



ORR PULL-OUT
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Pages 15-18

THE CONDUCTOR

The Official Newspaper of The Overground RR!!®

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ABOVE ALL THINGS MINISTRY

The ORR WORSHIP CENTERS

Anointed Word Evangelistic Tabernacle
Ariel Bowen UMC
The Ark of Salvation
Believers' Bible Christian Church
Ben Hill UMC
Beulah Missionary Baptist Church
Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Butler Street Christian Methodist Episcopal
Calvary United Methodist Church
Cascade United Methodist Church
Christian Fellowship Baptist Church
Columbia Drive United Methodist Church
Covenant Ministries
Dodd-Sterling UMC
Elizabeth Baptist Church
Emmaus Road Missionary Baptist Church
Emmanuel Tabernacle
Enon Church
First AME Church
First Iconium Baptist Church
Friendship Baptist Church
Friendship Community Church
Grace Community Fellowship Church
Greater Heights Christian Church
Greater Mount Carmel AME
Greater New Life Baptist Church
Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church
The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church
Greenforest Community Baptist Church
Headland Heights UMC
Hillside International Truth Center, Inc.
International Christian Fellowship
Jackson Memorial Baptist Church
Life Changing Ministries
Light of the World Christian Tabernacle
Lindsay Street Baptist Church
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
Muhammed's Mosque No. 15
New Beginnings Ministries
New Jerusalem Baptist Church
Omega Holiness Church
Poplar Springs Baptist Church
Powerhouse of Deliverance Cathedral
Providence Missionary Baptist Church
Ray Of Hope Christian Church
Redemptive Life Christian Fellowship Church
Salem Bible Church
St James Missionary Baptist Church
St. John Missionary Baptist Church
St. Mark AME Church
St. Mark Lutheran Church
St. Philip AME Church
The True Light Baptist Church
Wheat Street Baptist Church
Woods Memorial Baptist Church
World Covenant Christian Center
Zion Hill Baptist Church

The Call and the Response

3/5ths Human, Are You? If Not, Demand H.R. 40 Now.

We, as a people, must now start the final trek on the road to freedom. Kitchen Table Affirmative Action is founded upon valuing ourselves as individuals and a community. This same self-esteem causes us to become aware and knowledgeable of our past, both recent and ancient, and responsible for our actions with regard to OUR past. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it". George Santayana, *Reason in Common Sense, The Life of Reason*, Vol.1.

This demands that, as we build the economic infrastructure of the Black community, we must also address the undeniable oppression afflicted on our people for 400 years.

We are just beginning to recover from the slavery (chained and Jim Crow phases) imposed upon us by terroristic national, state and local governments, along with their corporate and individual citizens. We must reject lies designed to keep us financially, socially, mentally and emotionally enslaved. We must reject lies designed to deprive us, our mothers, fathers, grands, greats and earlier ancestors from the Justice that we are morally bound to demand.

Reparations for Jews

"In response to calls from Jewish organizations and the State of Israel, in September 1951 Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany addressed his Parliament:

'... unspeakable crimes have been committed in the name of the German people, calling for moral and material indemnity ... The Federal Government are prepared, jointly with representatives of Jewry and the State of Israel ... to bring about a solution of the material indemnity problem, thus easing the way to the spiritual settlement of infinite suffering.'

Wikipedia, *Reparations Agreement between Israel and West Germany* citing the website of the *Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, or Claims Conference*.

"Despite the protests, the agreement was signed in September of that year, and West Germany paid Israel a sum of 3 billion marks over the next fourteen years; 450 million marks were paid to the World Jewish Congress. The payments were made to the State of Israel as the heir to those victims who had no surviving family. The money was invested in the country's infrastructure and played an important role in establishing the economy of the new state. The reparations would become a decisive part of Israel's income, comprising as high as 87.5% of the state income in 1956." *Id.*

Reparations for Jews did not end there.

"Yad Vashem noted that "in the 1990s, Jews began making claims for property stolen in Eastern Europe. Various groups also began investigating what happened to money deposited in Swiss banks by Jews outside of Switzerland who were later murdered in the Holocaust, and what happened to money deposited by various Nazis in Swiss banks..." *Id.*

Then... "In addition, individual companies (many of them based in Germany) began to be pressured by survivor groups to compensate former forced laborers. Among them are Deutsche Bank AG, Siemens AG, Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW), Volkswagen AG, and Adam Opel GmbH. In response, early in 1999, the German government proclaimed the establishment of a fund with monies from these companies to help needy Holocaust survivors. A similar fund was set up by the Swiss, as was a Hungarian fund for compensation of Holocaust victims and their heirs."

And agreements were reached as recently as 1999... "At the close of the 1990s, discussions of compensation by insurance companies that had insured Jews before the war and who were later murdered by the Nazis were held. These companies include Allianz, AXA, Assicurazioni Generali, Zürich Financial Services Group, Winterthur, and Baloise Insurance Group. With the help of information about Holocaust victims made available by Yad Vashem, **an international commission under former US Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger**, has been trying to uncover the names of those who had been insured and died in the Holocaust. The World Jewish Restitution Organization was created to organize these efforts. **On behalf of US citizens, the US Foreign Claims Settlement Commission reached agreements with the German government in 1998 and 1999 to compensate Holocaust victims who immigrated to the US after the war.**" *(Emphasis supplied). Id.*

It is interesting that Black taxpayers (born into Jim Crow slavery) helped fund United States efforts to obtain reparations for Jews.

And that is not all... "In 2007, Israeli MK Rafi Eitan made suggestions that were interpreted as a claim to reopen the agreement, although he insisted that he merely intended to "establish a German-Israeli work team that would examine how Germany could help the financially struggling survivors". German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück originally argued Germany would not consider expanding the agreement, **but later German government spokesman Thomas Steg said that Germany**



George, an ancestor with scars inflicted by whipping

was willing to discuss the possibility of making extra pension payments to Holocaust survivors if the Israeli government makes an official request." *(Emphasis supplied). Id.*

Black U.S. Taxpayers in the fiscal year 2004 assisted in giving \$2.62 billion to the State of Israel, and similar amounts for years before and after 2004. Wikipedia, *United States Agency for International Development citing Foreign Aid: An Introductory Overview of U.S. Programs and Policy*, <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/31987.pdf>, Figure 4, Page CRS-1.

Reparations for Japanese

"Beginning in the 1960s, a younger generation of Japanese Americans who were inspired by the Civil Rights movement began what is known as the "Redress Movement," an effort to obtain an official apology and reparations from the federal government for interning their parents and grandparents during the war, focusing not on documented property losses but on the broader injustice of the internment..." Wikipedia, *Japanese American internment*; Reparations and redress.

"In 1980, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) to study the matter. On February 24, 1983, the commission issued a report entitled *Personal Justice Denied*, condemning the internment as "unjust and motivated by racism rather than real military necessity". The Commission recommended that ...reparations be paid to those Japanese Ameri-

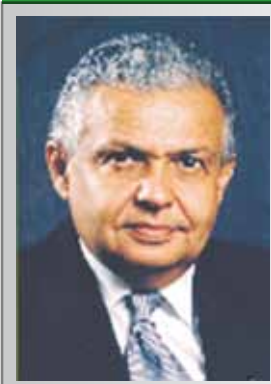
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ORR A • L • L • I • A • N • C • E • S

100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. - 100 Black Women of Atlanta - A Guiding Hand - All Empowered Inc. - Association of Black Cardiologists - Atlanta Be Someone Atlanta Business League - Atlanta Quest - Atlanta Urban League - Black Women Film Network - Career Choice International - City of Atlanta, Minority Business Opportunities - Cleveland Ave - Roy L. Yancy, Sr. Public Library - Community Teen Coalition, Inc. - Concerned Black Clergy - FACA - Fulton County Workforce Development - Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce - GABEO - Ga. Coalition of Black Women, Inc. - Girl Scout Troop 9216 - Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance - Investment Atlanta, Inc. - Jehovah's Witness Education Ministries - LAMA Inc. - Making The Transition, Inc. - MACEO's Kids Foundation - M.E.N.S. Wear Inc - NAACP of Georgia National Action Network - Radio One - Ropheka Rock of the World, Inc. - Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents, Inc. - SCLC Women - Show and Prove Youth Organization - SKIP, Inc. - Soul Food Museum - SPARC - The B-Aware Foundation - The Grapevine HIV/AIDS Foundation - The Green City Development Group - The Owens Center For Excellence - The Spirit of Sweet Auburn - Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture - United Negro College Fund



Letter From the Chairman



Aaron Turpeau, ORR Chairman

The Overground RR!!® is constantly moving in a swift, productive pace. Church, business and community leaders are recognizing the significance of the movement and what it stands for. Membership is continually growing and members are reaping the benefits of the Overground RR!!®.

The ORR staff is readily available and dedicated to providing the community with a reliable central business directory which is published throughout the community by print and cutting edge technology. To attract and encourage use of the ORR business directory, the ORR has enhanced and developed dynamic mediums that promote the churches, businesses and organizations of the African-American community. *The Conductor* can now be found at more than 400 locations in addition to being available on www.overgroundrr.com.

This issue is a major milestone for the ORR. We are challenging our members and readers to delve into the history of strength and entrepreneurial spirit that has lived in our communities for centuries. It's time to shake the system and support those who've taken the steps to economic freedom. Will you? Get Onboard!!

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cans who had been victims of internment. *Id.*

“In 1988, U.S. President (and former California governor) Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, ...which provided redress ...totaling \$1.2 billion dollars.” *Id.* citing Hatamiya, Leslie T. *Righting a Wrong*. 1994, page 108-9.

“On September 27, 1992, the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992, appropriating an additional \$400 million ...redress payments, was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush, who also issued another formal apology from the U.S. government.” Wikipedia, *Japanese American internment; Reparations and redress*.

“In 1988, following lobbying efforts by Japanese Americans, \$20,000 per internee was paid out to individuals who had been interned or relocated, including those who chose to return to Japan. These payments were awarded to 82,210 Japanese Americans or their heirs at a cost of \$1.6 billion; the program’s final disbursement occurred in 1999.” *Id.* citing *Democracy Now!* | Wwii Reparations: Japanese-American Internees.

OUR PEOPLE

The Lack of Economic Stability In Our Community is Directly Tied To Slavery.As reported in *Your Name Is Not Toby. Or Is It?* In the last issue of *The Conductor* (Vol. 6. No. 3),

In 2000, approximately 36 million Blacks spent approximately \$590 billion (spending and population data is from the Selig Center for Economic Growth, Terry College of Business, The University of Georgia; July 2008 issue). However, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the revenue of Black businesses in 2002 (data from the closest year available) approximated \$89 billion, only 15 percent of that amount.

During 2000, approximately 36 million Hispanics spent approximately \$490 billion. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2002, the revenue of Hispanic businesses approximated \$222 billion, which is 45 percent of that amount.

During 2000, approximately 11 million Asians spent approximately \$209 billion. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2002 the revenue of Asian businesses approximated \$326 billion, which is 155 percent of that amount.

During 2000, Whites spent approximately \$6 trillion, 231 billion. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2002 the revenue of White

businesses approximated \$22 trillion, which is 353 percent of that amount. (The article intends to be as accurate as possible. In addition to businesses identified as specifically owned by Whites, publicly held businesses are included. It is assumed that Whites own well more than 90 percent. If you disagree, make your own adjustment, the difference will make no distinction in the point of this article.)

In 2008, the spending of Blacks increased to \$913 billion even though the Black population only increased by 3 million making a total of approximately 39 million. Assuming the same percentage for business revenue for the respective ethnic groups, the direness of the picture is apparent.

This is the empirical evidence which shows where we are. Blacks spend more than any ethnic group other than Whites, but they spend very little of it with their own businesses.

“Ordinary Articles of Merchandise”

The scriptures state, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32. The truth is the **“Founding Fathers”, their ancestors and many of their descendants were terrorists, kidnappers, rapists, torturers, child molesters, and perpetrators of every other act one can imagine.** The reason you do not hear this is because it is not “politically correct”.

Yes, the very same people who constantly harp about “political correctness” would have a coronary explosion if George Washington, Thomas Jefferson (rapist of Sally Henning), Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln and a host of others were said to have been **terrorists, kidnappers, rapists, torturers, and child molesters**, or supporters of those who personally perpetrated the evil acts. But it is true. Otherwise how could they keep us in slavery for 400 years? Think about this the next time someone complains of “political correctness”.

Blacks from the founding of the United States were classified and treated as property. Some have confused the fact that, for census purposes as set out in the U.S. Constitution, Art. I, Sec. 2, Blacks were counted as 3/5ths of a human person. However, this did not mean that

Ethnicity	Amount Spent	Business Revenues	% of Amount Spent
Blacks	\$590 billion	\$89 billion	15%
Hispanics	\$490 billion	\$222 billion	45%
Asians	\$209 billion	\$326 billion	155%
Withes	\$6 billion, 231 billion	\$22 trillion, 97 billion	353%

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Congressman John Conyers

Blacks were to be **treated** as 3/5ths of a human person. The census was not to benefit Blacks. It only benefitted Whites and the cities, counties, states and territories who claimed to own Blacks.

In this country, **Blacks were not human at all**, no more than an ape is human, notwithstanding some undeniable similarities.

As part of the fundamental education in this country, especially for Blacks, the language of certain court cases should be studied. We will better understand how deeply rooted in the core of the United States and how vast and terroristic the evil perpetrated upon us has been. It would help us to understand the challenges we have and are facing as a people.

The words of the United States Supreme Court in *Dred Scott v. Sanford* is an excellent (but unfortunately not unique) example:

“In the opinion of the court, the legislation and histories of the times, and the language used in the Declaration of Independence, show, that neither the **class of persons who had been imported as slaves, nor their descendants, whether they had become free or not, were then acknowledged as a part of the people**, nor intended to be included in the general words used in that **memorable instrument**. [Emphasis supplied].

“It is difficult at this day to realize the state of public opinion in relation to **that unfortunate race**, which prevailed in the civilized and enlightened portions of the world **at the time of the Declaration of Independence, and when the Constitution of the United States was framed and adopted**. But the public history of every European nation displays it in a manner too plain to be mistaken. [Emphasis sup-

The ORR welcomes our new members
Alliances Business Churches

Black Women Film Network Heart of Compassion Lindsay Street Baptist Church
Investment Atlanta, Inc.

Thanks, for getting aboard ...

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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

Overground RR!!® Pulpit



Host Pastor
Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley
Pastor/Providence Missionary Baptist Church

Church congregations, civic organizations, and citizens from the Cascade community are very involved in the strength and creation of the life of Atlanta. The diverse groups of people from the Cascade neighborhood are the thread that keeps the community together. The primary objective of the Overground RR!!® is to avoid the splitting of the community. It's a pleasure to introduce Rev. Jerry D. Black, once again, as he provides insight on the significance and value of love.



Guest Pastor
Rev. Jerry D. Black
Pastor/Beulah Missionary Baptist Church

“A Mother’s Love and the Love of God”

With these two passages of scripture [Exodus 2:19 and John 3:16], the old and the new testament, I want to talk to you on this brief thought, “A Mother’s Love and the Love of God.”

A Mother’s Love and the Love of God
Sermon by Pastor Jerry D. Black
*(This is an excerpt from Pastor Black’s full sermon.
To read more visit www.overgroundrr.com)*

It seems that the general theme in the written text would be that of love. Webster defines the word love as a deep feeling of endearment that tends to make one feel special about another, that’s love. Love causes us to have special feelings about others. I’m a bit disturbed because it grieves me to find how loosely, some in this day and age, use the word love. Now, it’s true meaning has been corrupted and defiled and polluted because a lot of people call certain things love in this day and age that really is not love. Love is not a hungry passion. Say what one will or may you miss the true meaning of love if you connect it only to the hungry passion or a fleshly lust, you demean the true meaning of this word love.

Now, love in the Christian sense is an indicator of just how Christians really are. Jesus said if you want to know a real Christian, you will know him by his love, her love, for his or her fellow man. Now, say what you will or may about it, he didn’t say that you will know a Christian by how well he talks; he didn’t say you will know a Christian by how well we sing, some of us feel that way. He did not say you’ll know a Christian by how fervently he prays, but you will know a Christian by how they love. Remember Jesus said by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, not by what church you are affiliated with.

We will deal with the love of a mother and on the other hand the love of God. I don’t know about you but I see a close similarity between a mother’s love for her children and the Lord’s love for us. There is a close similarity existing between the two. So I would like to talk a little about A MOTHER’S LOVE AND THE LOVE OF GOD.

A mother’s love is unique because a mother loves her children not because of, but a true mother loves her children in spite of. that’s why one song writer put into words, and I like those folk who can express themselves in song because that gives us a tool to lean on th make you know what we are trying to say, the son says it so beautifully; “regardless of the crime the child is still mine.” And I look at mothers who have several children and some of those children never give their mother any trouble. The are always there to help and aid for their mother. But there are always some, at lease one in crowd that is not as conscious of sparing mother of hurt and pain as others.

Just like there are some that put forth every effort to keep mama from worrying, there are others who have one problem after another. But there is something about a mother’s love that she loves that problem child, she loves that worrisome child, that child that is always in and out of bad situations, she loves that one as much as she loves that one who never gave her any problems. I’m talking about a real mother. “Regardless of the crime the child is still mine.” That mother loves that child not because of but in spite of. And all of them won’t grow up to be doctors, all of them won’t grow up to be lawyers, all of them won’t grow up to the things that we would really want them and like them really to do. Some may be doctors and others may be mureders but a mother’s love form her children is still there.

Thank God for praying mothers.
Thank God for mothers that pushed us on the river of life.
Thank God for mother’s faith.
Thank God for mothers who know the Lord.
Thank God for a mother’s love.
Thank God for the Love of God.

Heroes and Sheroes of the Church



ORR Church Coordinator
Swain Watters has been a member of Headland Heights United Methodist Church essentially all of his life. Swain has been active in the leadership of the church since they relocated to Dodson Drive in 1985. He has served as United Methodist Men President, on the Finance Committee, Board of Trustees and other positions. He is currently Chair of the Administrative Council and teaches the Middle School-High School class every Sunday morning. Headland has a legacy of developing generations of young people academically, socially and most of all spiritually.



Usher
Sister **Alicia Evans**, an original member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church, currently serves as Ministry Leader of NJBC Ushers. She believes that she was called to the ministry by God six years ago. As Ministry Leader, her main concerns are maintaining order and helping during service. Alicia considers herself blessed as her desire is to provide assistance and comfort while serving the people of God in a friendly manner. She believes that through it all God will say, “Well done my faithful servant.”



Deacon
Deacon **William Dixon**, has been a devoted and faithful member of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church for 60 years, and he is the church historian. Deacon Dixon, proudly served in the Army during World War II. A fellow church member stated that he has “A Heart That Only God Could Have Created.” A big salute to this Hero of Beulah MBC.



Choir Director
Timothy Simmons is a native of Winston-Salem, N.C. He is a General Music School teacher for the DeKalb County Schools and Min of Music at Redemptive Life Christian Fellowship where Dr. Mark W. Thompson is Senior Pastor. Simmons began his singing ministry at the age of three and began playing for various churches in Winston Salem at the age of 14. One of his favorite biblical passages is “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6, NAS)



Mother’s Board
Mariann Couch of Emmanuel Tabernacle is the birth mother to the church’s founder and pastor, Mark A. Couch. She is the executive director of the Sparkling Foundation that has awarded more than \$175,000 in scholarships to high-risk students seeking higher education and served on the Board of Directors for the *I Sign For You*, Inc. organization that improves the quality of life and socializes the hearing impaired into the mainstream of society.



Auxillary
Christian Rites of Passage, Inc., Cascade United Methodist Church The Christian Rites of Passage, Inc. (CRoP) was founded in 2003 by **Ida I. Crook** in order to recognize the importance of instilling youth empowerment, self excellence and self-pride. The 12 rites of passage program further builds on these core values through themed and structured classroom instruction. “My goal is to serve the youth of Atlanta so thoroughly that [the Christian Rites of Passage] would have reached every part of the metro Atlanta community.”

Dottie Peoples Takes Cosmetic Industry By Storm

The Conductor

Dottie Peoples is known for her dynamic singing voice, unflinching spiritual beliefs, strong stage presence, and now, she is taking a brand new venture into the world of entrepreneurship. There are many goals that the longtime singer has accomplished but now, she is ready to walk into a new calling in her life that will still allow her to help others along the way with a new makeup line and music label.

Her newly released makeup line, DUE (Dottie’s Ultimate Enhancers) is created for women of color and has products that cover the health of skin to beautification. “The newest thing on our agenda is DUE, the new makeup line we’ve just introduced. We’re excited about that,” Peoples says. “It’s a newly formulated line of skin care and cosmetics.”

Peoples recalls how she was approached by executives who were contemplating starting a makeup line but needed a face to help launch the business. After looking around and not finding a suitable candidate, Peoples’ name arose and her consummate professionalism and consistent gift to always look beautiful and carry herself in a way that represented everything the company wanted. Also, she recalls how she has constantly been complimented on her makeup and look when in the public eye.

“The people came to me about the makeup. They said ‘you carry yourself in a way, in the industry that when we went out and asked what artist would be the one we could market this with, they said Dottie always looks nice, her hair is always in place she wear nice clothes and her facie is always made up.’ They felt I would represent [the company and

the product] well and they came after me.” This new venture for Peoples is one that she says is a showing of favor by God. “I wasn’t even thinking about [the cosmetics business].

Not only was she excited and flattered but honored to be the new face of this line that is made specifically for women of color. Her passion still lies in her music nevertheless she is ready to take this new step toward entrepreneurship. “We’re opening a store in November at Union Station Mall where you can purchase D.U.E. makeup,” she says. Otherwise, the makeup can only be purchased online at www.d-u-e.net. The makeup line will be very similar to other brands including Avon, Mary Kay where there will be representatives who will sell products for customers all over the country.

No matter what direction People’s career takes her, she will always find her way back to her second love (with her first being God) : Music. She is preparing now to create a live compact disc set for release next year. “Somebody told me to do Dottie and Friends, so I may do that. [I might] call up five or six of my friends and people I’ve worked with for years and them all on there,” the Ohio native states.

Peoples has been in the gospel entertainment business for more than 20 years and has the accolades and awards to prove it: She has earned the Spirit Award and been nominated for Grammy Awards. In 2008, Peoples started her own music label, DP Muzik Group where she is currently looking for artists to continue carry and the message of God around the world. “I was with Air Records since 1993 and then the record label was sold to Malachi out of Jacksonville, Miss.,” she recalls. “When my contract was up I decided to step



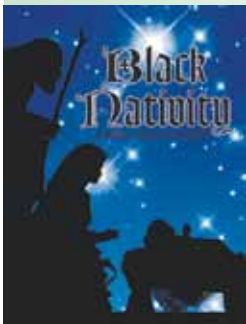
Dottie Peoples takes her first step into the business of entrepreneurship with a new cosmetics line and DP Muzik Group. She is currently seeking new talent for her label.

“We’ve gotten a really good response from [the makeup line]. Everybody who has tried it loves it which is a good plus for us,” Peoples exclaims.

out and make my next single on my own label and I started DP Muzik from there.” She is initially looking for a male quartet group, a soloist and possibly thinking of starting an Atlanta mass choir. With all of these goals, Peoples has to make time to concentrate on the burgeoning cosmetic line. “We’ve gotten a really good response from [the makeup line]. Everybody who has tried it loves it which is a good plus for us,” she exclaims.

To those who are looking to enter into the gospel entertainment business, Peoples advises that you should “keep God first. Know that He is first in your life and then give God some of your talent. If you can sing, get in the choir. Give Him some time. Just because you can sing doesn’t mean that He will give you a contract. You have to prove that you are worthy of that contract.” Peoples has surely shown herself approved.

To view video clips of the A.G.E.S. luncheon, please visit www.overgroundrr.com



Arts

Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre presents the gospel telling of the Christmas story as a soul-stirring musical celebration. A testament to the power of gospel music, the story of the Nativity is told through the combination of scripture, poetry, dance and song that connects a contemporary church revival to the time of mangers and swaddling clothes. This joyous evening brings the real meaning of faith and love to life.

Gospel

Since the early 1980’s, Babbie Mason has made an indelible mark on the gospel music industry. She continues to be one of the great musicians that spread God’s word to the masses. She is the host of the television show, “Babbie’s House” that airs on various TV outlets worldwide. Her numerous awards and accolades prove that she is making a difference in the world of music and for the greater good of humankind.



Entertainment

Xernona Clayton is the founder, president and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc. and Creator and Executive Producer of the Foundation’s Trumpet Awards. The awards show is a prestigious event highlighting African American accomplishments and contributions. Initiated in 1993 by Turner Broadcasting, the Trumpet Awards has been televised annually and distributed internationally to over 185 countries around the world.

Sports

Future Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk, inner city youth in metro Atlanta, is a haven where youth shape promising futures. Founded in 2001 by NBA Star and Coach, Shareef Abdur-Rahim, it is the fastest growing nonprofit organization in metro Atlanta. Today its impact runs deep, serving over 4,000 youth annually. Core services include afterschool, healthy relationship skills, parenting, and community capacity building. For more information, visit www.future-foundation.com.





Business

ABL Honors Women Business Owners

The Conductor

In the legacy of Booker T. Washington, the Atlanta Business League (ABL) is keeping the torch burning high for the rise of black businesses and the overall black, Atlanta community. As the founder of the organization, then called the National Business League, Washington intended for the group of black professionals “to enhance and expand the business community at large, to encourage civic pride, and to reinvest community money within the community.”

Fast forward 76 years from founding date, 1933, to October 6, 2009, to the 25th anniversary of the ABL Super Tuesday Conference at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. There hundreds of ABL members, guests and friends convened to learn more about the women-owned business community, be encouraged as well as be recognized and awarded for outstanding businesses.



Cathy Hughes

This year, the mostly female audience received a warm and informative morning welcome at the Opening Plenary session guest speaker from Cathy Hughes, founder and president of Radio One, Inc., TV One and Syndication One. She informed the crowd of the ins and outs of the entertainment industry and told them of the challenges that she and her company faces on a daily basis. “

Her words of encouragement were framed around the idea that African Americans should tell their own stories and tell them in a way that truly represents the significant spiritual, economic and developmental growth achieved. “When you have movies like Tarzan and you have television shows like ‘The Real Housewives of Atlanta’ ... which in my veteran media opinion, both are equally damaging to the areas of which they allegedly represent,” she said above the crowds’ applause. “I know that might not be the popular position to express in Atlanta, but, Atlanta, Georgia is blessed to have one of the most affluent, intelligent, highly-educated, hard-working, enterprising and beautiful populations of women in the world.”

She then made her way down a long list of



Alice Bussey (center) receives an honor given by the Atlanta Business League for her dedication and service to the organization. She is joined onstage by supporters including Erica Qualls (far left), ABL chair, and Leona Barr-Davenport (far right) ABL president.

popular and notable African-American women that have made an impact on the Atlanta community in various ways. Hughes founded Radio One in 1979 after she and her husband Dewey bought a Washington, D.C. radio station, WOL. Through the years and after buying more stations, Radio One became the largest black-owned radio chain in the nation. Her success, drive and intellect are what prompted the ABL to invite her to the event as the guest speaker.

She also spoke of how black stations are in trouble of becoming extinct and how BET, the nations’ largest black TV station is owned by Viacom, mentioning “which by the way I’m planning to change.” Hinting at her possible purchase of the station, Hughes stated “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired” in speaking of the sometimes controversial station.

There were many that took the words of the speakers to heart and will continue to use them in their everyday lives as well as with the hopes of gaining prosperity in their businesses. The mission of the ABL is to “foster[s] the growth, creation and development of successful business enterprises owned, operated and managed by African-Americans in metropolitan Atlanta.” The workshop moderators and panelists

were chosen with the goal of reaching the core purpose of the mission.

Attendees had full access to the workshops that were led by Atlanta and nationwide business leaders. Workshops covered topics that ranged from social media/networking to self wellness. Bunnie Jackson Ransom, president of First Class, Inc., and a panelist on the Execute or Perish- Your Company’s Life Depends on it, states the importance of events and workshops like these. “I think the most important thing is the networking opportunities for these types of events,” she says. “You get out of it what you put into it. If you come [to these workshops] thinking someone has a golden bullet for a quick fix on how to market your business, you’ll be sadly disappointed. But if you come to listen and work what [advice] you get, then you’ll get a lot of it. What works for me may not work for John and what work for Judy might not work for me.” Jackson’s company has been incorporated for 35 years and, according to her, it’s all been by the grace of God.

In the luncheon section of the all day event, women business owners were nominated and a winner chosen for categories that included, Home Based Achievement, Success Against

the Odds, Non-Traditional Business Enterprises and Outstanding Achievement Finalists (Woman of the Year). The women who were nominated and awarded were chosen by a special board within the ABL, even though, it was said that some decisions were difficult to make due to the high-caliber of businesswomen.

The Atlanta Business League has raised the bar for its members and for those who are potential members. Those who are associated with the group have continually proved themselves to be leaders and trailblazers in the local, national and global business community. ABL leadership is included. The business organization is led by the president and CEO, Leona Barr-Davenport and chaired by Erica Qualls, general manager of the Marriott Marquis, where the event was hosted.

Cherran Allison, founder of Cher’s Escapes and Events (CE2), an ABL member and volunteer, has been associated with the organization for one year now. She has already reaped benefits from becoming an active member. “I searched around for different organizations to join, to put my business out there with other businesses and I decided that the [ABL] had the best opportunities for me and I could meet more people in their networking circle,” she recalls. “Just by being in the resources guide, I’ve received calls saying that they saw my company and so to me that awesome and free advertising for a year. It just makes good business sense.”

As a member of the public policy committee and event volunteer, Allison has immersed herself in the organization to make herself known and reputable. “Whatever they need me to do, I wear several hats,” she stated. The former executive administrator Southern Christian Leadership Conference/Women’s Organization Movement for Equality Now, Inc. [SCLC/W.O.M.E.N.], says that she’s faced financial challenges, however, she is confident that there will be a pick up in the economy where she will see her gain. “I just believe that when it’s my season, it’s my season,” she says with a wink, embodying the spirit of the women that exemplify the ABL, from the leadership to the membership.

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legal matters

Essentia Legal: Protecting Your New Business Starts With the Trademark

By Jeremy House

New business owners would be smart to connect with a legal firm like Essentia Legal. In a business world complicated with legalities that can mean the difference between profitability and financial disaster, the firm was form with a specific sensibility for the ongoing struggles of business owners—big and small.

Essentia Legal’s price structure reflects the needs of small business owners with a focus on affordability and efficiency. With all their focus on serving the community with affordable services, the firm is staffed by three former King & Spalding attorneys, one of the most prestigious law firms in South. Not a bad tradeoff for affordability. Just look at some the recent media attention that Essentia Legal’s Michael Mason, Latif Oduola-Owoo and Robert Arrington have garnered.

The powerhouse threesome won a case against

the legal documents preparing giant We The People, in which they fought for a young political activist who owns the Internet domain WeThePeople.com (WeThePeopleUSA.com is the company’s domain). Attorney Mason explains that the legalities involved with trade marking present a common pitfall for new business owners.

Mason sat down with the ORR to explain some key issues involving trademarks. All in all, he told us that it starts in the beginning, by “picking the right name.” Mason worked for the United States Patent and Trademark Office for eight years. He was part of flood of lawyers hired into the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to deal with an influx of trademark registration applications, after a 1988 law permitting business owners to apply for a trademark with “bona fide” intent to use the mark. Prior to the law change, business owners were required to show proof of usage of a trademark. Before leaving King & Spalding, he served as

a supervising examiner, training young lawyers to research and prepare trademark documents. He led the Essentia Legal team on the landmark case with We The People.

ORR: Explain the trade marking process?:

The trademark process by the U.S. government is basically a system based on actual use of a mark. Not many people realize that you don’t have to actually have a federal registration in order to have a trademark. Once you put your brand name, symbol or whatever you have referencing your identity on a particular product, service or in association of service you have actually created what is called a common law trademark.

As Mason explained, for small business owners, retrieving a trademark begins with just using a mark on the entity for sale. Nonetheless they are limits, the protection bound within the state lines or areas of use.



This Essentia Legal office is located in the Camp Creek Marketplace on Camp Creek Rd. in East Point.

Most people try to get a registration to have that federal protection in order to be known as being the federal owner of the mark to give public notice also to the world that you are the federal owner of this trademark. And there are a lot of other advantages of having a federal [trademark] registration.



Faith Video OnDemand Spreads Worldwide Gospel

By Kay Marie Pressley

Chuck Johnson, through his business, has become a minister in his own right. He is the owner and CEO of Faith Video OnDemand, a multimedia company that broadcasts church services world wide using the digital technology of streaming media. The company was started in 2004 with only a few churches but now it has expanded its services to approximately 60 churches both nationally and internationally.

Not only is this company used to spreading the gospel worldwide but it also covers events such as conventions, conferences, seminars, revivals, funerals, graduations and weddings. This brings the event home for families and friends who are unable to attend the events for whatever reasons. They have the access to tune in via the Internet and watch their loved ones or gain information without ever leaving the comforts of home.

An engineer by trade, Johnson got into this line of work because he believes that God was using him as an avenue to expand the gospel worldwide. “I wanted to do something that involved spreading the gospel which is a commandment by God in Matthew 24:13,” he says. “I was also searching for something to do because the



company that I was working for had slowed down. This created an opportunity that helped to propel me into this business and pointed me in the direction that I needed to go.”

Johnson considers this feature extremely valuable considering that Faith Video OnDemand not only provides services 24/7 for churches and their congregation, but also families, friends and church members who are in transition either by job or home relocation. They also service military personnel, college students who are away from home, seniors or the elderly who are sick or homebound, as well as, incarcerated individuals who wish to view these events. This round the clock media coverage helps bring awareness to church ministry, community events and also increase their membership locally as well as internationally.

With Faith Video OnDemand many of the churches have grown incrementally by gaining

new members. New members are able to use the Internet to obtain updated information on events, become personally involved and also pay tithes on line. Another perk to the Web site is that they are able to broadcast events at a considerably lower cost than other forms of electronic media, including television and radio. Other products and services include podcasting, video e-mail, customized storefront and sponsorship opportunities to organizations. There is also a Word of the Day on the company’s Web site at www.faithvideoondemand.com that has generated a lot of positive feedback.

The company hosts a Pastor of the Month Appreciation Day as part of its community outreach. During a special luncheon or dinner every month, Faith Video OnDemand reveals a pastor and first lady to honor. With the honor are a personalized plaque and other amenities on behalf of Faith Video OnDemand. John-

son considers this a small, yet significant token on behalf of his organization. “This shows our thanks to the ministries that support us. This is also a great way to be introduced to other local pastors in the community who may, in return, discover that they may need our services,” the Church of God of Prophecy member says.

As a youth minister he assists children in the neighborhood, as well as, his church by exposing them to the media industry. Johnson is working with the youths on producing a show called “Kid Action”. It is a media outlet where the children get to speak about the Lord and express what is happening in their lives.

Faith Video OnDemand has a main goal that for the next two to five years the customer base will increase to include other churches, mosques and synagogues with congregations from the Jewish, Hispanic, and other cultural denominations. Now, they are connected to churches in England, Canada and Africa and look forward to expanding to other countries. For further information on how you can connect your church, organization or business, please contact Chuck Johnson at the Web site or call 770-912-7677 or 866-847-6793.

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Wine Styles Raises the Bar on Entrepreneurial Style

The Conductor

It’s been said that if you find a job doing what you love, you’ll never work a day in your life. Well, according to the husband and wife team, Belinda Stubblefield and Ron Frieson, they’ve found the job that doesn’t require a day of work at their own establishment, Wine Styles.

Married for six years, the couple felt that they’re love for wine would be the perfect blend to their desire to become entrepreneurs. With both having successful professional backgrounds, Hers: Head of Delta Air Lines Customer Service and call center and His: Executive Vice President of External Affairs at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, entrepreneurship was their next step. “Wine Styles-Cascade has been open since November 2006 and we are approaching our third-year anniversary,” Stubblefield says proudly. “It’s been great. We really wanted to open a store here in our community and the community has really embraced it.”

The support shows in the more than 200 wine club members that the store owners boast. Wine club members enjoy monthly wine tastings and continuous discounts during the events and special VIP treatment. The store holds 150 wines that customers can choose from to take home or enjoy in the store.

The couple recalls how they enjoy wine in their personal lives and knew that this transition into working with wine would be a welcomed challenge. “My husband and I were thinking about what we wanted to do because we wanted to

become entrepreneurs and we really trying to decide ‘what is it that we know enough about to do and do well and enjoy doing everyday’ and we thought about wine.” After taking classes at the Atlanta Wine School, the two were ready to take on Wine Styles.

Frieson states that they noticed that there was a lack of “amenities” in their community; however, they were sure that there was a desire to learn more about wine as well as socialize. “We both had a multifaceted, tremendous interest in wine and when you think about expanding the knowledge base, I think that is a service to the community.”

“We’ve got to start investing in our communities, in oppose to asking a lot of the big chains to come and [invest]. A big part of our focus is turning money over in our community. We don’t ask people to give us a pass on our service ... [or] product. All we ask is that [the community] puts us in your rotation, give us a try.” He notes that their visitors and customers include all types of community leaders and everyday folks who enjoy the warm, vibrant atmosphere that the store exudes.

Located at 3752 Cascade Rd., the wine store is the host venue to wine tastings, organizational events and has become a place where community residents visit to sit and enjoy a glass of wine with other connoisseurs. The dual owners are also co-owners/partners of their neighboring restaurant, Landon’s. They’ve



Belinda Stubblefield is the co-owner of Wine Styles with her husband, Ron Frieson. Stubblefield enjoys taking care of customers that visit the store by ringing up orders, answering questions, greeting and even pouring a glass of wine for the “regulars”. (Right) Wine Styles creatively displays its fine wines.

made sure that the two establishments bring the best of the best to the predominantly African-American community. The store is designed to be customer friendly, unintimidating and as reasonably-priced (averaging \$10-\$20 for many bottles) as possible. With the warm atmosphere and wine chilled temperature, customers are always greeted with advice on a wine(s) that they’re looking for.

A large part of the locale planning went into Wine Styles. The two pondered opening the wine store in another location but their thoughts quickly came back home to the Cascade area. They wanted to bring this experience to the community that they live and love and reduce the commute that Cascade residents take for an upscale wine experience that would occur, otherwise, closer to downtown, midtown or Buckhead. The support has been so overwhelming from residents and organizations that the owners have no plans of opening a store anywhere else.

Another part of entrepreneurship that Stubblefield enjoys is the ability to employ community members. She says her staff makes her job easier and when customers come in to have a glass of their favorite wine or to try a new wine, it’s like “spending time with a friend.” Providing jobs and helping others create a livelihood is something the duo takes seriously. “It’s nice to be able to know that you’re helping someone else help themselves,” she says. “[It’s great] to be a part of the solution.”

“We have a really good team and that’s real



important because our differentiation is the customer service,” the former California resident states. “Not only [do we have a] friendly staff but [they are a] knowledgeable, educated staff. In many ways, I feel lucky because we’ve been blessed with people who love wine and enjoy customer service and spending time with our customers.”

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Business

Amazing Cakes Celebrates Success One Sweet Tooth at a Time

The Conductor

Finding our calling comes from many directions. The husband and wife team, Tanya and Joaquin Thompson are entrepreneurs today because Tanya’s sweet gesture to her spouse.

One day, Tanya baked a cake for her husband and took it to his job. A female co-worker, who was also engaged to be married, tasted the cake and asked Tanya if she would bake her wedding cake. After many requests and perseverance from the bride-to-be, she faced her fears and said yes. This was something that she’d never done before, even though her mother had previously asked her to accompany her to a baking class. Now, Tanya willingly signed herself up for baking classes that were now more of a security effort than a luxury.

With such a grand request for a momentous occasion, Thompson was proud of the cake. “By delivery time, I just couldn’t believe the cake I’d done. I woke everyone up in the house so they could come and see the cake,” the mother of three says. She’s been baking ever since.

For seventeen years, Thompson has been baking cakes professionally. She baked from her home the first 10 years and then moved to a storefront location seven years ago. Now, she and her husband are the owners of The Amazing Cakes Bakery, Inc. She is the baker and he handles the day-to-day business operations. The baking business wasn’t what she initially wanted for herself. Before Amazing Cakes, she was an early education teacher who was satisfied with enlightening the minds of youth.

Nevertheless, she is still using her teacher training and tactics in the bakery business. She mentions how her creative mind is still very active when it comes to creating new cakes and designs for her cake model and display



The Thompsons own and operate The Amazing Cakes Bakery, Inc.

board. Joaquin, is more of the front man for the store as Thompson states that “he is more of a character and [has a more outgoing] personality]. He is the sales and marketing person.”

Since then business has been booming and she is busier than ever. The Thompsons are now searching for a second store to sell their goodies. She notes that she has more than 1,000 recipes, however, customers have 15 types of desserts to choose from including red velvet cakes to Hummingbird cakes.

Part of her motivation for staying in business is due to there being too few black businesses. Thompson says that she has lived in Florida, Washington, D.C. and New York, and understands that Atlanta is a rarity where there are more black-owned businesses. “When it comes to African-American businesses, we are less than one percent,” Thompson says. “So, that’s why I get up every morning.”

With three children, the couple plans on leaving a legacy of independence, whether they become entrepreneurs or not. The main goal is to instill pride in yourself as well as your work.

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Heart of Compassion: Healing the Body by Healing the Mind

By Jeremy House

Frightened by the thought of being hypnotized? “Don’t be” says Cassandra Bell, a trained hypnotherapist in Atlanta. Referring to highly televised stereotypical scenes of people being hypnotized to quack like a duck, Bell proclaims that it’s just nonsense. “It’s stage hypnosis,” said Bell. “It’s there for entertainment purposes only. It’s comedy.”

In contrast, according to Bell, hypnotherapy deals with real problems. One of Bell’s clients informed her that the success of therapy outweighed the success of anxiety medication. “Our mind, which is the most powerful tool that we have to heal and improve our bodies, [is what] we’re not using. Instead, we’re using other methods that may not be as good for you; or natural.”

Veteran hypnotherapist Darice Bossen incited Bell to discover the untapped power of the human brain. During a networking event in 2006, Bossen helped Bell realize that the mind can heal the body. Since then, Bell has received training at the Hypnosis Motivation Institute in Tazanna, Calif. and received certification as a therapeutic imagery facilitator. Now she operates Heart of Compassion Hypnotherapy, a business of healing, striving to cure by uniting mind and body.

Hypnotherapy is one of many alternative healing methods booming with the last two decades. The therapy employs a wide range of

relaxation exercises that engender a state of trance. Once in that trance state, a trained therapist could suggest positive bits of information that retrain subconscious habitual brain reactions that aid certain health predicaments.



Cassandra Bell

Commonly treated illnesses include anxiety, stress, and eating and sleep disorders. A joint study by the VA Medical center and the University of Southern California-San Francisco, published in May

2008, showcases significant success of hypnotherapy for a waning smokers’ dependence on tobacco.

“It’s not mind control,” explains Bell who says the trance like state of hypnosis is a “natural process. In fact people experience a state of trance everyday. “Whatever affects the body affects

the mind and whatever affects the mind affects the body.” Therefore, taking care of the mind is essential to overall health and well-being. Hypnotherapy is not a quack medicine; it’s a healing alternative that allows the body to heal itself, a step in the right direction from many of today’s medicinal and chemical dependencies.

“Whatever affects the body affects the mind and whatever affects the mind affects the body.”
-Cassandra Bell

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ORR: What are the steps for obtaining a federally registered trademark?

The trademark process itself is not as simple as like the copyright process. You just don’t file a trademark and expect to get a registration. What happens is it goes through a period of examination [to prevent the likely hood of confusion].

Step one:

Typically what happens when you file your application is that it eventually reaches the desk of an examining attorney; he looks it over and the first thing he does is called a trademark search. He searches the database of the registered trademark at the U.S. trademark office to determine if there are any conflicts.

What if the trademarks are similar?

Now, it doesn’t have to be exactly the same. Let’s say, if I filed a registration for “Masons Peanut Butter” and someone already has “Masons Grape Jelly” that probably would be a conflict even though the marks aren’t the same and the goods aren’t the same. You can see how someone would assume that the owner of Mason Grape Jelly would expand their line of business into the peanut butter business.

What’s another problem business owners could face?

If the mark is too descriptive. Everyone in the peanut butter industry could use the word crunchy. Additionally, there could be grounds for denial name marks. The government doesn’t mark coming in with just last names. There’s a back in forth between the trademark office and the person who files registration until they have satisfied registration and have been approved for publication.

Publication?

To be approved for publication means that the mark appears in this magazine called the “Official Gazette” and you can find it in any public library it comes out every week from U.S. Patent and Trademark office. It’s there for the entire world to see. You have one month to file an opposition. It’s called the opposition period. If a month goes by and there no oppositions... typically what happens then the mark is approved for registration.

After one month of publication the mark is officially registered?

And even after a registration there’s no guarantee you can keep it. Common law use is based on date of first use. Who actually used the trademark first? Best case scenario is year before you could use the registration symbol.

Any tips for people wanting to begin the trademark process?

Picking the right name. To any new business owners advantage to always try to pick a name that is protectible and registerable.” What you want do is avoid problems in the beginning.” It’s very important to picking right name and getting that internet domain name at the same time.

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Restaurants



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Perseverance Leads Chanterelles Chef to Entrepreneurship

The Conductor

Working toward a dream is sometimes hard work. It takes determination, know-how, dedication, talent and, most of all, help from the Divine. All are familiar to Al Bridges, owner and chef of Chanterelles Restaurant and Catering in Southwest Atlanta.

Bridges' story starts after an unexpected family move to Florida and his search for a job of any kind. After just a short time in the Sunshine state, he knew it was time to find a job. A friend of his brother told him of a dishwasher position at a local hotel. Not being concerned with the type of job, Bridges applied, interviewed and was offered the job. “

In the kitchen, he noticed how the chef would



BRIDGES RECALLS HOW HE STARTED WASHING DISHES IN A HOTEL KITCHEN AND NOW OWNS HIS OWN RESTAURANT IN SOUTHWEST ATLANTA.

make orders to the other kitchen staff, Bridges included. He was also marveled at how the chef would take food from scratch and prepare the most beautiful, delicious dishes for hotel guests. This was the moment that he finally realized his calling, or at least the goal he wanted to reach for now.

After a brief amount of time, he really began to enjoy working in the kitchens and made his first move to cook hotel meals. He arranged an “apprenticeship” for himself at his second hotel job where he would arrive at work at 5 a.m. and then after cooking he would return to washing dishes. This went on until his road, once again, landed him back in Georgia albeit this time Atlanta.

“It was an ambition that I wanted to own my own restaurant,” Bridges states.” But [I wanted] to be a chef first and see how everything works. You see, owning your own business is not earn while you learn. You have to already know.” Knowing is only part of the craft. The other is God-given talent. To this day, Bridges has never taken a culinary class at an institution. His learning has been hands on since the beginning.

While at the Abbey hotel in Atlanta, Bridges trained under Hans Bertram as an apprentice.

Bertram, who came to United States in 1967, is a West German chef who has trained and excelled in European cuisine. He has become one of the city's best and most well-known chefs.

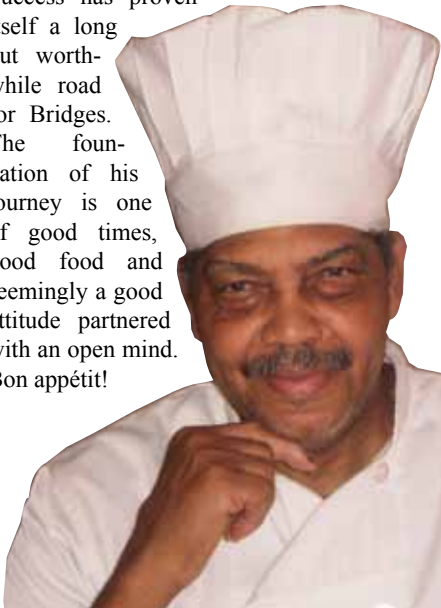
“I was a chef other establishments [including] The Abbey, the Sheraton [et al.]. After a while, you don't want to work for anybody any longer,” Bridges explains. “If you can be a chef at a successful restaurant, then you want to see if you can be the chef/owner at your own successful restaurant. It's just a natural thing to do.” His progression into entrepreneurship began around 26 years ago when he opened Chanterelles.

Chanterelles is a unique fusion of soul food dishes with a French cuisine influence. The dishes include baked rosemary chicken, French peas, shrimp creole and curry goat. Bridges admits that all of the dishes are his favorites because he won't serve anything to his customers that he doesn't love himself.

His time as a hands-on restaurateur has made him many new friends by way of regular customers. His humble beginning in the restaurant business is a story that he willingly and proudly shares. It's a story that shows that hard work and great customer service goes a long way. Now, Chanterelles can seat up to 60

diners. When you walk through the door, the middle dining area used to be all the seating choices diners had. Later on, Bridges was able to purchase the space to the right – a former beauty shop and then the space to the left – an African shop.

Success has proven itself a long but worthwhile road for Bridges. The foundation of his journey is one of good times, good food and seemingly a good attitude partnered with an open mind. Bon appétit!



Al Bridges is the founder and chef at Chanterelles.

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plied].

“They had for more than a century before been regarded as **beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race**, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior, that they **had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit. He was bought and sold, and treated as an ordinary article of merchandise and traffic, whenever a profit could be made by it.** This opinion was at that time fixed and universal in the civilized portion of the white race. It was regarded as an axiom in morals as well as in politics, which no one thought of disputing, or supposed to be open to dispute; and men in every grade and position in society daily and habitually acted

upon it in their private pursuits, as well as in matters of public concern, without doubting for a moment the correctness of this opinion. [Emphasis supplied].

“And in no nation was this opinion more firmly fixed or more uniformly acted upon than by the English Government and English people. **They not only seized them on the coast of Africa, and sold them or held them in slavery for their own use; but they took them as ordinary articles of merchandise to every country where they could make a profit on them, and were far more extensively engaged in this commerce than any other nation in the world.** [Emphasis supplied].

“The opinion thus entertained and acted upon in England was naturally impressed upon the colonies they founded on this side of the At-

lantic. And, accordingly, **a negro of the African race was regarded by them as an article of property, and held, and bought and sold as such**, in every one of the thirteen colonies which united in the Declaration of Independence, and afterwards formed the Constitution of the United States. The slaves were more or less numerous in the different colonies, as slave labor was found more or less profitable. But no one seems to have doubted the correctness of the prevailing opinion of the time. [Emphasis supplied].

“This 1857 states the plight of our people during the chain stage of the terroristic slavery. Through Jim Crow it continued without the formality of the chains. The terror was so deeply embedded into our minds that Blacks remained enslaved through the lynchings and other forms or terrorism until the 1960s.”

5,000 lynchings are documented between Reconstruction and the late 1960s. After the successes Blacks achieved after the Civil War, Jim Crow slavery was established to replace chained slavery. In 1889 Florida became the first state to use the poll tax to disenfranchise Black voters, Mississippi in 1890, South Carolina in 1895, Louisiana in 1898 (notably ORR member North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance was founded that year - We should flock to it for our insurance needs), North Carolina in 1900, Alabama in 1901, Virginia in 1901, Georgia in 1908 and Oklahoma in 1910. Quintard Taylor, *America I Am; Black Facts; The Timelines Of African American History, 1601-2008*.

“Woodrow Wilson in 1913 initiated segregated workplaces, restroom and lunchroom in all federal offices across the nation. The Ku Klux

HR40 continued on page 24



Church



Lindsay Street Fights for Its Community

By Jeremy House

Neighbors know the exact location of Lindsay Street Baptist Church. Founded decades ago inside an old brick building, where fresh onlookers would call in the middle of nowhere, the church has become a community staple. In the years since the church has experienced relative prosperity, residents haven't forgotten about the church and the church certainly has not forgotten them.

Located on Lindsay Street, perpendicular to Joseph E. Lowery Blvd., the name appropriately dubs the church which is deeply rooted in street's happenings. The old brick building in which the church was originated, rests a few steps behind the new creation on the same road. Able to facilitate three times the size of its predecessor, it's the perfect structure for a congregation that houses a growing agenda and strong record of community advocacy.

Pastor Anthony Motley has led the congregation for 29 years, moderating over a period of significant growth. Instead of transplanting the church to a more suburban-like neighborhood, the church opted to remain in the historic English Avenue community, a neighborhood characterized by its disparity and dilapidated housing.

"This is a historic community," said Motley, a former pastor at Rome and Cedartown, Ga. churches. Past dwellers of the neighborhood included Gladys Knight, Maynard Jackson and a litany of deceased local political figures. He joined the church because he felt a "special kinship" with the church community and insists that he has stayed there for that reason.

"At one point we considered moving and were in negotiations with a church in East Point," said Motley. "But God intervened and made it clear ... that he wanted us to 'drop our buckets', as Booker T. Washington would say, where we are." He added, "We saw it as a direct indication that God wanted us to do serious ministry that was not being done."

By "serious ministry" Motley means direct involvement in the social uplift of a forgotten American neighborhood. Convictions his education firmly ingrained into the young Motley.

As the son of an Alabama pastor, Motley was reared in a religious household. It was years after his family relocated to Cincinnati (after his father was received as pastor of another church) and Motley was a sophomore at Ohio State University that he heeded to his call to preach. At the time, still ambivalent about a suitable pathway into ministry, Motley pondered alternatives routes. For Motley, Ohio

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Bishop Paul S. Morton Readies to Open 'Change A Generation' Church

Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. is the founding Presiding Bishop of one of the fastest growing movements in America - The Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International (FGBC). As an apostle, he has birthed many churches out of Greater Saint Stephen, New Orleans. Bishop Morton is also an international television preacher who, for more than 25 years, has reached thousands of souls for the Lord on a weekly basis. Morton is known as a gifted author and an anointed singer, having received five Stellar Awards. His life in Christ is evidenced by his love and compassion for his family, the brethren and those who are lost. Many esteem him as a pastor's pastor; a leader's leader, but outside of the church his wife and children revere him as a loving husband and role model father.

Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. who strives to exemplify the heart of God, is truly God's Man. In August 2005, Katrina devastated the New Orleans area. God said to Bishop Morton, "I may be down-sizing New Orleans, but I won't down-size your ministry." So, in October 2005, Greater St. Stephen began having services at New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church at 3:00 p.m.

In January 2006, church members marched into the newly-renovated edifice at 4185 Snapfinger Woods Drive where the Lord began adding to the church daily. After the waters receded in New Orleans, renovations were underway to rebuild. Greater St. Stephen was not only blessed by the compassion and contributions from the Body of Christ, they were able to be a blessing to thousands who came to receive assistance (food, clothing, personal necessities, etc.) after Katrina. The Westbank and Uptown locations were restored and the services were filled to capacity. Bishop Morton was led to install Bishop Tommie Triplett as Pastor of the Westbank Location in 2007. We became "One Church in Two States" with Greater St.



(Above) This is a photo of Bishop Morton's new church, Change A Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church/Atlanta. The new facility will be opening on November 29 for a dedication service. Morton's Change A Generation Church on Snapfinger Dr. will remain a staple to his ministry. His former church, Greater St. Stephens Full Gospel Baptist Church, in New Orleans, was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Stephen FGBC Uptown and Greater St. Stephen/Atlanta.

With a determination to "Change A Generation" during a difficult time in both states, Bishop Morton adopted a new motto: "Changing the Way We Do Church". In Atlanta, the church prospered with more than 20 active ministries within two years. After celebrating 33 years of pastoring in New Orleans, Bishop Morton passed the mantle to his wife, Co-Pastor Debra B. Morton and appointed her as senior pastor of Greater St. Stephen in New Orleans. Bishop Morton now serves as her co-pastor. This repositioning, therefore, evoked the change in the name of the church in 2008 after Bishop Morton repositioned his focus to senior pastor of the newest church birthed out of the legacy and strength of Greater St. Stephen, the place where so many now call home, "Changing A Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church/Atlanta." We are producing a greater change with one church in two states. We have acquired and blessed the grounds of

our new campus at 3350 Greenbriar Parkway in Southwest Atlanta where we held our Campus Dedication Sunday on November 29. God has richly blessed Changing A Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church.

Changing A Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church was birthed out of the legacy and rich history of Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, which was organized on January 6, 1937 in a rented hall on South Liberty Street in New Orleans by the late Rev. Arthur A. Gundy. After experiencing great growth they moved to Ladies Providence Hall and then again in 1939 to a two-story building at 2308 South Liberty located in the Uptown area of New Orleans. In 1954, construction on the new church began, but Rev. Gundy was called home that same year and did not see his vision come to pass. His Assistant Pastor, Rev. Percy Simpson, Jr. was immediately appointed Pastor-in-Charge and continued the work started by Rev. Gundy.

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Emmanuel Tabernacle Pastor Transforms Lives, Community

By Jacquee Minor

It's no coincidence that Pastor Mark A. Couch chose one of Atlanta's most crime-ridden streets to start his church five years ago. In 2001, Dill Avenue in Southwest Atlanta was notorious for its gang violence, drugs and crime. Couch and the nine members who started Emmanuel Tabernacle purposely chose a location "in the hood" realizing it had the greatest need.



Pastor Mark Couch Now approximately 600 members strong, the church has become a symbol of hope and the source of inspiration for a remarkable turn-around in the community. Couch, in response to a divine directive to take his ministry beyond the four walls of the church, notes the crime rate is noticeably improved and gang activity is practically non-existent. While there is still room for improvement, the pastor points to signs of progress in making Dill Street a safer place to reside.

Much of his success is the result of hands-on involvement. "I identify with young people", says Pastor Couch, "with what they're doing, where

they come from. I can speak their language."

When they first moved in, Couch, positioned himself as someone they could talk to. He went directly to gang members to communicate, broke up street fights, and intervened in drug deals.

"This is what separates those that really have the heart for people, and those that are just in it for the fame or the fortune and glamour," according to Couch. "I have a desire to see people delivered and healed. That's where my passion comes from."

Couch believes you have to reach troubled youth where they are before you can start to minister to them. Inquiring about their interests, he learned that sports got them excited. The church started a basketball team, engaging fifteen boys to play on the team, while twenty girls chose to become cheerleaders.

Many of the wayward are now faithful members of the church, giving back to the community they once terrorized.

Born in Pennsylvania, Couch grew up in the Atlanta public school system. He credits his parents with doing a good job of raising him and his siblings, but he got off track as a teen-ager. He began to hang out with the wrong crowd,



Emmanuel Tabernacle was founded by Pastor Mark A. Couch.

doing things he knew were wrong. He didn't find his way again until the age of twenty-two, when he made a commitment to read the Bible for 30 consecutive days. Couch says he had to lose everything he had before returning to his roots in the church.

Having studied to show himself approved, attending Morris Brown college and earning a Biblical Studies degree from Carver Bible College, Couch and his band of followers stepped out on faith to establish Emmanuel Tabernacle.

Worship services on Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:45 am, designed to appeal to all denominations, have grown to attract hundreds of new followers with a wide range of talents and skills, stretching the physical limits of the church to

EMMANUEL continued on page 10



Emmaus Baptist Church On the Road to Recovery

By Jacquee Minor

A 2:30 a.m. phone call rarely brings good news.

A call in the wee hours of Friday morning, August 22, 2008 informed Pastor David Scott that his church, Emmaus Road Missionary Baptist, was in flames. Hours later, the church in ruins, Scott, still in shock from the sudden loss, summoned the courage to look ahead. He saw the church rising from the ashes to become a glorious, new edifice.

His vision for a new home comes to life in December 2009; a brand new 24,000 square foot sanctuary in Riverdale. When completed, the church will seat 520, with a 1,200 person capacity throughout the modern, spacious facility. An elevator will transport members to the second floor, and a lift on the front of the building to facilitate easy access.

For more than a year since the fire, deemed suspicious but the cause still officially unknown, the congregation has met in a strip mall on Church Street in Riverdale. While attendance has admittedly fallen off, from more than 500 to now around 350 members, optimism about the future is at an all-time high. Scott gives thanks for the faithful few who have remained steadfast and committed to the vision.

He started Emmaus Road 13 years ago in his home. A former bankruptcy attorney and prosecutor, Scott finally answered the higher calling to hold court over the pulpit. Several relocations later, in December 1999 they moved to 3725 Flat Shoals Rd. in College Park, their home of nearly nine years before the fire totally destroyed it. Despite being displaced, the church has continued a significant outreach ministry.

Sitting in his temporary office in the Sims Group Insurance Agency on Riverdale Road, down the street from the temporary church, Sims proudly describes the programs that have defined his “urban ministry with a heart for the people”. Their House of Hope program for men with addictions is a long-term, in-house



Emmaus Road Baptist Church pastor reveals their brand new church after a tragic fire destroyed the previous house of worship. The new church is expected to open for members, visitors and friends early 2010. (Right) The church van, located next to the burnt church, was also destroyed in the August 22, 2008 fire.



program with a 70 percent success rate. The program welcomes men with substance abuse problems through rigorous 18 month rehabilitation treatments before releasing them out into society. GANG (God’s Anointed New Generation of Men) targets young men at risk; and Oasis in the Dessert, a summer tutorial and afterschool program serves children 5-12 years of age. There’s also a literacy program and food bank.

Married 25 years with two adult children, Scott has been recognized by the Gospel Choice Awards as Outstanding Pastor in Atlanta in both 2004 and 2008. He earned a Doctorate in Theology from Restoration Theological Seminary in Atlanta.

On a tour of the new church, a couple of months from completion, Scott points out up-to-the-minute amenities, like the elevator and front stoop lift. It is perched on the corner lot of a three-acre tract of land owned by the church.

The completely brick building showcases doves etched onto the glass doors and stain glass windows, and television monitors placed strategically throughout the building. When completed, it promises to be a magnificent, state-of-the-art addition to the Riverdale community.

Down but not out, Emmaus Road Missionary Baptist Church is on the proverbial road back to recovery.

The church meets for Sunday service at 10 a.m. in the Chateau Plaza in Riverdale. For more information, contact the church office at 770-964-7007 or 770-909-3747, or visit them at www.ermbc.org.

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State couldn’t intimately prepare him for pasturing to the African-American community. For that he had to attend Morehouse College.

While visiting Atlanta on a personal vacation, Motley’s father introduced him to a man who would later introduce him to the college campus. Professors, students and faculty alike impressed the young Motley who transferred to the school immediately during his senior year at Ohio State. The school’s record for mass producing outstanding, astute preachers and employing cutting-edge African American scholars, soon attached Motley to its catalog of extraordinary religious leaders. He furthered his education at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC)’s Morehouse School of Religion from which he earned his Master of Arts degree in Christian Education.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin E. Mays, Howard Thurman and a host of other Morehouse preachers became Motley’s role models. These preachers’ ability to incorporate the literatures of politics, philosophy and history became the hallmark of his style. Their intense

involvement in the social politico health of the community became the standards his congregation.

“I think that to be an effective preacher and pastor you have to [have] both a spiritual as well as a social, political, and even scientific dimension to your preaching. All of those areas of study should inform your preaching,” Motley proclaimed.

The possibility of changing the social landscape of the community enticed Motley. Motley has enticed his congregation to do the same. A founder and current president of the English Avenue Ministerial Alliance—a coalition of 22 Baptist churches located in and around the English Avenue neighborhood, Motley intends on revitalizing the community from ground up.

“We are busy pulling together the faith community and [drawing] attention to the disparity of resources that comes about through both racial discrimination and class discrimination,” exclaimed Motley. “This community has been

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neglected and the resources that are available to, let’s say Buckhead, are not available to English Avenue and we want to bring attention to it.”

Perhaps the best example of this advocacy is the church’s involvement in pressuring the city to prosecute the killers of English Avenue resident Kathryn Johnston. Members of the Atlanta Police Department Narcotics unit gunned down Johnston after conducting a drug bust of her home. Lindsay Street Baptist Church’s public outcry helped keep light on the officers who were later convicted and sentenced to prison for conspiracy, fraud, and police brutality.

Work like this is what advocacy is about; righting the wrongs that the powers that be allow, and sometimes enforce, to happen in communities like English Avenue. With all of the wrongs of the Atlanta communities and the world, Motley has his work cut out for him.

EMMANUEL continued from page 9

its capacity.

“God has brought the right people to bring about the right projects,” observes Pastor Couch.

In perhaps its biggest project to date, a church-sponsored Community Development Corporation (CDC) has envisioned The City of New Hope, a \$10 million dollar building project that encompasses a four block area bordered by

Dill Avenue, Sylvan Road and Hartford Street. Plans are to break ground in early 2010 for the first major project, a senior assisted living development. The CDC has also acquired land in East Point with plans to build in that area in the future.

Looking further down the road, Pastor Couch envisions a strip plaza, a restaurant and a charter

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school for the community. The ultimate goal is to build a new church complex with a community recreation center, located in the immediate vicinity of the current church.

The City of New Hope will stand as testament, in what was once menacing territory, of God’s promise to the faithful.

Cascade

United Methodist Church

Cascade Service Times

SUNDAY

Worship Services – 8:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Children’s Church – 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 5-10) – Chapel

Youth Worship – 2nd and 4th Sundays

11:00 a.m. (Ages 12-18) Room 209

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Night Live Worship Service

7:00 p.m.

Cascade United Methodist Church

3144 Cascade Road, SW

Atlanta, GA 30311

Phone: 404.691.5770

Fax: 404.691.7961

www.cascadeumc.org

Impact! Takes Aim at ‘Doing Church Differently’

God has given all a talent, gift or calling. Many fall in a category that don’t allow them to use this gift, be it self-chosen or circumstantial. Pastor Olu Brown, founder and lead pastor of Impact! Doing Church Differently, here in Atlanta is following in the path that God has laid for him.

“I entered into ministry at a pretty young age. I was still a teenager, I felt a since of calling although I did my best to run from it and do some other things I just felt a certain since of call to ministry and serve others in new and dynamic ways.”

In 2006, Brown stepped away from his post at Cascade United Methodist Church as an assistant pastor and Wednesday Night Live host pastor. He then took on the role of a lifetime and faced the challenges of starting his own church, from the bottom up. “What led us to start Impact Church was similar in that I had a rich experience with existing congregations,” the Texas native recalls. “[I] saw all that they were doing and wondered what would happen if we created this hybrid experience of all of these experiences to reach people, therefore our theme is ‘Doing Church Differently.’”

The goal and mission of the church is to meet

people where they are and assist them in growing a relationship with God. “We are about relationship, not membership,” Brown states as he expresses that there are no members as there has not been a membership request at services. However, he is aware that there are approximately 900-1,000 attendees per service. “Impact church has been successful, I believe, because we’ve always been concerned with the spiritual side of an individual’s life but we take a holistic approach to ministry. [We ask ourselves] what happens in the academic side of the community; what happens in the social aspect of the community; what even happens in the economics of the community?”

The inaugural worship service took place at Brown Middle School in the West end section of south Atlanta was the first home of Impact and the first visitor filled the gymnasium and offered a glimpse of what was to come. Shortly thereafter, the visitors kept coming and now the worship services are held in the Georgia World Congress Center [GWCC] in downtown Atlanta as of the summer of 2009. Even in such a large arena, Impact! and Brown have managed to make, and possibly leave, an imprint on the venue.

Knowing that leasing this space would bring

various aspects of possible disturbances to the worship services, Brown created a plan that would include the Atlanta Falcons football games into his plan. “When we leased the space ... we knew that there would be an Atlanta Falcons football game at least six times that would impact our worship time at the [GWCC]. So we said, what we would do is not close our doors but we would reach out and try to be a part of the football community. We’ve branded ourselves as the best pre-game show in Atlanta.” With this plan in motion, Impact is gearing up for the season while other churches are sometimes, forced to step back to not interrupt the football season.

His more than 30 employees are housed in their offices at the H.J. Russell building on Fair St., just a few blocks away from the GWCC. Closer to the end of 2009 Brown expects the church will find a home of its own.

With the church’s growth, he’s had to lease more than three offices on the street level of the building. He credits God, his faith and strong family support for the significant growth his ministry has seen.

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Pastor Brown delivers one of his sermons to the Impact! congregation. Services are held at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Former Child Pastor Leads Mt. Carmel Baptist 35 Years

The Conductor

Life would never be normal for Timothy Flemming, Sr. as he missed out on the life of a child, teen and young adult. He regrets that he missed out on school dances and the fun of being young but understands that the preacher’s lifestyle has given him the righteous life he’s led. All of his experiences were training him for the job he carries today as the pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and leading its 10,000 members.

Taking on a life of ministry for any man or woman is hard work. The lifestyle can be even

more strenuous and demanding for a child prodigy. Pastor Flemming recalls how he hid his gift from friends, even family, at the age of seven, to keep from being teased. “I would go to the elderly when I was seven, eight or nine [years old] and preach to them but I would always beg them not to tell anybody that I was a preacher. I was embarrassed and scared that my friends would laugh at me.

“But when I was 11 years old, I went to a vacation bible school, I’ll never forget it. Going there that morning ... something stirred up in me and I stated this feeling again of when I was preaching. Believe it or not, I really didn’t

go to church, [my family] really didn’t go to church that much. But, when I did go to vacation bible school, the preaching feeling came over me again.” Flemming later joined the church, Ross Street Baptist Church because the pastor was his neighbor and was asked to do an Easter speech. With the calling laid on his heart, Flemming delivered one of his first public sermons.

This path led him to many high expectations that some might were unrealistic for a child, but he admits that the expectations kept him on a narrow path to righteousness. “It was hard because I was so young, trying to [walk] in

an old man’s shoes and [be] a baby at the same time,” the Macon native explains. He often found himself in a difficult place of determining where he fit in. Being so young, older people thought he was ‘playing’ with the significance of ministry. On the other hand, friends of the same age teased him. He recalls how he “had to prove my sincerity and my calling.”

That was many decades ago and the road has



Rev. T. Flemming

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Pastor Mark A. Couch

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www.greaterheightschurch.org



Greater Mount Carmel AME
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Greater New Life Baptist Church
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Rev. Ranson Johnson

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Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Rev. Douglas Stowers

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www.atlmtcalvary.org



Ray of Hope Christian Church
Pastor Cynthia L. Hale

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www.rayofhope.org



The True Light Baptist Church
Rev. Darell D. Elligan

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Wheat Street Baptist Church
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Light of the World Christian Tabernacle
Pastor Ruth W. Smith

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www.comeintothelight.org




New Beginnings Ministries
Bishop James H. Morton

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Salem Bible Church
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The OvergroundRR!! is delighted to introduce this new section in The Conductor newspaper that announces the happenings at our member churches. This first entry is a contact list that connects you with these faith organizations. The upcoming event list will show you the monthly happenings in your community and the information that you need to learn more.

We are excited to share this information with you and hope you and your church will become involved in our mission to bridge church, business and community.

Get on Board!!

Church

MT. CARMEL continued from page 11

proved itself to be simultaneously difficult and triumphant. The difficulties have proven to be the best lessons in life. Leaving his Macon church was one of the hardest decisions and actions that he's had to take. Flemming has been the senior pastor at Mt. Carmel for more than 35 years now and his journey is the stuff that makes for great books on how to face the highs and lows of life.

"Somebody at Mt. Carmel heard me preach [but] I'd never heard of Mt. Carmel. One Sunday morning I looked up [at Zion Hill while preaching] and saw some strange people in the audience, I didn't know who they were. One of my deacons said, 'some people from Mt. Carmel this morning. We know what they're here for.'" He recalls. "I preached that morning and I noticed that when I was finished they got out fast. ... then I get this call from a deacon here at Mt. Carmel [saying] we want you to come preach for us." Because he knew nothing of the church, the location escaped him and after questioning, he found the church was in Atlanta. His first sermon, "Power from on

High", as a Mt. Carmel guest pastor, solidified the church's decision to vote him in as the new senior pastor in 1975.

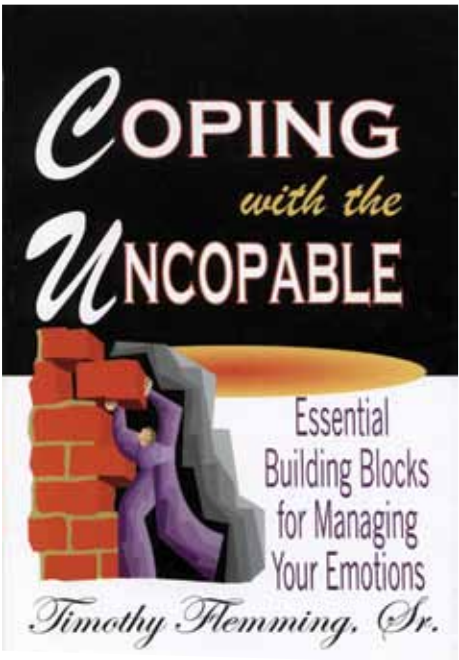
Mt. Carmel, as Flemming says, "is a church scattered and gathered." By this he refers to the community ministries that the church has developed and carried out. "We believe in going beyond the walls of Mt. Carmel. We are a church that's involved in the community," the father of two states. "We clean up the streets on Campbellton Rd. and pay people to do it. [There is] a merchant association that we started. We have [the] Jericho Alternative Program ... where we are trying to [create] programs to enhance the community."

The church and Flemming are known for their "camp meeting" style services that he says are some of his favorites. "I can do these camp meeting- style services all over the nation because that's what the old people gave me," Flemming states. He incorporates old spirituals and foot-stomping to liven the spirits of his members and guests that look to bring up the religious experiences of African Americans. "I

love a wood floor," he says with a smile.

His love for community and people also shows in his recognitions, awards, books he's authored and the love of his members. His book, "Coping with the Uncopable: Essential Building Blocks for Managing Your Emotions" came about after he lost his son to a drunk driving accident. This moment forced Flemming to focus on helping others through difficult situations which also proved very cathartic for him. Nevertheless, his legacy lives on through his remaining two sons and the work that he continues to do.

His sons, Timothy Jr. and Kenneth, are following in their father's footsteps by working in the church. Timothy Jr. is a minister at Mt. Carmel as well with a family of his own. His work is a passing of the baton for his father, but the senior Flemming's work is far from over.



Pastor Flemming authored this book after he lost his son in a tragic car crash.

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



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Community



Women Honored for Service at 21st Annual Salute to Black Mothers

By Jeremy House

Of all the women honored at this year's Salute to Black Mothers Luncheon, the final and most prized award went to Caucasian, mother Anita Beaty. Excitedly, Beaty personally accepted the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award" or as it's more affectionately called, the ABCD award, for community service. As Executive Director of Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Beaty called it her lifetime achievement award. The Concerned Black Clergy President, Rev. Darrell Elligan proclaimed that "Although she is not an African-American mother, she is mother to many African Americans."

President Elligan's final statements topped a massive celebration by the CBC of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. to honor African-American women who have demonstrated a steady commitment to service and community progress. The annual event held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel highlighted the Health and Wealth of Black Women. The Salute to Black Mothers is one of two key fundraisers for the group.

Co-chair of 2009 Salute to Black Mothers Steering Committee and CBC board member, Jeannette Butler has worked on seven "Salute to Black Mothers" luncheons. She claimed that the event signified progress. "It means that women are in charge and doing what's necessary in the community," she states.

More than 500 impeccably dressed guests watched eight principal honorees. The list included Helen Butler, executive director of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda; Mikkal Hart Murunga, director of Community & Legislative Affairs of Atlanta Public Schools; and Nettie Jackson, senior director of Cultural Initiatives for the American Heart and the American Stroke Association, as well as, 50 other women from various church affiliates.

"Women still have power. Women have been in the background for so long," said Butler who pastors her own church. Co-chair of the events steering committee was Lolita Jackson, who also holds the title of the external affairs manager for Georgia Power, praised the event for awarding women under the radar who deserved credit for their great work.

In an eloquent letter addressed to the event attendees, Elligan wrote, "The endless wealth of knowledge and wisdom of Black Mothers/ Women has shaped the minds and morals of great leaders compelling them not only to read history but to write history." The letter went on to say, "From the Underground Railroad to the front seat of an Alabama bus, Black Mothers

Urban Farming Center Key to Healthy, Secure Communities

By Jeremy House

Without a doubt, Rashid Nuri is an outdoors guy. The beauty of nature's greenery doesn't go pass his notice. Nuri is in touch with nature. He knows the wonder of plant life, the complexity of ecosystems and the value of living off the land.

Nuri's forest sits insides his backyard. About 10 yards from his driveway and 20 yards from the bustling street of Washington Road, Nuri grows a hefty row of squash, greens, and cucumbers. Truly Living Well Center, he dubs it, grows more than 15 types of vegetables and more than 10 herbs including chocolate mint and tarragon. It's one of three urban farms Nuri owns in the state of Georgia and one of many agricultural business ventures that Nuri has taken all over world. "I came because I saw balloons on the okra," said first time visitor Jeanette Pitts. "I didn't know all this was back here."

Pitts' stumble onto the Truly Living Well Center is typical of several visitors who—while driving down Washington Road—are surprised to see a massive farm growing between Harmony Pointe Apartments and a slew of houses. As she strolled the farm looking for the freshest vegetables, she gleans at the memory of her childhood.

Like many city dwellers, large farms growing pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables is rare imagery. Pitts knows farm life all too well. He grew up on a farm in Alabama. Georgia's climate permits Nuri to farm 52 weeks out of the year. Depending on the season, he has crop to sell for most of year. Urban Farming isn't a new concept. Nuri has been involved in urban agriculture for quite sometime.

"I've been involved with agriculture for over for 40 years now," said Nuri. While attending Harvard College, political science classes introduced to him the concept of nation building. For Nuri, what better way to contribute to nation building than producing food? He received his graduate degree in plant soil science from the University of Massachusetts and jetted to San Diego to experiment with organic farming. "When you say organic farming people look at you crazy, imagine what it was like 40 years ago."

According to The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) and the Georgia Urban Agriculture Council (UAC), urban agriculture will provide unlimited means for dealing with problems of poverty, health, food insecurity (nationally and regionally) and environmental pollution. Additionally, urban farming allows people to better gauge freshness and food handling.

"People have become completely disconnected from their food and I think part of our job is to reestablish that connection," proclaimed Nuri. "People come here and say 'Oh that's what that looks like.' They have no idea where



(Above) Truly Living Well garden takes healthy living to the community it serves. (Bottom left) This is another photo of Rashid Nuri's garden. (Bottom right) Rashid Nuri is all smiles as he shows off one of the successful vegetable products from his garden.



their food comes from or what it [initially] looks like."

According to a 2003 report by the Urban Agriculture Committee of the Community Food Security Coalition, most foods travel between 1,500 to 2,500 miles before it hits the dinner table. In fact, the food that reaches American tables gets there by its ability to, "withstand industrial harvesting equipment and extended travel, not for their taste or nutritional quality."

The report also predicts that the urban farming will go a long way to eliminating food insecurity and solidifying emergency preparedness (which the report interprets as an issue of homeland security). In case of emergencies, such as natural disasters or swift political or economic changes, any particular community should be able produce one third of their population's food requirement. Nuri, who also served under the first African-American Secretary of Agriculture, knows this and expects his farm to grow.

"America used to be a rural economy now it's more urban, there are more people living in the cities than the country side," said Nuri. "The techniques I use here are replicable anywhere in the city. You don't need a tractor, you don't need a plow, you can do it by hand; all of our food is hand grown."

When asked if his style was profitable, Nuri admitted, "Not yet. We have to grow a little bit more but we're able to sustain ourselves." But Truly Living Well Center does exists for reasons other than making a dollar. The center connects people to their life source.

That doesn't go to say that Nuri has had success with industry. His company Cargill Nigeria Limited still exists in Nigeria today. He states that the company became the largest, grain traders in the country: The local farm grew and sold cotton, sugar, maize and coco to local distributors.

Still Nuri focuses enormous energy on the quality and community he serves. As he rushes, tending to every tiny need of the people walking through the farm, he thanks first-time visitor, Pitts for spotting some fresh peas ready to eat.

"Thanks for pointing me to my lunch. This is good," Nuri said.

"The techniques I use here are replicable anywhere in the city. You don't need a tractor, you don't need a plow, you can do it by hand; all of our food is hand grown."
- Rashid Nuri, Truly Living Well

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UNCF celebrates 65 Years at Atlanta’s Mayor’s Masked Ball

Georgia is the home to the largest consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States. Students come from all over the world to get an education in the Atlanta University Center [AUC] at Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Spelman College, Morris Brown College and the Interdenominational Theology College. Therefore, the United Negro College Fund’s [UNCF] corporate campaign in southwest Atlanta has its work cut out for it.

Maurice Jenkins, Jr., senior vice president of the UNCF’s southern field operations has been working with the organization for more than 20 years, starting as a volunteer. He notes that the Atlanta Mayor’s Masked Ball is nationally unique in that it’s the only fundraising UNCF Ball that is hosted by a mayor. “[Atlanta] has a magnificent mayor that has been supportive for the past eight years,” he says. “She goes out and gets a lot of people to step up and help us.”

Mayor Shirley Franklin states that “supporting UNCF is a proposition in which everyone comes away a winner – the student, the universities and colleges, local businesses and the community at large.” She also states that many of students, upon graduation, will make their homes here in Atlanta where the local and statewide corporations will reap the benefits of

the educations they received.

For the past 26 years, Atlanta has hosted the UNCF by hosting an annual Masked Ball during the holiday season. Former mayor and Ambassador Andrew Young, his late wife, Jean, and Billye Aaron, wife of baseball legend, Hank Aaron, started the ball 26 years ago took on host positions for the Mayor’s Masked Ball. This is when Jenkins started working as a volunteer, and later moved up the ranks as the current Sr. VP of the Southern region.

The money raised goes toward scholarships for students who attend HBCUs in Atlanta. The event that draws the Who’s Who of Atlanta has raised at least \$1 million for the past decade or more and helped countless students start and continue their higher education. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$11 million.

Jenkins stated that new attendees come every year, however, a large portion are usual participants. He also stated that despite the UNCF cause, the attendees are usually a diverse



M. Jenkins, Jr.

crowd noting at least a 30 percent non-African-American audience. Jenkins stated that he is expecting to have 1,200 to 1,500 people in attendance and that \$1 million is expected to be raised this year as was in the past three years. “Atlanta’s very good about supporting the UNCF. What I have learned so much is that even we are in recessionary times, we’ve still been able to have people support the UNCF because of our schools in the AUC, and being supportive of those schools has always worked out really well.”

Gary Peacock, president and CEO of SunTrust Bank Atlanta and the UNCF 2009-2010 Metropolitan Atlanta Corporate Campaign chairman says, “It is a known fact that historically black colleges and universities produce 25 percent of all bachelor’s degrees earned by African Americans.

The educational funding which UNCF provides helps these students fulfill their dreams of receiving a college degree as well as prepare them for the workforce of the future.” Peacock goes on to say that “In their first year out of college and as long as they are in the workforce, college graduate will earn twice the salary of people with just a high school diploma.”

It has been the goal of the UNCF “to enhance the quality of education by providing financial

assistance to deserving students, raising operating funds for member colleges and universities, and increasing access to technology for students and faculty at historically black colleges and universities. Since its inception in 1944, UNCF has grown to become the nation’s oldest and most successful African American higher education assistance organization.”

The president and CEO of the UNCF, Dr. Michael Lomax, stated that “thanks to the support of the metro Atlanta corporate community, UNCF and Atlanta have been longtime partners, working together through both good and challenging times. Working together through UNCF’s 2009-2010 metropolitan Atlanta Corporate Campaign, you can help the economy to rebound and to emerge stronger than ever.” Overall, the UNCF gives more than 40 scholarships and fellowships to students across the country for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees.

Corporate donors to the UNCF of Metro Atlanta include Black McDonald’s Operators Association; The Mall West End and many others.

Learn more about the UNCF and its’ efforts at www.uncf.org.

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Neighborhood Church Coalition Leads Churches to Financial Freedom

The Conductor

In the age of mega-churches that hold wealth unknown, there are still thousands of worship houses in the country that depend on loans to make ends meet, pay off mortgages or just start a ministry that will benefit its’ members and communities. William Thompson, founder and president of the Neighborhood Church Coalition in Charlotte, N.C.

Thompson, a 25-year member of Greensboro’s Evangel Fellowship Church of God in Christ, has managed to maintain his spiritual beliefs in a business that sometimes lacks moral fiber. “We are a two and half year old organization and our oath, goal and mission is to unify the body of Christ and to empower them economically,” he says. “The way we’re doing that is [by] going out and getting our federal charter. To my knowledge, we are the first church group, not just African American, but the first church group that has gotten a federal charter.” This feat allows the coalition to open a federal credit union anywhere in the country.

In May of 1977, Thompson was preparing to go to college and discovered that his parents did not have the means to pay for his education. This was a shock to the college senior as he was under the assumption that the nice cars, clothes and home that his family owned, his educational expenses would be a breeze. His decision to turn down scholarships to public schools and accept the offer to a more expensive private school soon turned into an education all on its own.

“I told my parents that it was going to cost \$4,000 the first year and their statement was, ‘we don’t have the money,’” he recalls. “I thought they meant that they didn’t have the money in the house or in the checkbook.” They went on to explain that their financial means were low and at this moment, Thompson discovered his calling.

Thirteen years later, he owned and operated a



The Neighborhood Church Coalition serves more than 400 congregations across the United States. Thompson states “My ultimate goal is to teach people how to have a budget.”

certified public accountant [CPA] firm, William V. Thompson and Associates from 1990 until 2004 that focused on his specialty of church tax law. Now, as a retired CPA, Thompson found it difficult to sit and watches the spiritual communities surrounding him suffer for funding that he knew was available. It was his job and purpose, as financial strategist, to show others how to get homes and keep them.



W. Thompson

“It is my role to give people creative, biblical strategies to get them out of debt, to help them raise their credit scores and really walk in abundance where they’re no longer living payday to payday but they’re walking in the Abraham[ic] covenant,” Thompson affirms.

The coalition was started on the foundation of scripture that says that the people of God are to be “the head and not the tail.” With more than 400 churches under the same charter, the group has successfully united various Christian denominations under one umbrella. He asserts that the churches are “working together to promote the same credit union as well as opening the door for these churches to open their own branches that will benefit other churches or members.

Thompson has incorporated a financial education component to his venture. “We felt like

that any time there’s money and loans involved that can get people’s attention, so with that in place we also actually have a whole financial literacy component. Its one thing to give people money, but it’s another to teach them the principles. So, we have a team of attorneys, CPA’s and financial people that we have a financial system in place where we are helping churches comply with IRS and state guidelines. We’re helping pastors get their personal finances in order as well as membership also.”

Financial freedom and order often leads to entrepreneurship. The coalition is reaching the community through upcoming businesses that it will own to keep dollars moving in a more centralized location. This way, surrounding neighborhoods will continue to reap the benefit of financial freedom by supporting local businesses owned by the coalition. There are plans that include restaurants, retail stores and possibly a school in the coalition’s present facility.

My ultimate goal is to teach people how to have a budget. To me, that’s when that person has no debt ... in five years or less and also they have no need for a job because I want them to work their job as unto the Lord,” Thompson proclaims. “But, I want to teach them how invest in real estate, how to invest in the stock market and how to have their own business or businesses so they can become self sufficient, when they’re ready.”

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Pastor Keeps Moving After Retirement

The Conductor

Retirement usually means that the retiree gets extended time to rest, recuperate and recharge after years of labor, toil and dedicated work to a career of choice. Usually, that’s what retirement means. For Pastor Walter Kimbrough, it means just the opposite – even when it’s more than three years later.

Upon his retirement from his senior pastor position at Cascade United Methodist Church in 2006, he began his post-pastoral work by joining local churches across Atlanta to continue his work as a servant of God. Since his twenties, the now 69-year-old man is still going strong for his mission to bring souls to Christ.

“One of the things I heard, when you retire, you’ve got six months to declare what you’re going to be about. If you wait beyond that six month frame of time, you’ve waited too long.” After leaving the pulpit as a senior pastor, Kimbrough wasted no time in filling his schedule with his declaration of what he was about. His first move was as a guest pastor at Mt. Pisgah his first Sunday after his official retirement date. He’s also agreed to be the pastor in residence at Clifton United Methodist Church.

His ministry and service have carried him, and his wife, Marjorie, of 40-plus years, all across the nation sharing the love of God through preached word, teachings and books. For two-and-a-half months following retirement Kimbrough was booked every Sunday with different churches of various denominations. He serves as a mentor to pastors all across the United States including New Jersey, South Carolina, California and of course, right here in Georgia.

His is a story of growth and service to others. Kimbrough started in Atlanta’s Summerhill community and knew all too well the plight of



Rev. Walter Kimbrough takes his pstoral duties seriously well after his 2006 retirement. He continues to preach and mentor younger ministers across the country. (Right) Pastor Kimbrough and his wife, author Marjorie Kimbrough, of more than 40 years.

African-Americans. He has recalled how when he first knew of Cascade United Methodist Church a few decades ago, its congregation was mostly caucasian. When the pastor of the church was chosen, and he was an African-American man, the color of the congregations shifted as well. The caucasian members stopped coming to the church or moved to other churches in the city and the new Cascade UMC membership became mostly African-American.

Following Rev. Joseph Lowery as pastor, Kimbrough left his then post at Ben Hill UMC and went to Cascade UMC and stayed for more than 20 years. In his tenure, the grandfather of two helped increase the church’s membership and spearheaded the overall growth of the church. When he finally reached age 65, he felt

it was time for him to move forward in a more open situation. The summer of 2006 brought in Pastor Marvin a. Moss and a new team of clergy for the Cascade UMC membership. Kimbrough reminded Moss and retirement gala attendees that people were telling Moss that “he had big shoes to fill. So I told him to tell them that he brought his own shoes.”

The attitude of passing the torch is the next generation of leaders keeps Kimbrough vibrant and excited about what is to come in the future. However, he does realize that the values that used to be prevalent in communities, is losing its significance today. With this loss, some churches have become “territorial” and lost the tradition of working together. “There’s no need for [churches] to try to duplicate the services that, right across the street, they do

better,” Kimbrough states. He goes on to say that when churches become territorial “it becomes sad and bad news.”

He recalls a story where he was recently visiting a church that was surrounded by two other churches. They were different denominations that also called a school a high school neighbor. Even though one of the churches expressed their work in the school, work done among the churches was nonexistent. “[The churches] were literally, in a stone’s throw of each other,” he said. “You all ought to be able to get together and do something,” he suggested.

The separation of churches only drives home the mission of the man. He knows, and accepts that his work is not done. Part of his goal is to unite people, touch lives and serve God and His people. “In Revelations it says, ‘be thou faithful ‘til the end,’” he quotes. “So, that’s my mission.”



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Black Women Film Network Opens Doors for Independent Filmmakers

The Conductor

Opening the doors for women of color has been a longtime mission for Sheryl Gripper, an advocate of accurate and entertaining storytelling. Her love for storytelling and television has culminated into a career of leadership at WXIA-11Alive television station.

For 30 years, Gripper has worked at WXIA and has successfully moved up the ladder to her position as the vice president of community relations. Her job matches her character as someone who enjoys working in the community and bringing opportunities for others to be successful. Despite her career experiences, it was a moment in a Georgia State University classroom that diverted the course of her life and career.

One day in class, Gripper took a look around and realized that she was the only African-American female. This bothered her and, simultaneously, sparked a fire that is still burning 12 years later. She then created the Black Women Film Preservation Project (BWFP) that was to focus on preserving the voice of women of color. There have been countless success stories that have surrounded the organization but Gripper’s favorites come from when attendees and/or participants enter the film, television and digital media or choose

a career path as a result of the organization’s influence.

In the past few months, the BWFP has become the Black Women Film Network (BWFN). For Gripper the name change falls right in line with the mission of the group. “The reason for [the name change] is because we’re going to be about networking to help women of color get jobs in film and digital media,” the Waco, TX native states. This new, focus-driven goal is due to the changing ways of the media industry. Digital media and social networking is the new wave of technology that will keep the members of the organization abreast of what Hollywood and the burgeoning Atlanta film industry produce and expect.

In the past few years, Atlanta filmmakers have begun blazing a path in the film industry and BWFN has reached out to bridge the gap between the filmmakers and industry giants. For a city that is known for being a leader in the music industry, it truly is not a far cry off balance to only widen the entertainment aspect of the city. Tyler Perry began making his movies based in Atlanta and then in 2007, he built and opened Tyler Perry Studios. His grand opening brought film, television and media greats to the city and opened doors a little wider for the film industry in Atlanta.

Gripper has honored a few Tyler Perry studio workers for the contributions made to telling the stories of women of color. Just this past October 29, the BWFN honored Roger Bobb, a director and producer for the studio. Bobb is best known as the co-producer of Perry’s major box office movies “Why Did I Get Married”, “The Family That Preys” and others.

As a graduate of Spelman College, Gripper recalls how much students need career opportunities via internships and/or funding to complete an education. Through the BWFN, more than \$15,000 has been given to students for scholarships. “The goal is to be able to continue the scholarships at the level we’ve been doing but to expand to do more workshops to help people get jobs [in the] film industry,” she says. “We’re not trying to be an organization that just gives out scholarships; we’re trying to help people work in the media.”

Every year, the organization is the host of a film festival that shows at least five short films by independent filmmakers at a local movie theater. This has proven to be a success toward the goals of the organization by giving some filmmakers the opportunity to see their film shown on a big screen, watched by an audience. Another success is that there are often industry workers in the audience who offer advice and, sometimes, an entry way into the



film and television arenas. A few of the group’s past scholarship winners have gone on to make their own marks in the industry as well.

Gripper’s organization has reached thousands and opened the door for many. From the board members to the event participants, the mission is storytelling. Keeping the voices of the women of color from the past, present and future is pertinent to the survival of a culture. “In the future, hopefully, we can point to the number of people who have gotten work in the film industry as a result of our workshops and/or film festival,” Gripper states, holding fast to the belief of pulling another up with you as you climb the ladder of success.

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Community Teen Coalition members take the time out to pose for a photo while participating in their entrepreneurial activities. They are learning numerous ways to become dependent, productive citizens through entrepreneurship.

Community Teen Coalition Teaches Entrepreneurship

By Jeremy House

What does Italian Ice have to do with business? It's a question Dominic Stokes routinely encounters from the young people entering his nonprofit: Community Teen Coalition. It's a question, of course, for which he readily responds "well, you can sell it."

Since 2007, Community Teen Coalition has been engaging young people around Atlanta using their dreams as a springboard. The Italian Ice stand, decorated with a rainbow, is a small but significant centerpiece of the organization. Selling the flavored ice is the first order of business for every teen who chooses to participate the Community Teen Coalition. Participants are charged with devising a business model including marketing and profiting the start-up company.

"A lot of young people may not necessarily want to go to college, quite a few them want to start their own business but have no idea how," said Stokes. He believes that by involving young people in business activities it provides a concrete roadmap to future success. He goes on to say, "So what we try to do is incorporate the etrenepneural aspect and hope that we get them thinking about the viable options available through entrepreneurship."

Born in Boston, Stokes' family moved to Georgia when he was just seven. Attending River Wood High School, Georgia appeared to offer a wealth of opportunities for the family reared by a single mother. If it weren't for those opportunities, Stokes feels that perhaps he wouldn't have been motivated to obtain two college degrees in business and human resources, including a specialization in nonprofit management from Central Michigan University. Now, Stokes insists, it's his moment to re-

turn the opportunities to the communities that helped raised him.

Community Teen Coalition gives the youth a channel to realistically practice their most lofty professional goals, inspiring big futures while simultaneously inculcating its relationship to hard work and precise planning. Throughout the year, Community Teen Coalition teens attend various high school and collegiate sporting events bargaining, in person, their personally made cold treats. Community Teen Coalition is a constant staple at sports events held at the Lakewood Stadium and many Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University basketball games. In conjunction with his wife Dion Stokes, who serves as the cofounder and counselor, their work heavily considers the volatile landscape of teenage life. Dion is trained a psychologist, according to her, the younger children who learn how to run a business is all about emotional development.

Dion really tackles the tough battles of depression, ADHD, and anxiety, while softening the tough effects of child abuse and neglect. She values her work for "being able to assist the kids, not just their entrepreneurship growth and learning about business, but, also meeting emotional needs."

"It's important to be an effective leader," said Dion. "There are certain skills that you have to develop and you have to kind of be aware of your emotions and feelings." The leadership team of Community Teen Coalition is rounded out by Stokes' mother and father. The team hopes to shed new light on reaching at risk youth and making a turnaround in the lives of children through confidence and education.

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Atlanta's 100 Black Women Serve Up Gourmet Gents, Accolades

The Conductor

The Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW) hosted its 20th Annual Gourmet Gents cook-off at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Grand Hall, 265 Peachtree Street on November 22 from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Chef G. Garvin was the honorary chairperson, and a celebrity chef, for this twentieth year culinary experience. Featuring some of Atlanta's most prominent civic and business leaders along with local media personalities and professionals, Gourmet Gents showcased the culinary talents of more than 100 men who willingly gave their time and talents for a good cause.

Proceeds from the event benefitted "Teens on the Move," a NCBW's mentoring program that assists young women in reaching their full potential. The celebrated event was also one of NCBW's first and major fundraisers. Gourmet Gents began in 1990 with 100 chefs and 500 participants and has grown over the years to include more than, 3,000 food tasters and 300 chefs.

The Gents will be stationed at individual tables to serve their culinary masterpieces, while guests enjoy entertainment and samplings. Chefs can compete in four award categories: Most "Appetizing" Appetizer, Most Mouth Watering Main Course, Most Succulent Side Dish and "Save the Best for Last" Dessert.

The Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter is an advocacy organization built to empower African-American women and children through greater access to education, political strength, business opportunities and civic responsibility. The Chapter is committed to seeking solutions to critical issues in the African-American community and offers programs and services to enhance the self-sufficiency of African-American women. Founded in 1988, the Metropol-

BLACK MOTHERS continued from page 20

ers/Women have exemplified an amazing resilience under the relentless acts of social injustices, racism and disenfranchisements."

Corporate sponsors included Willie Watkins Funeral, Capitol City Bank, Bussey Florist, Georgia Power, The Coca-Cola Company, Hall's Florist, Georgia Pacific and Publix. Church sponsors included Word of God Ministries, Antioch Baptist Church, Beulah Baptist Church, Cobb Bethel Church, Omega Holiness Church and Muhammad Mosque 15.

The CBC of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. is the primary, proactive and principle organization comprising mostly of African-American ministers and laity. The CBC mission is to provide leadership advocacy and service to the homeless, helpless, and hopeless in our community.



Chef G. Garvin served as the honorary chairperson for the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the 100 Black Women.

tan Atlanta Chapter of NCBW serves as part of the collective voice for more than 14 million African-American women living in the United States.

The Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter also hosted the 13th Biennial Conference. The conference opened with a public meeting that featured Steve Harvey as the keynote speaker and recognized several individuals including former Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin, Dr. Barbara DeBaptiste, Dr. Bernice King, Coach C. Vivian Stringer, Mignon L. Clyburn and others. The Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter received "Chapter of the Year" award from the national organization.

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Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. LeLand L. Jones, Senior Pastor

Worship Times

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CBC Takes Community Action to Save Humankind

By Jeremy House

Gina Lundberg founder of The Women's Heart Center was the community speaker at this weeks Concern Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta (CBC) community forum. Before the presentation the audience of church and community leaders heard statements from committee chairs Joe Beasley, Timothy McDonald and Jeannette Butler.

Beasley, the International Affairs Chairman, reported the recent news of a deadly month from American troops in Afghanistan. Secondly, Beasley informed members of his recent trip to the nation of Haiti. He plans to look into the Catholic Church's landownership in the region. As Beasley said, the country is riveted

by poverty and hunger and the time has arrived from the Catholic hierarchy to purge ownership for Haitian prosperity. The committee also plans to visit the grandmother of President Barack Obama in Kenya. Lastly, next month is the Brazil Black History celebration, Beasley expects to meet with Coca-Cola and IBM officials with celebration planning.

Religious Affairs Chairman, McDonald, reminded members of his recent trip to Washington, D.C. to engender a communications package framing the upcoming debate on immigration. He expressed continued support



Rev. Elligan

for the intensely debated public option in the health reform debate, stating that four to 10 Americans in the black church have health insurance.

The speaker for the event, Lundberg, promulgated an initiative to screen African-American women for heart disease. According to Lundberg and other sources, African-American women represent the highest at-risk pool for deaths related to heart disease. Funded by a \$15,000 grant, the program is geared to reach 100 uninsured or underinsured women. Participants are qualified to receive additional care at the Saint Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta.

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Spelman Announces \$150M Fund Raising Effort

The Conductor

On Friday, October 16, The Campaign for Spelman was publicly launched and announced as the largest fundraising effort ever by the institution: \$150 million. The event was open to friends, sponsors, community members, faculty, staff and students to share the moment of accomplishment and collective excitement. The campaign is keenly focused on securing the resources the college needs to continue to inspire and empower young women to do extraordinary things that change the nation and the world.

The Campaign for Spelman College is a fundraising effort that aims to actualize the ambitious goals identified in the institution’s strategic plan for 2015. This is the largest such venture the college has embarked upon in its 128-year history. At the time of the event, \$82 million was raised toward the overall goal.

Eloise Alexis, vice president of college relations, said that the campaign officially started in 2004 however, funds weren’t officially requested until 2006. “The goal is \$150 million and we have \$82 million in hand and so individual donors, alumnae, corporations and foundations have committed resources to Spelman for scholarships, for academic programs, etc.,” Alexis states. She mentions that a designated \$80 million will go toward scholarships and \$10 million will go to improving campus environment.

The event included a wine and hors d’oeuvres reception at the Bill and Camille Cosby building and later in the evening, an “Alumnae Voices” production at the campus auditorium included Spelman students and alumnae LaTanya Richardson-Jackson, Tanika Ray, Cassie Davis and others. Atlanta native and Spelman supporter, Jasmine Guy, also participated in the production honoring alumna, Dovey Johnson Roundtree and her Spelman experience.

The overarching goal of the campaign is to acquire the necessary resources to provide students with a transformational experience based on academic rigor and career development that leads to a life-changing commitment to community involvement and positive social impact. The primary goals are to ensure that each student receives the financial support she needs to complete her education, more global engagement opportunities, enhanced research experiences and career-related internships, increased access to alumnae connections, individualized leadership development experiences and expanded service learning and community engagement activities.

Showing how students are already making changes, a video presentation was shown highlighting the spirit and accomplishments of current students. One student in the presentation told the story of how she was finally able to attend Spelman after encouragement from her adopted mother. Another two students told the story of how they competed and tied first place in a robotics competition. These students, and others like them, will benefit from the campaign funds.

Among the primary goals of the campaign are to graduate 5,000 incredibly talented young women—many first-generation and economically challenged—over the next decade.

HR40 continued from page 8

Klan was revived in 1919 at Stone Mountain, Georgia. In 1923, the City of Rosewood is destroyed by White terrorists. From 1932 to 1972 the United States government performed the sadistic Tuskegee Syphilis Study (while complaining about Hitler’s experiments in Germany). (*Emphasis supplied*). *Id.*

Jim Crow laws were passed like a flood wiping out all of the gains attained by our people. This was done with the agreement of Northern Whites whom our people helped to defeat the Southern Whites. Famous (and little known) terroristic acts including amongst others too many to name, Emmett Till, Medger Evers, our four little girls Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley in Birmingham, Alabama; James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner in Mississippi; and Martin Luther King, Jr.

H.R. 40 Must Be Passed Now (The following is primarily quoted from <http://www.johnconyers.com/issues/reparations>)

“In January of 1989, Rep John Conyers (D-Michigan) first introduced the bill H.R. 40, Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. He has re-introduced HR 40 every Congress since 1989, and will continue to do so until it’s passed into law.”

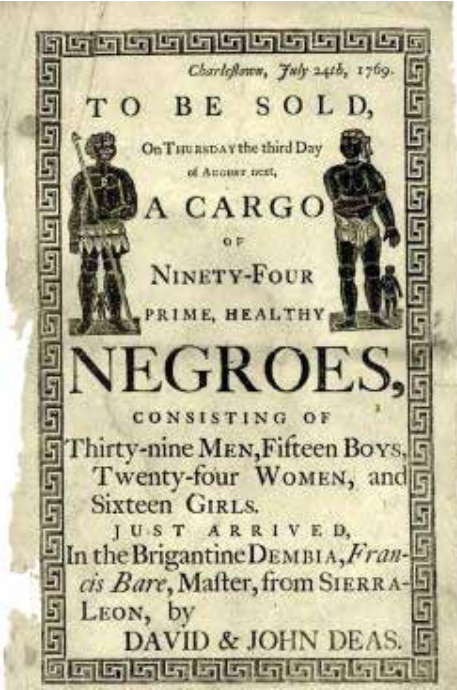
This is not a bill demanding reparations. But a bill to study the effect of slavery upon our people. What we must realize as a people is that slavery did not end in the 1800s, but continued in a different, but still very sadistic, mentally, emotionally, physically, and economically destructive form through the 1970s.

H.R. 40 will do what has never been done - study the still devastating effects of the tyranny inflicted upon our people. The “bill does four things:

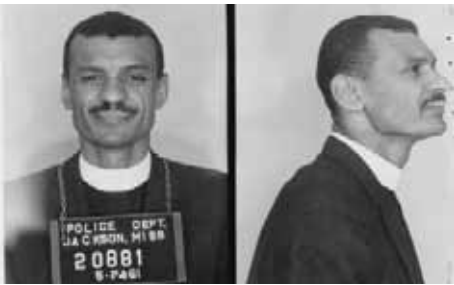
1. It acknowledges the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery;
2. It establishes a commission to study slavery, its subsequent racial and economic discrimination against freed slaves;
3. **It studies the impact of those forces on today’s living African Americans;** and
4. The commission would then make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies to redress the harm inflicted on living African Americans.”

“Over 4 million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and its colonies from 1619 to 1865, and as a result, the United States was able to become the most prosperous country in the free world. It is undisputed that African slaves were not compensated for their labor. More unclear however, is what the effects and remnants of this relationship have had on African-Americans and our nation from the time of emancipation through today.”

Mr. Conyers has requested the number of the bill, 40, as a symbol of the forty acres and a mule that the United States initially promised freed slaves. This unfulfilled promise and the serious devastation that slavery had on African-American lives has never been officially recognized by the United States Government.



H.R. 40 has strong grass roots support within the African-American community, as well as major civil rights organizations, religious organizations, and academic and civic groups from across the country. This support is very similar to the strong grassroots movement that proceeded another major legislative initiative, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday bill. It took 15 years for this legislation to pass. It was introduced during the Spring of 1968 and was finally enacted during the Fall of 1983.



C.T. Vivian incarcerated fighting Jim Crow Slavery

Throughout most of those 15 years, the idea of a federal holiday honoring an African-American civil rights leader was considered radical.

Like the King Holiday bill, Mr. Conyers has seen the support for H.R. 40 increase each year. There are currently 37 co-sponsors. Support also extends outside of the Congress as various city councils and other local jurisdictions have supported his bill. The city councils in Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Dallas, Washington, DC, and Atlanta have passed bills supporting H.R. 40.

It is a fact that slavery flourished in the United States and constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of African slaves’ lives, liberty, and cultural heritage. As a result, millions of African-Americans today continue to suffer great injustices. Our country can no longer afford to leave slavery in the past and the issue of reparations for African-Americans must be resolved.

Time For Action

We would have to be less than human to believe that we do not deserve what others (Jews, Japanese and others) were given for what in no way whatsoever begin to approach the detestable horrid atrocious lives imposed on us for 400 years. Such inhuman treatment for so long has caused many of us to see ourselves as undeserving.

We would still be on the back of the Montgomery bus if we allowed the timidity of some of our brothers and sisters to determine the demands we make. We are pleased to announce many of the churches, community organizations and businesses have decide to launch a campaign to pass H.R. 40 which will not end until it has been accomplished. Are you ready?

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Senior Executive Balances Tightrope of Life: Career, Motherhood, Music

Kathleen Bertrand has what most women her age aspire to achieve: A senior level, high-profile position, and wonderful college-aged children. Yet this single mom has another side most only dream about: She’s an accomplished jazz singer, who held a J’azz Is... concert on November 7 at the Southwest Arts Center in Atlanta.

Some of the well known Atlantans in attendance were the Honorable Mayor Shirley Franklin; Pastor Marvin A. Moss of Cascade United Methodist Church; Rev. Angela Harrington Rice of Hillside International Truth Center; Councilman Jim Maddox; Erica Qualls, General Manger of the Atlanta Marriott Marquis; Rhodell Lewis of Praise 102.5 FM; Sonya Young of Eventions; Stacey Key of GMSDC and many others, just to name a few.

This well known and multifaceted recording artist and writer, Bertrand is a native Atlantan and Spelman College graduate, whose performances have ranged from two Olympic Games, performances before two presidents to appearances at jazz festivals world-wide. Bertrand has toured and recorded as a vocalist with jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers before settling down to raise her family. Once she began singing again, she came out with strength, superb musicianship and vibrancy.

This three-octave vocal artist has been honored by the United Negro College Fund as



Kathleen Bertrand is a member of Cascade UMC and has released three CDs throughout her career.

one of “Atlanta’s Legends” and by Spelman College with its distinguished 1998 “Alumnae Achievement Award for the Arts & Entertainment.”

She was an invited performer for 1999, 2000 and 2006 at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland; the 2001, 2003 and 2005 Atlanta Jazz Festival, as well as, the Nuremberg Meets Atlanta Festival in Nuremberg, Germany. She is the 2003 recipient of the James O. Costen Award for the Arts presented by the Interdenominational Theological Center. In 2002, she

was given the honor of singing at the inauguration of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, and to open for the legendary Ray Charles at the Atlanta Jazz Festival’s opening night at Chastain Park.

Additionally, Bertrand has opened for a variety of America’s finest musical talents including Will Downing, Rachelle Ferrell, Najee, Jeff Lorber, David Benoit, Roy Ayers, the Sounds of Blackness, and Kenny G. Her fan base includes radio listeners across the nation, as well as, England, Finland, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Hong Kong, New Zealand, France, the Netherlands and Brazil, among others.

With a repertoire that ranges from straight-ahead jazz standards to spirited gospel, Bertrand’s smooth vocals move effortlessly between genres to present musical treats that fill the mind, heart and soul. Bertrand performs in large and intimate venues, concert halls, and churches across the country.

Additionally, she sings regularly as the featured vocalist with the Jazz Vespers Series produced by the Reverend Dwight Andrews at the First Congregational Church of Atlanta.

To learn more about Kathleen Bertrand and where you can see, hear or purchase her music, visit www.kathleenbertrand.com.

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GABEO: Congratulations for 40 Years of Excellence in Public Service

GABEO was formed in the years after the civil rights movement to teach blacks how to win election to offices that had been denied them in the past.”

The Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials was formed in 1970, as a statewide political group composed of elected officials on all levels of Georgia government – municipal, county, state and national. The main objectives of the organization were to provide exemplary representation for constituents, use political clout to address issues of concern in communities, and work in conjunction with colleagues to create and establish laws which were sensitive to the needs of all people, especially people of color. In the early years the organization was led by several former presidents including: former state representatives Ben Brown and Bobby Hill, former mayor of Augusta Ed McIntyre, former Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson, State Representative Calvin Smyre, former Fulton County commissioner A. Reginald Eaves, and former state representative Mary Young-Cummings.

After the election of State Representative Tyrone Brooks as president of the organization in 1993, GABEO took on a new stance and broadened its focus of leadership to become a more grass roots activist-oriented body. Its new agenda included championing the rights of the poor, assisting victims of discrimination, and investigating allegations of mistreatment in the state’s prison population. Brooks’ strong yet compassionate style of activism

has included sit-ins, boycotts and demonstrations, touring jails and prisons, filing lawsuits, and serving on committees recommending change in governmental and legislative policy. Additionally, the organization has made great strides toward solving the Moore’s Ford Bridge lynching, with the Emmett Till Bill becoming federal law which secures a \$100 million dollars appropriation to fund unsolved civil right cases preceding 1970. After a twenty year struggle removing divisive confederate battle emblem from the Georgia state flag.

GABEO meets three times each year in facilities in the heart of the communities the organization serves: The annual winter board meeting is held on the last weekend of each February; a special conference will be held in Monroe, Georgia; the annual march on Moore’s Ford Bridge is April 4th; July 25th conducting reenactment of the Lynching in Monroe, Ga. (Walton County); the summer convention is held the last weekend in June at Savannah State University; and the annual fall meeting is held the last weekend in October at a different church location each year.



T. Brooks
President
State Representative
District 63
Atlanta

Now with more than 1000 members statewide, GABEO’s main focus is developing programs that 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. GABEO often works in conjunction with the NAACP, SCLC, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the Coalition for a Peoples Agenda and the Georgia Coalition of Black Women and SCLC Women on issues vital to the community. GABEO is also partnering with Morris Brown College in developing group such as Stopping The Violence, Saving Our Children, Ending The Carnage Institute on Campus of historic Morris Brown College in Atlanta.

GABEO has come a long way in four decades of service and leadership, and there is still a long way to go. In the words of Tyrone Brooks: “We’ve enjoyed over 40 years of public service. ‘Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now !”

www.ga-gabeo.org.

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Vice President
Member City Council
Atlanta



Henry Ficklin
Treasurer
MLK Commissioner
Macon



Elaine Lucas
Assistant Treasurer
Member City Council
Macon



Kenneth Smith
Parliamentarian
Mayor City Of Kingsland
President of GMA



Emma Gresham
Secretary Emeritus
Former Mayor
City of Keyville



Patty James Bentley
Acting Secretary
Taylor CountyChair, ACCG
Black Caucus



Willie Burns
Mayor
City of Washington
President GCBM



Sen. Emanuel Jones
District 10
Chair GLBC

Pastor Durley Joins Committee to Inform On Communal, Environmental Hazards

The Conductor

Recently, the world has been consumed with green living and economy. There are new ways to make living healthier and watching out for environmental hazards easier. On November 10, Emory University’s Department of Pediatrics co-hosted an Enlightenment Luncheon to inform guests and diners about the harmful effects that the environment has on health.

The focus was taking care of children and how the harmful chemicals that are in everyday life (smog, water pollutants, etc.) are taking a grand toll on the health and well-being of fetuses. Ken Cook, co-founder of the Environmental Working Group, listed numerous hazards in everyday living that cause a long list of health conditions in today’s youth.

For instance, it is thought that hazardous health conditions are contributors to the growing number of autism cases in children in the United States. He also noted that many chemicals that were banned as far off as the 1930’s have been found in the umbilical cords of new-

borns. This, he said, shows that these children are rarely given a fighting chance even before they enter the world.

Rev. Gerald Durley, who gave the event’s invocation and is a member of the host committee, stated that there are so many pollutants that are effecting African-American youths that the presence of the black community should be increased at such events. His participation on the committee expresses his concern for the well-being and health of children, especially those that reside in the communities surrounding his church, Providence Missionary Baptist Church of Atlanta. Durley noted that the information that was given at the event is what the African-American community needs to learn how to handle cases such as autism, where studies now show that it affects one in every 150 children.

One event attendee, owns and operates a youth home for children with special needs, said that she has only had two or three residents that

had autism but knows the disease has a large effect in the African-American community.

This event allowed the vast and diverse Atlanta community to learn the dangers that are lurking in the city’s drinking water, air pollutants as well as the food that’s consumed daily. Cook noted in his presentation that Atlanta falls among one of the most polluted cities in the United States, in some cases, falling one place behind major cities such as Los Angeles.

For more information visit www.ewg.org or to learn more about Durley and his mission, visit www.pmbcatlanta.org.



Rev. G. Durley

Providence

Missionary Baptist Church
Atlanta, GA

Dr. Gerald Durley, Pastor.

Services

Early Worship Service
8:00 A.M.

Breakfast
9:00 A.M.

Sunday School
9:15 A.M.

New Members Class
9:30 A.M.

Worship Service
10:40 A.M.

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Atlanta GA 30311
Phone: 404-752-6869
Fax: 404-752-5484
www.pmbcatlanta.org

First Iconium Baptist Church

Rev. Timothy McDonald

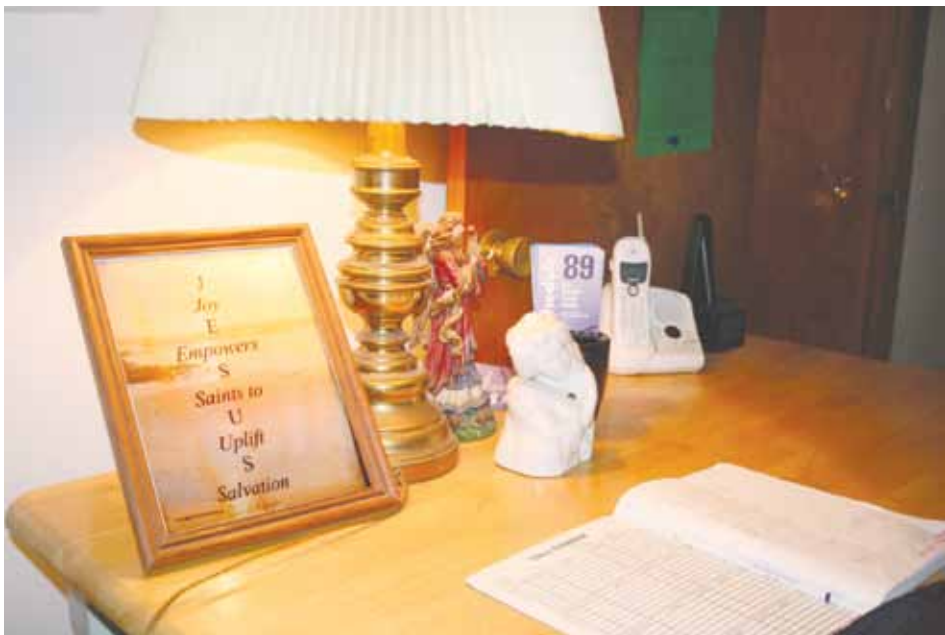
Church Services

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

- **Sunday Service**
7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
- **Wednesday Bibe Study**
11:30 a.m East Building
- **Wednesday Bible Study/Hour of Power**
6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday Bible Study**
12:00 noon Saturdays before 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
- **Healing and Anointing Service**
7 p.m. on the First and 5th Wednesday Night

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This table in the House of Hope demonstrates the faith that the ministers teach the men who are seeking a second chance of life.

House of Hope Gives Reformed Men Second Opportunity at Life

By Kay Marie Pressley

Everyone deserves a second chance, or more. The House of Hope, is a half way house and safe haven for men who have been released from prison system. The temporary home for many is conveniently positioned next door to Emmaus Road Missionary Baptist Church, and vows to take care of the spiritual and physical shelters. The five-year-old program was started by the senior pastor, Dr. Rev. David R. Scott, to provide ongoing social, emotional and economical services for nine men over a twelve month period.

This outreach ministry is located at 3725 Flat Shoals Rd, College Park, GA 30349 but its reach spans far, wide and especially, inward. Not only do the men receive housing assistance, but it is designed to help rehabilitate them and help them get their lives back on track. The program has, since its inception, seen a success rate where at least seven of the nine participants are able to successfully transition back into the community through job training and employment. There are several areas of assistance that include helping the men with earning their GED, writing resumes, finding jobs, obtaining MARTA cards and also reuniting them with their families. On average, at least three of the nine men have started their own businesses and have earned a decent living.

Emmaus House Missionary Baptist has also seen its share of obstacles. The church had a recent fire and is in the process of rebuilding. Almost everything was destroyed in the tragic event including the chairs, communion table and other significant pieces of furniture. Scott and his congregation have persevered amidst the growing frustration of having to rent another facility. Both he and the other leaders had the tireless job of keeping their members encouraged and vigilant during this period of transition. The church is now almost completely renovated but is in need of many items

such as paint, miscellaneous repairs, blinds, curtains, furniture, etc.

The House of Hope program director, Faye Hillman, is responsible for many of the happenings that go on at the facility. She not only oversees the entire twelve-month program, but she is also the president of the church's Deaconess Board. The church-funded program has created a set fee for the men who are able to obtain jobs and continue living there. This covers their food, clothing and utility expenses. The organization has been able to host other fund raisers such as a car wash that raised money for the House of Hope efforts. Nevertheless, they are in need of volunteers to cook and assist with the maintenance of the house.

Volunteers are also needed to help the men stay on track as far as career and developmental skills. "Some of the men have been substance abusers," Hillman explains. "However, it certainly helps to have someone from the outside with professional expertise to show them another way out. We once had a licensed doctor who took them out on movie nights and ordered pizzas. They certainly appreciated that." The men of the house are in need of constant encouragement and reassurance in order to get, and keep, them on the straight and narrow.

The program is operated on a drug-free basis so the men are required to pass a drug test. If any of the men fails a drug test, the center refers them to other programs at St. Judes where experts who have the capability to address their issues.

The organization plans within the next few years to purchase another bridge house as part of their expansion. For further information please contact Faye Hillman 770-767-0909.

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Brighter Futures, Leadership Grow in Youth-Geared Investment Group

By Jacquee Minor

For Anthony Witherspoon, helping young people reach their full potential is a personal mission. The former basketball coach, teacher and community activist has always made youth a priority. His latest venture, Investment Atlanta, Inc. (IA), continues the legacy while seeking to expand and partner with other organizations for greater impact.

"The ability to empower others is one of the keys to personal and professional success ... with the purpose of investment in lives of others so that they can function at their best," offers Witherspoon.

IA, a nonprofit organization, seeks to instill positive core values, develop strong leadership qualities and provide educational and sports enrichment activities to not only enhance young people's personal lives, but to also elevate the community. By reaching out to schools, families and community organizations, IA hopes to steer young people in the direction of a brighter future.

While a basketball coach at Clark Atlanta University (CAU), Witherspoon started a drug and violence prevention program for youth in the West End area. The summer program provided young people with alternative activities, such as basketball, to keep them out of trouble. After leaving coaching in 2002, he took on the initiative full time with a grant to develop a life skills program in Bermuda. Witherspoon re-

turned to Atlanta in 2008, where he launched IA with a focus on leadership development as the key to transforming young lives.



A. Witherspoon

IA programs teach important life skills, like relationship building, public speaking, physical fitness and problem solving. Noting the striking rise in youth violence, Witherspoon believes a lack of opportunity to show leadership leads to negative behavior. The program, modeled after Self-Enhancement, Inc., adopts many of the programmatic philosophies of Tony Hopson's 32-year old Portland, Oregon program, which include encouraging parental involvement.

Investment Atlanta Leadership University program, scheduled to begin June 7, 2010, is an eight-week summer program on the CAU campus. Witherspoon is seeking program donors and volunteers. He hopes to build the Youth Leadership Center in the West End community. For more information, visit the Web site at www.investmentatlanta.org, or contact Witherspoon at 404-505-8554.

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Liberian Group Honors Attorney, Wife at Renaming Ceremony

Atlanta attorney Donald Edwards and his wife, businesswoman Jo Edwards, were among those recently recognized by the Liberian congregation of International Christian Fellowship Ministries (ICFM) in Southeast Atlanta. Celebrating its 23rd Annual banquet and honoring program, the congregation of mostly Liberian expatriates living in Atlanta acknowledged contributions from African supporters in a traditional naming ceremony.

Rev. William B.G.K. Harris, Senior Pastor and Founder of ICFM, presented this year's theme "Bridging the Gap Between Africans and African-Americans" as a means of dispelling many of the myths and misconceptions often held among Africans and African-Americans. He proposed mutual understanding and acceptance as a way to developing strategies that will address common problems.

The symbolic naming ceremony, in African tradition, bestows African names with relevant meaning to African-American brothers and sisters. While honoring the work of those who help bring Africans and African Americans together, it is also a way of sharing a common heritage, forging cultural ties and bridging the cultural gap. In addition, it serves to educate about one of Africa's most sacred traditions.

Attorney Edwards and his wife were recognized for their efforts to present the award-winning documentary Pray the Devil Back to Hell to the congregation. Winner of the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival award for best documentary feature, Pray the Devil tells the

powerful story of the courageous women of Liberia who used active, non-violent resistance to wrest a commitment from then Liberian President Charles Taylor to participate in peace talks in Ghana. They continued their vigil of prayer and demonstration until, through sheer determination, transforming the country. They achieved peace in Liberia after a 14-year civil war.



Atty. D. Edwards

After screening the documentary, Edwards recalled that he and his wife felt compelled to share it with the ICFM congregation. Recognized by the church as "Distinguished Citizens", Attorney Edwards was given the name "Senyon", from the Kru people of Liberia, which means "a kind person", while his wife Jo was given the Mano name "Suah", meaning "a strong woman."

Attorney Edwards, in accepting the award, referenced the likes of W.E.B. Dubois, Marcus Garvey and, "all those who see a common bond between the Coast of Africa and America." Both dressed in festive, traditional African attire, Edwards thanked the congregation for accepting him and his wife as fellow Africans.

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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 dishonour 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, adultery1. 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 homo-sexual 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).

THIS DECLARATION IS BY THE BIBLE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS ALLIANCE

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DeKalb Public Library
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Dirty South BBQ
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Divine Deliverance
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DFACS Stone Wall Tell
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G B's Barber Shop
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Golden Kitchen
Gold Crust
Good Phellaz Barber Shop

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