempting to impose on the church by inviting the gun culture into our houses of worship. Our desire is not an attempt to infringe upon the second amendment rights of gun owners. It is simply to maintain focus on our faith. Guns represent a culture of violence and are meant to inflict harm. Unfortunately, the gun debate has escalated to the point that all throughout our society we are encouraging our citizens to worship the power of weapons over the power of peace, compassion and mercy.

We find no logical reason to allow people to bring weapons into a house of worship.

"We find no logical reason to allow people to bring weapons into a house of worship. Our churches are sanctuaries, a place of refuge and peace, devoted solely to the sacred worship of God."

- Rev. Frank Brown -



Our churches are sanctuaries, a place of refuge and peace, devoted solely to the sacred worship of God. It is the one place where people congregate to receive supreme guidance and revelation that enables them to seek love not war, peace, not hate, clarity in spite of confusion and hope in the midst of despair. It is our belief that opening our doors to the gun culture is a great moral issue that would be to the detriment of our sacred tradition that allows us to find refuge from the troubles of the world.

Therefore lethal weapons concealed or otherwise do not have a place in our sanctuaries. The Apostle Paul tells us in the letter to the church at Ephesus, to put on the whole armor of God. Included as part of that armor is our bible which represents our sword; the only offensive weapon in our arsenal. Subsequently, we invite all people of good will and common sense, to bring your bibles to church, but leave your firearm at home. We pray that our efforts will be fruitful as we seek to uphold the common good of our faith. May God bless us, our legislators and this nation as these matters are deliberated.



## Seven Keys to Successful Eating Habits

Dr. Nancy J. Williams, Holistic Doctor

- **1. Re-evaluate How You've Eaten in the Past** Past habits keep us doing the same things we have always done. This leads to failed weight loss goals & more health challenges. Take time today and re-evaluate what has led to poor eating choices in the past. Re-evaluate!
- **2. Re-establish New Eating Habits** Statistics say that it takes anywhere from 21 to 31 days to form a new habit. Start today by putting new habits in place. For example, if you normally eat after 8pm, close the kitchen at 6:30pm. When eating out, get a "To Go" container before you start your meal, and box up extra portions. Do not skip breakfast this breaks the fast (breakfast). Breakfast also jumpstarts your metabolism. Choose water over juices that add extra calories. The average person should consume eight 8-ounce glasses of water daily or more depending on activity level. Tip: When I want flavor in my drink, I use one of my favorite Emergen-C packets that you can carry with you. It provides a good daily allowance of Vitamin C. Emergen-C packets can be purchased in the pharmacy section of your local grocery store.
- **3. Reshape Your Plate** For better digestion, look at how you combine your food: Proteins (Meat, fish) are excellent with low and non-starchy vegetables (Asparagus, carrots, kale...); but proteins are a poor combination with Carbohydrates/starches (bread, potatoes, beans, etc.). So having meat and potatoes together is a poor combination. Carbohydrates/starches are excellent with vegetables; and vegetables are excellent with fats (avocado, coconut, olives, etc.). Fruits & Melons should be eaten alone. Learn how to combine your food for proper digestion.
- **4. Resize Your Portions** –When having meat, only consume the palm size of your hand. When having Carbohydrates (rice, pasta, grains), have  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup to  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup, and enjoy those low and non-starchy vegetables. Start making them your staple for

every meal instead of meat. Tips: Instead of supersizing, get the kids meal, which is around the portion size an average adult should be consuming. Snacks: Instead of six cookies, have two and choose raw carrots, celery, seeds or nuts, etc.

- **5. Restore from the Inside Out** Do you want to look good and feel great? It starts on the inside. Provide your body with the nutrients that it needs to sustain your daily activities. I recommend good herbal supplements to complement your eating intake.
- **6. Resources** If you have been struggling with sickness & disease, unfulfilled weight goals, bad eating habits, than maybe you need to connect with a nutritionist or healthcare professional who can show you how to make practical lifestyle changes. Learn how to eat right and live the quality life that God created for you.
- **7. Respect Your Temple** Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, so become mindful of what you are taking in. Are you providing your body with alkaline living foods that provide life to the body or dead acidic foods that provide no life to the body? You get life from life; death from death. Also watch what you ask God to bless in prayer before you eat. Thought: when we ask God to bless our food, it should be for those things that could be there that we know not of. Do we really think God should bless things that we know outright are bad for us? All the dead things we take in such as junk food and overeating? Just a thought!

Dr. Nancy J. Williams is a Holistic Doctor and the visionary/CEO of First Fruit Natural Healing Home. To contact Dr. Nancy, visit her website at www.firstfruitnaturalhealinghome.com or call 770-484-4745.

## **Community**



## "WE HAVE COME TOO FAR TO TURN BACK NOW"

#### DEFENDING THE HEART OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

caravan of Freedom Riders for Voting Rights rallied at Federal Courthouses in Richmond, Virginia, Charlotte, North Carolina, Greenville, South Carolina, Atlanta, Georgia and three cities in Alabama.

"This is yet another significant juncture in our continuing civil rights struggle," opines Southern Christian Leadership Conference CEO Charles Steele, Jr. "Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) is once again under attack by suppressive political forces because it is the key to preventing voter discrimination and political gerrymandering designed to undermine the political clout of the minority electorate. We will not allow the clock to be turned back 50 years; you are witnessing a revival of civil rights demonstrations and civil disobedience as a result."

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference held the Atlanta rally on February 28th at Central United Methodist Church, 501 Mitchell Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30314, located at the corner of MLK Drive and Northside Drive, Rev. Bryon E. Thomas, Senior, pastor.

The SCLC Chief Executive Officer, Charles Steele and SCLC members joined the caravan to the U.S. Supreme Court. Atlanta Urban League, Atlanta Labor Council, Rainbow PUSH Coalition, National Action Network and 100 Black Men of Atlanta cohosted the rally.



"We will not allow the clock to be turned back 50 years; you are witnessing a revival of civil rights demonstrations and civil disobedience as a result."

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) CEO Charles Steele, Jr.

Just three days after President Barack Obama's historic re-election, the United States Supreme Court announced it would hear a constitutional challenge to the core provision of the Voting Rights Act, Section 5.

The case arose in Shelby County, Alabama when an African American finally won an elected position. The County redrew the district lines to prevent him from being re-elected, culminating in no Black elected officials. What happened in Shelby County can happen anywhere if Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is overturned.

Senator Hank Sanders of Selma said, "The Freedom Riders for Voting Rights Caravan is a key part of a six-phase movement to save Section 5, the heart of the Voting Rights Act. We are

demonstrating the critical need to save the Voting Rights Act. If we don't save Section 5, our children's children will still be fighting for the right to vote."

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. (LDF), which has been a champion of our legal struggles for civil rights over the decades, has agreed to stand in the gap with us as it defends the heart of the Voting Rights Act.

"Our experience since the 2006 reauthorization has been characterized by serial efforts to declare the core of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, and widespread efforts by states covered by Section 5 to make full political participation more difficult for Black and other voters of color," said Ryan Haygood, Director of LDF's Political Participation Group.

"It must seem strange to the average person that we face repeated attacks on the Voting Rights Act in court, even as efforts to narrow voting opportunities with all the markers of intentional discrimination proliferate and threaten to undermine our vigorous commitment to an inclusive democracy."

"It is imperative that African Americans and other people of color collectively build a strategy to support the Voting Rights Act beginning now. Failure to do so will not only impact national elections but also many of the state and local political gains will be lost including the election of mayors, county commissioners and legislators," said Ben Jealous, president and chief executive officer of the NAACP.

Those who argue that Section 5 is no longer necessary need look no further than their home state. Using Section 5, partners were able to battle back and overturn a discriminatory voter ID law. This successful application of Section 5 demonstrates the law's potency in protecting minority voters and the courts' flexibility and restraint in applying Section 5 to covered states.

Now is the time to continue to move forward toward a more perfect union and not backwards to the discriminatory history of our past. The VRA has protected voting rights over the years and in doing so protected the very foundation of our great democracy - our right to vote and have our votes counted!!



REP. TYRONE BROOKS

## **GABEO**

#### **GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS**

#### An affiliate of the SCLC - "Celebrating Excellence in Public Service"

With more than 1000 members statewide, GABEO's main focus is on developing programs which will provide deterrents to violence and crime among youth; promoting voter registration, education and participation, forming literacy programs to battle the growing problem of illiteracy in the state; securing economic parity for all Georgians; preserving minority voting strength, and removing the divisive Confederate emblem from the Georgia state flag. Below is their People's Agenda for 2013:

#### June 20-23: Annual Summer Convention

Savannah State University, 2219, College Street Savannah, Georgia 31404

#### July 13, 12 Noon: Annual Pre-Enactment Prayer Vigil

(Praying for the guilty to confess to the lynching massacre at the Moore's Ford Bridge and surrender) Historic Walton County Courthouse, 1883 Broad Street (Hwy. 11 at Spring Street) Monroe, GA 30655

<u>July 25, 10:00 AM:</u> Annual Reenactment News Conference State Capitol Capitol Avenue (East) at Mitchell Street, Atlanta, GA 30334

<u>July 27, 12 Noon:</u> SCLC, GABEO, NAACP 9th Annual Reenactment of the Lynchings at the Moore's Ford Bridge, Monroe, Georgia, 1st African Baptist Church, 130 Tyler Street (Corner of Main Street, Hwy. 11), 30655

<u>August 19:</u> SCLC's 50th Anniversary March/Motorcade Celebrating The Great March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom! Celebrating "I Have a Dream" Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

<u>August 28, 2013:</u> (Kick off – From Birmingham to Washington, DC with stops in Atlanta,

Covington, and Moore's Ford Bridge, Monroe, GA)

October 25-27: GABEO Annual Fall Conference, Eatonton, GA

For More Information Contact: Rep. Tyrone Brooks, 404-656-6372 and 404-372-1894. madge.owens@house.ga.gov or visit: www.ga-gabeo.org

## **Community**

# How Can You Help Save Lives and Prevent Violence in Georgia?

Atlanta among African American male youth is as much as five times what it is for Caucasian males in the same age group? While the suicide rate for black and white males is slightly higher for white males, the overall suicide rate is twice the homicide rate. That means that thousands of young people are dying at the hands of other youth or calling it quits permanently right under our noses! Did you know that you can help to save these lives by supporting programs that actually work to prevent violence?

A number of community-level responses to these challenges are now available through the Metropolitan Atlanta Violence Prevention Partnership (MAVPP). You can support these violence prevention solutions. Each of these programs has a component that is proven to counteract violence. Innovative strategies with tested components are now in place through the MAVPP, and additional high quality programs are right around the corner. These programs are designed to counteract violence long before it starts. Few people know about the bold steps that violence prevention specialists are taking in the Atlanta region to address violence of all types.

On the heels of the shootings like Sandyhook, Newtown, Morehouse College, and Price Middle School, Atlanta violence prevention specialists are addressing the problem of aggression. They are working to stop violence early and far upstream during young people's childhood and teen years. As tragic as these shooting incidents have been, they have resulted in a tremendous national preoccupation with gun control and mental health. It is as if we think that simply dealing with these two serious concerns will result in long-term solutions for all of us. The problem is that stopping gun sales and improving mental health services is not going to keep us safe. Too many guns are already on the streets, and most people with mental health problems are not a threat to society.

The problem now is that the tail is wagging the dog. In other words, as serious as the mental health and gun control issues are, less than one person out of 100 with mental health problems are violent. Further, mental health clients are twice as likely to be victims as they are to be perpetrators of



Where is our faith in a loving, higher power that provides guidance and protection from violence?

Don't we live in the Bible belt?

- Dr. James P. Griffin, Jr. -

violence. Yes, we do need to strengthen these areas, gun control and mental health, but the top priority really needs to be protecting all of us. Otherwise we cannot be fully available to look out for the wellbeing of our children and our children's children. Protecting elementary schools is a worthy activity, but this is a very small part of protecting the whole community.

What we need are broad-based violence prevention strategies, and responses to violence that must go beyond arming teachers with guns. What if instead we commit to resisting our fears that result in our buying bullet-proof vests and Kevlar blankets for preschoolers? What if we were to invest our energy into long-term tested solutions to violence?

Where is our faith in a loving, higher power that provides guidance and protection from violence? Don't we live in the Bible belt? Isn't the purchase of assault weapons a bold expression of a lack of faith? Perhaps our true destiny should be to avoid a way of life dominated by fear and paranoia. Do we really need a life punctuated by gun sales that lead to gun manufacturer profits, more paranoid propaganda and then again more gun sales? People have a right to protect themselves. The important point, however, is that these two issues--gun control and mental health--are simply a small part of the need to protect the whole community. (Go to www.mavpp.org and look for solutions to see examples of ways to stop violence before it can destroy lives.)

MAVPP programs incorporate proven solutions designed to counteract violence, and the members are working together under one umbrella to create a legacy of prevention for the 22nd Century. The overall organization that is promoting tested approaches to violence prevention and Kingian violence prevention is the Metropolitan Atlanta Violence Prevention Partnership (MAVPP). The MAVPP is a chapter of the Georgia Violence Prevention Partnership (GAVPP), Inc. The good news is the fact that everyone in the community can have a role in preventing violence by supporting the MAVPP members' programs. Go to the web page and familiarize yourself with the Peace Plan for more information.

This plan for making Atlanta more safe is the only one like it in the country. Georgia citizens should be proud that we have people in our state through the MAVPP who are prepared with scientific solutions on our side. All we have to do is get these solutions where they belong: on our streets, in our schools, in government, in businesses, and so on. That's where you can help by going to MAVPP.ORG and encouraging decision-makers across Georgia to adopt tested violence prevention strategies everywhere! Not only can programs like these save lives, but they can save taxpayer dollars through fewer hospitalizations and deaths from violence. In any case, our peace of mind is well worth the investment.

To learn more about our churches, businesses and alliances, please visit www.overgroundrr.com

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#### CHRISTIAN DECLARATION OF POSITION REGARDING MARRIAGE

- 1. As a Christian, with all of my faults and shortcomings, I must look to the Bible to define what marriage is and what marriage is not.
- 2. Marriage according to the Bible is between a man and a woman. (Genesis 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.").
- 3. The relationship was established by God between the first man Adam and the first woman Eve, both created by God. (Genesis 2:20 25).
- 4. Though the Bible is my guide, support for homosexual marriages cannot be found even in non-biblical sources. Every system of faith (whether it was called a religion or not) which has had any wide recognition in human history has recognized that marriage is only between men and women, never between persons of the same sex. "The first country to allow same-sex couples to enter into legally recognized marriage was the Netherlands, effective in 2001." Wikipedia, Same-sex marriage.
- 5. Even when marriage has been defined to include polygamy, it was always between men and women, never between several men or several women. As shown in Wikipedia, Same-sex marriage, homosexual "marriages" is a recent invention beginning in the Netherlands in 2001.
- 6. Indeed the Bible is very plain, in both the old and new testament, that homosexual behavior cannot be approved. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." (Leviticus 18:22).

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools; And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things; Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishon our their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient. (Romans 1:22 - 26).

- 7. None of this is to say that homosexual behavior is the only sexual behavior unacceptable by the Bible. Sexual intercourse outside of marriage between a man and a woman is also prohibited. (Exodus 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery."; Romans 13:9 "...Thou shalt not commit adultery...").
- 8. At any large gathering of Christians there is likely to be many who have committed, are committing, and/or within a short period of time after that gathering will commit, adultery. Indeed David, God's chosen servant, committed adultery. (2 Samuel 11th and 12th chapters).
- 9. However, there is no movement afoot to stop the Church from preaching the Biblical teachings against adultery. A very large percentage of people who have committed adultery claim to be driven by biological urges which they cannot resist. This is similar to the claims of those who advocate homosexual marriages.
- 10. We have all fallen and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.") This includes heterosexuals as well as homosexuals. But it is not God or the Bible that must change. We must change.
- 11. The fundamental message of the Christian faith as stated by Jesus is "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." (John 3:7). And, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).
- 12. As much as I love my homosexual relatives and friends, I cannot go against God and the Bible to endorse homosexual marriage. I respect their choice to not follow the Bible in their personal lives, just as I respect the right of persons to commit adultery.
- 13. But my respect for a person's right to make a private choice does not justify my endorsement of that which the Bible clearly states is wrong. It would be a violation of my conscience and my relationship with God, as well as an encouragement for others to do wrong, for which I would be responsible to my family, society in general and GOD.
- 14. Likewise I stand strongly opposed to any violence against those involved in homosexual behavior. Any act of violence against a person because of homosexual behavior is a sin in and of itself, as well as a crime which should and must be prosecuted.
- 15. It must be clearly understood that the Church must preach the gospel which includes the loving teaching to repent for all sin including homosexual behavior. (Matthew 28: 19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen).

It is imperative that a clear statement of the position of Christians regarding this issue be put forth. "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Corinthians 14:8).

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12).

This is not homophobia, which those who seek to silence dialogue quickly label anyone who disagrees with them. This is homolove. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

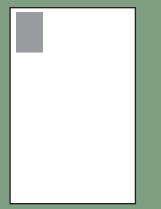
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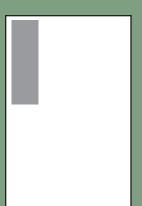
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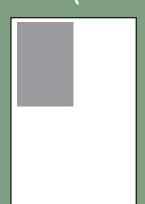
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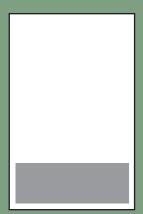
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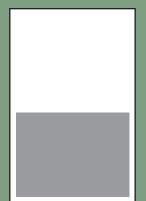
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